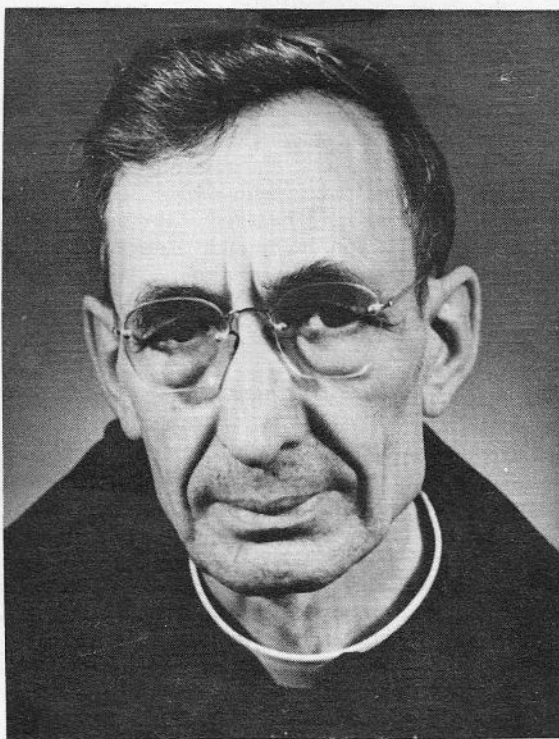
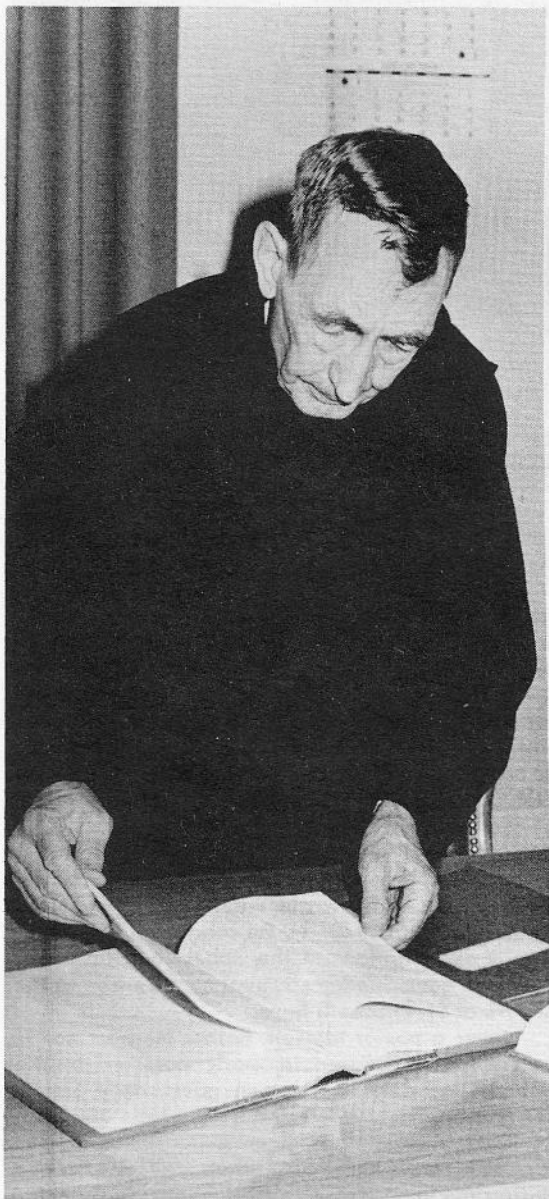


# ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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Summer, 1979



# 50 years a monk

Model monk, committed teacher, dedicated confessor, unbounded in charity, zealous theologian and preacher — all these are titles confreres of Father Norbert Schwinghammer came up with in attempting to describe him and his life.

Father Norbert celebrated the 50th anniversary of his monastic profession with the community on June 29, at the close of the annual monastic retreat. A pleasant surprize for the occasion was the presence of Father Terence Carroll of St. John's Abbey, a novitiate and seminary classmate, who came here to take part in the retreat.

After a festive Mass, with Abbot Jerome as principal celebrant and homilist, the community enjoyed a well-prepared banquet followed by a get-together in the monastic recreation room. Here Father Augustine Nenzel eulogized Father Norbert and several other confreres "roasted" him as they recalled incidents from the past 50 years.

Father Norbert first saw the glimmering light of day on Sept. 4, 1910 at Bruno. His father was Peter A. Schwinghammer, one of the pioneers of St. Peter's Colony. He homesteaded in the Hoodoo district and was the first teacher in the first school of St. Peter's Colony, opened by Father Meinrad Seiferman in 1903.

Father Norbert received his primary education at the St. Bruno Parish School, taught by the Ursuline Sisters of Bruno. He then attended St. Peter's College from 1924 - 28 and later received his BA from St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. It was here that he made his novitiate in 1928 - 29. There followed first vows on June 16, 1929; final vows on July 11, 1932; and ordination to the priesthood on June 10, 1935 by Bishop Joseph Busch of St. Cloud. Finally, after seven years without a break or visit home, he returned to Canada to celebrate his first High Mass at Bruno.

Incidentally, Father Norbert took part in the first national liturgical summer school in the U.S., held at St. John's Abbey in June 1929, right after his novitiate.

Since his return Father Norbert has been busy at various occupations at St. Peter's. Between 1935 and 1972 he taught English literature and



*Father Norbert in Minnesota in 1935 after his ordination to the priesthood, just prior to returning to Canada.*

composition for 25 years; religion in high school and arts, 10 years; German, 10 years; French, 12 years; and typing, 6 years. No one prepared more thoroughly for his classes. For two years he also served as student chaplain, while Father Augustine was in the san. From 1936 - 67 he served as monastic organist and choir director and taught music. He also directed the correspondence course prepared by the Ursuline Sisters.

Under the PM editorship of Father Augustine — Father Norbert's daily walking companion for many years — he wrote weekly editorials from 1955 - 62. From 1940 - 60 he conducted the Junior Clergy examinations at the abbey, and for many years he gave Sunday spiritual conferences to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth here.

Never a pastor himself, Father Norbert has in recent years assisted in many parishes in the abbacy and outside. He also gave many Sisters retreats from 1950 - 60 and from 1965 - 70.

Father Norbert has given generous service to the sick, especially to Father Wilfred Hergott during the last years of his affliction.

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Cover

*Father Norbert, jubilarian*



*Father Peter Novocosky (back row, third from right) attended the Benedictine Formation Directors Workshop at St. Joseph's Abbey, St. Benedict, Louisiana, April 16 - 20.*

## Personnel notes

Abbot Jerome Weber gave a day of reflection to the Sisters of Charity at Holy Family Hospital, Prince Albert, April 7. On April 19 he presided at the re-election of Sister Maureen Maier as superior of the Ursuline Sisters at Bruno. He conducted a preached retreat for the Sisters of St. Elizabeth in Humboldt in early July.

Father Peter Novocosky took part in the annual meeting of the Benedictine Formation Directors at St. Joseph's Abbey, St. Benedict, Louisiana, April 16 - 20. The main topic was "Lectio Divina".

Father George Brodner, finishing up his five-year term as provincial CWL director this year, attended all the diocesan CWL meetings this spring as well as the provincial meeting in Regina, June

11 - 12. Also attending the provincial meeting were Abbot Jerome, and Fathers Werner Renneberg and Joseph Ackerman.

Father Martin Brodner participated in the annual meeting of the National Council for Liturgy, held in Halifax, May 2 - 4. He also attended the workshop on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in Victoria, July 1 - 6, conducted by Dr. Christianne Brusselmans.

Father Philip Loehr left on May 25 for the Benedictine abbey of St. Benoit du Lac in Quebec where he plans to spend several months for prayer, reflection and practicing his French. In a letter he noted that he made an average of 50 miles per gallon on his Renault "Frenchman".

Father Leo Hinz took part in the meeting of the regional matrimonial tribunal in Regina, June 13.

*Father Werner Renneberg* was appointed diocesan CWL director at the diocesan meeting on May 2, replacing *Father Joseph Ackerman* who completed a five-year term.

*Father Maurice Weber* preached a community retreat for the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Humboldt, June 10 - 17. He will also be preaching a community retreat to the Benedictine Sisters at Cottonwood, Idaho and giving them a week-long workshop on "Good Zeal In The Rule Of St. Benedict", this August. As a member of the diocesan Vocation and Ministry Committee, he helped organize teams of clergy, Religious and lay people to speak in the various parishes of the abbacy on Vocation Sunday.

*Father Rudolph Novecosky* spent May 14 - 24 at the University Hospital, Saskatoon, after experiencing severe pains in his feet. Since mid-June he has returned to parish work in St. Gregor, getting around with crutches and wheel chair.

*Father Lawrence DeMong* was a panelist on "The Teen Years" at the Faith and Medicine symposium for physicians and pastoral care workers in Saskatoon, April 26 - 27. In May he took part in a SEARCH weekend in Saskatoon and helped organize the first abbacy SEARCH weekend here the June 8 weekend. *Brother Stanley Vindevoghel* also participated in this weekend. At the end of June *Father Lawrence* left for Toronto, with *Gregory Schulte*, to attend a training course on the Tomatis approach to learning.

*Father Andrew Britz* preached a three-day retreat for those to be ordained permanent deacons in Winnipeg, June 14 - 17. Since the retreat was at St. Benedict's Educational Centre, he was able to enjoy the hospitality of the Benedictine Sisters there. At the end of May he also attended some of the talks of the Learned Society Conference in Saskatoon.

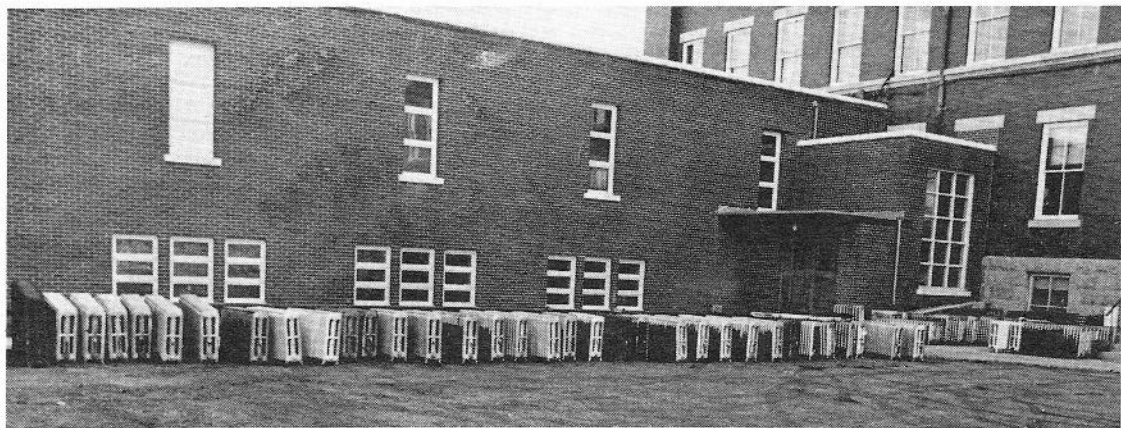
*Brother Bede Hubbard* spoke on "Pilgrimage in the Spirit" in four major addresses at the annual Saskatchewan United Church Conference, held in Melfort June 8 - 11.

*Brother Thomas Gerwing* and *Gregory Schulte* took part in the Benedictine Musicians meeting at Atchison, Kansas, June 17 - 23. *Brother Thomas* gave a presentation to the 75 participants on the Kodaly method of teaching music.

*Novices Patrick Genois, Mark Hunt* and *Clement McSheffery* were accepted for first profession of vows at a community meeting, June 13.

*Barry Fitzgerald*, a candidate at the abbey for five months, left on June 25.

*Sister Rosemarie Stevens*, a hermitess at the abbey, spent a week in the hospital at the end of April and then left on May 3 for a month's visit with her relatives in California.



*These steam radiators from the college building have done their job and are awaiting transportation to the re-cycling factory.*





*Sister Cecilia Gertken visited the abbey May 8 - 18 to make the monastic singing more "Gregorian-chant-like".*

## Brother Thomas' guestmaster's diary

An environmental conference, "Fertile Soils Without Chemicals" came in April, to start the spring off right. Seventy-five people representing various citizen groups interested in a healthy earth spent three days studying this subject, especially studying ways of reaching our farm population.

United Church groups were here in April and again in June using our guest house to plan future work.

In April the Sisters of St. Louis and the Bruno Ursulines made directed retreats at St. Peter's as did the Elizabethans in June. In addition, retreatants keep coming singly and in two's and three's.

CUSO (Canadian University Students Overseas) held a training session for new sendees the first weekend of May.

From May 8 - 18 St. Peter's had a very special guest living in Severin Hall. Sister Cecile Gertken, OSB, of St Joseph, Minn. a "kid" sister of Abbot Severin, revered abbot of St. Peter's from 1926 till his death in 1960. Sister Cecile gave four local

musicians a course in chant adaptation to vernacular texts, and in modal accompaniment. She also held spirited daily sessions in chant singing for the community. She was a great inspiration to all at the abbey.

Rev. Cindy Pattishall-Pleasant of Fort Qu'Appelle spent a few June days on retreat in our poustinia prior to setting out for Guatemala as a missionary.

Rev. Ron Evans, chaplain at University hospital, Saskatoon, brought six of his theological student interns to St. Peter's for a live-in in mid-June.

From June 19 - 21 the Saskatchewan provincial cabinet came to the abbey for a long-range planning session — a session they later described as very fruitful.

On the last weekend of June we hosted a golf clinic for young boys and immediately after, the pastors came in from the parishes for the annual monastic retreat.

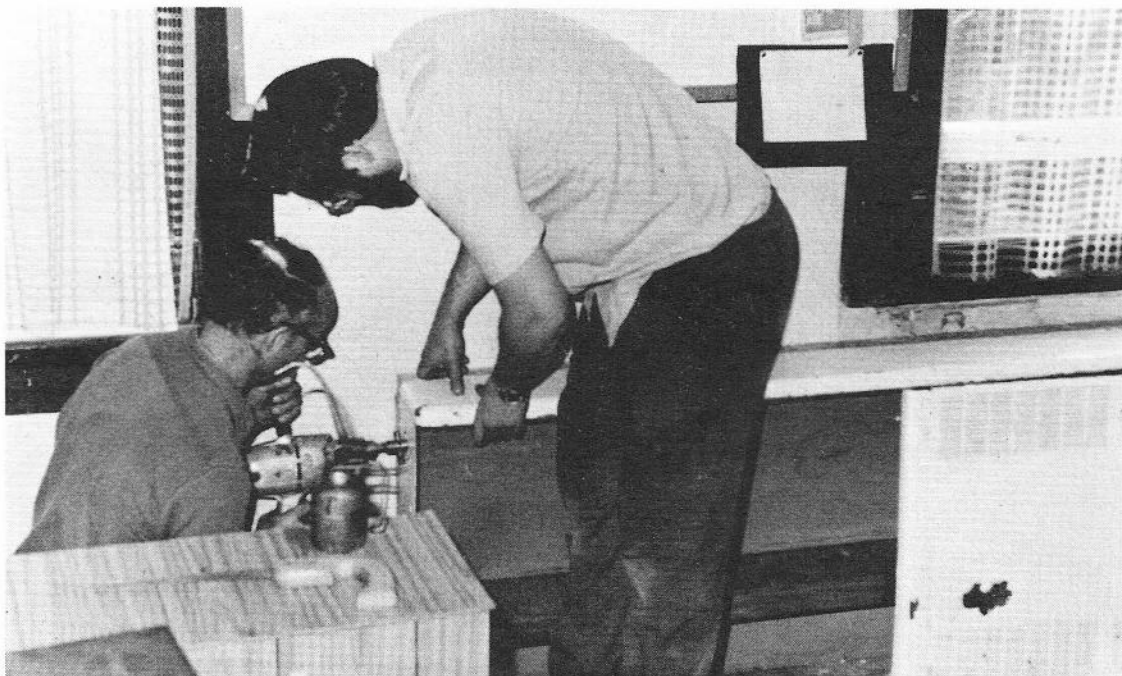
Now the guest wing braces itself for the busy months of July and August.



A community picture taken during this year's retreat: From left (back row): Br. John Brodner, Fr. Werner Renneberg, Novice Patrick Genois, Fr. George Brodner, Fr. James Gray, Br. Gregory Brodner, Fr. Andrew Britz, Br. Conrad Abs, Fr. Martin Brodner, Br. Bernard Lange, Fr. Maurice Weber, Fr. Daniel Muyres, Br. Thomas Gerwing, Fr. Alfred Engele, Fr. Leo Hinz, Fr. Florian Renneberg, Fr. Stephen Krantz (Assumption Abbey), Fr. Roman Schneider, Fr. Edward Benning, Fr. Terence Carroll (St. John's Abbey), Br. Wolfgang Thiem, Fr. Lawrence DeMong and Br. Dominic Distel; (center): Fr. Norbert Schwinghammer, Fr. Alphonse



Ludwig, Fr. Xavier Benning, Fr. Paul Kuehne, Fr. Peter Novocosky, Fr. John Main (retreat master), Abbot Jerome Weber, Fr. Albert Ruetz, Fr. Matthew Michel, Fr. Augustine Nenzel, Fr. Francis Lohmer, and Fr. Rudolph Novocosky; (front): Novice Mark Hunt, Br. Bede Hubbard, Br. Stanley Vindevoghel, Br. Francis Fortney, Br. Oswald King, Novice Clement McSheffery, Fr. Damian Yaskowich, Br. Peter Dougan and Fr. Bernard Stauber. Missing for the picture: Fr. Philip Loehr, Fr. Joseph Ackerman and Fr. Sylvester Vredegoor.



*Brother Francis Fortney and Father Andrew Britz install a hot water radiator in Michael Hall.*

## Around the abbey

A heavy spring runoff and a late, cold spring were characteristics of 1979.

Brother Bernard Lange and his farm crew began field work in mid-May. Seeding was completed between May 19 and June 5.

Father Xavier Benning had the snow plowed from the apiary yard in time to pick up 24 hives of bees from Tisdale on April 27. He has been abbey apiarist for the past 22 years.

In April the abbey purchased a couple new vehicles: a new Dodge Aspen and a John Deere 4240 tractor. Father Aloysius Herriges' new Plymouth Caravelle was also brought to the abbey and added to the fleet.

The Prairie Messenger added two new staff members. On April 24 Lillian Hinz began part-time work as an editorial assistant and copy editor. In mid-June Mrs. Rose Marie Strueby replaced Mrs. Lucille Stewart as copysetter and St. Peter's press secretary.

On May 19 the community enjoyed its first outdoor supper this summer. The pleasant weather compensated for the pesty misquitoses! Father

Peter Novecosky announced a policy of having an outdoor supper once a week, Monday evenings — provided the weather cooperates.

On May 25 the community took part in an event that has become rare in recent years when Marikay Falby of Saskatoon was admitted as an Oblate novice after Evening Vigils.

Several people have come to the abbey to take part in a live-in organized by Father Maurice Weber. Among them were John Moorman of Ottawa, Robert Uhrum of Edmonton and Vince Lalonde of London.

Two monks from St. John's Abbey made a surprise and welcome visit. Fathers Cosmas Dalheimer, who taught at St. Peter's for a couple of years in the 1940s, and Mark Schneider arrived here on June 21 for several days' visit.

Dora Strunk, long-time housekeeper for Fathers Fridolin Tembreull at Fulda and Luke Boeckman at Englefeld and St. Benedict, died in early June and was buried on June 4.





Father John Main, OSB, of Montreal gave the community retreat from June 25 - 29.

The Senior Council made several donations recently: \$1,000 to CCODP and \$500 to help publish a book entitled *Literature, Liturgy and Legend in Anglo-Saxon and Carolingian History*.

Much effort has been spent this early summer in changing the heating system in Michael Hall, the old college building, to make it more efficient in this age of energy conservation. Father Andrew Britz, Brother Francis Fortney and Leo Torborg have done most of the heavy work involved in taking out the old steam pipes and radiators and replacing them with hot water pipes and radiators. Brothers Wolfgang Thiem and Peter Dougan contributed their share, as did the novices. Meanwhile Brother Stanley Vindevoghel has been busy in the building getting it ready for use again this fall.

Visitors to the abbey express admiration for the well-kept grounds. The lawns get a regular work-over by Abbot Jerome Weber, Brothers Francis Fortney and Peter Dougan and Novice Mark Hunt. Sparkles of color have been added by the flower gardens of Father Xavier Benning and Brother Thomas Gerwing. The hedges are kept well trimmed by Brother Dominic Distel and Father Albert Ruetz.



St. Peter's Abbey musicians, Brother Thomas Gerwing and Gregory Schulte (top right, second row), attended the Benedictine Musicians meeting at Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas, June 17 - 23.

# Confrere returns from Brasil

*Father Bernard Stauber arrived in Canada from Brasil on June 16, after a stopover in Haiti with Father Emil April of Saskatoon. During his three-month stay here he will visit his confreres and relatives and enjoy a less hectic pace than he is used to in Brasil.*

First of all, I want to thank everyone in the abbacy for your continuing support of the mission in Brasil. In January 1973, Sister Clare Novecosky and I joined Father Sylvester Vredegoor, and Sisters Imelda Doecker, OSU, Dolores Jansen, OSE, and Bernadine Fetter, OSU.

Until 1975 I worked in the parish of St. Joseph in Maceio. That year I began to serve the rural parish of Colonia Leopoldina with an area population of about 40,000. In Maceio and Colonia the mission team's main thrust is working with people in the growth of more mature church communities. There has been evident growth in both communities since the time I began work with the team.

I would like to express some things that seem important to me after six years in Brasil.

In Brasil the majority are poor. This provides the basis for the proclamation of the good news. God is the champion of the poor and calls all to live with justice as the condition for human brotherhood.

Jesus identified himself with the poor. He was poor. This is the real basis for the church's option for the poor in Latin America: to be poor with the poor to live out the call of justice and the dignity of all.



*Father Bernard Stauber, visiting from Brasil.*

From the point of view of the poor the church can let the power of the Lord work in us to free us from all the forces of evil that oppress us and enslave our freedom as sons of God. This means a historical faith. God wants to save the whole man and all of mankind.

The social nature of sin becomes clear as well as the social nature of the gospel. God created all for all equally and Jesus came to redeem all and sent his Spirit over all. If we refuse to respond and work for a more just world we are disobeying God.

Facing up to the demands that our brothers' poverty makes on us is closely related to the need to pray constantly to be open to the presence of God in a privileged way in the poor. In and with the poor we discover the need of faith in God like "Abraham our father in the eyes of God, in whom he put his faith, and who brings the dead to life and calls into being what does not exist" (Rm. 4:17).

One other related thing is our response as part of rich North America. I sense the need to keep voices crying in the wilderness of riches. To cry for moderation and generosity in sharing the gifts of God to us.

We cannot continue to be unaware that our riches are often the exploitation of what is rightly others. This comes about through greed, excess, unjust prices and unjust salaries to the poor in all parts of the world.

Also related to this is a false sense of superiority, materially and culturally. Jesus spoke to this superiority or false paternalism in all areas of life: "You however, must not allow anyone to call you Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers" (Mt. 23:8).

The mission of the church begins with the proclamation of the good news to the poor and the setting free of captive humanity. The church has to be going out to others in this mission to be vital.

When we do go out as poor among the poor and captives with those in captivity, we discover and experience the presence of Jesus in and with us. This is how Jesus wishes to realize his image in us, to form us into loving communities.

In this way he will redeem the image of man, all men, the human family rooted in the loving community of God. This is true freedom. A loving Christian community becomes a clearer sign of the Spirit of justice, truth, and love, that Jesus sustains with us. And so we continue in trust and joy in the face of difficulty.



Ken Leek presents Brother Oswald the Award of Merit while Brother Peter Dougan holds the gift book presented to the abbey for 75 years of volunteer weather observation.

## Weather observers

The volunteer weather observers at St. Peter's Abbey were recently honored for the contribution they have made to the Canadian Climatological information program since 1904.

In May, Ken Leek, Atmospheric Environment Service, Saskatoon, presented current weathermen, Brothers Oswald King and Peter Dougan, with an Award of Merit and a book, *For Everything There Is A Season*.

The citation on the award reads: "In recognition of outstanding service as a weather observer for 70 years, 1904 - 1974." (By now it is 75 years!)

The 324-page book was designed and photographed by Roloff Beny and contains poems and journals selected by Milton Wilson.

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## Deceased confreres

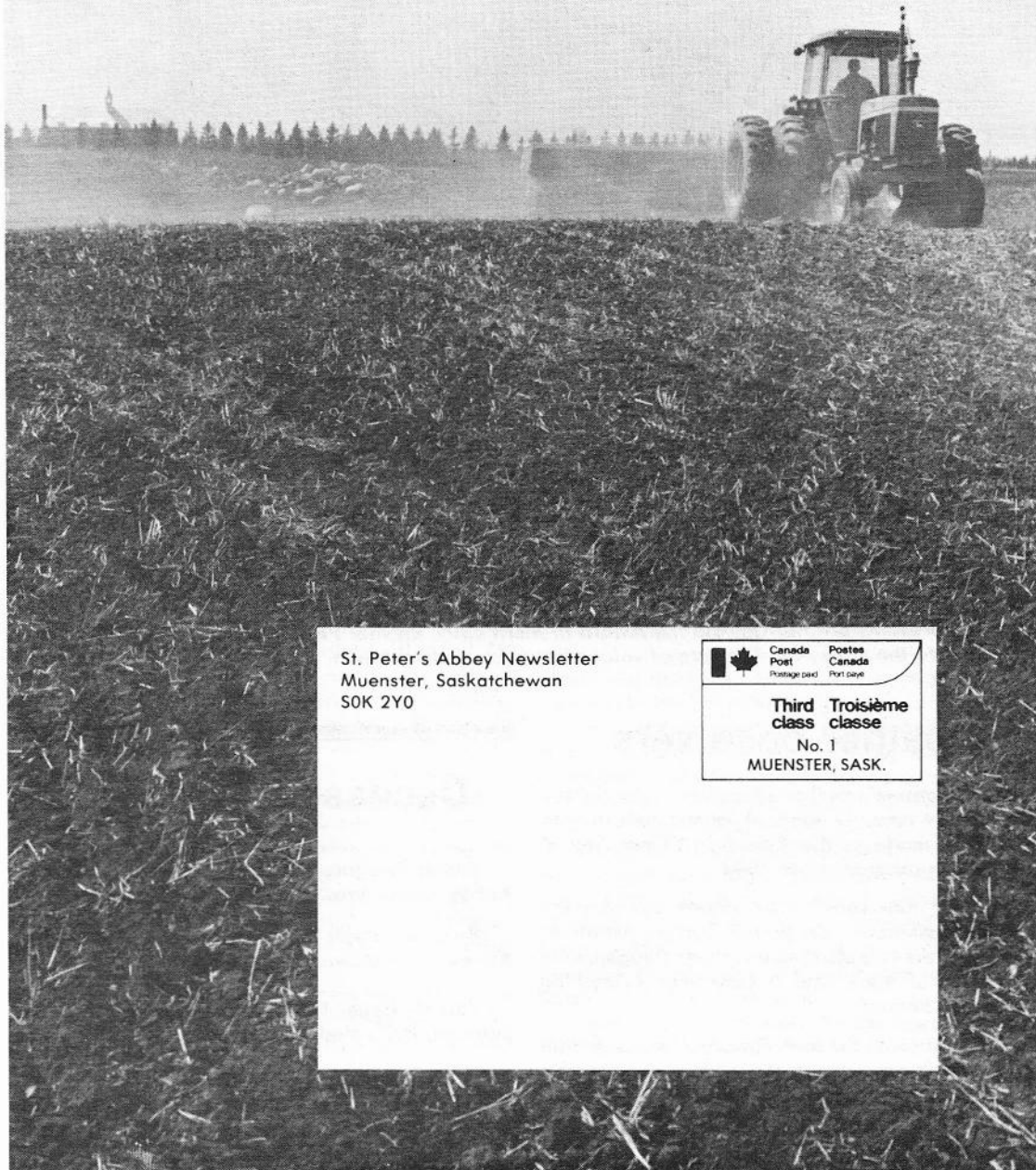
Father Gregory George Wall, 84, St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Wash., died on April 19.

Brother Joseph Thomas Heeney, 74, St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, N.J., died on May 9.

Father Hugh Hagerty, 69, Belmont Abbey, Belmont, N.C., died on May 24.

Father Valerian Joseph Grubb, 46, St. Martin's Abbey, died suddenly on May 26.

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St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter  
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