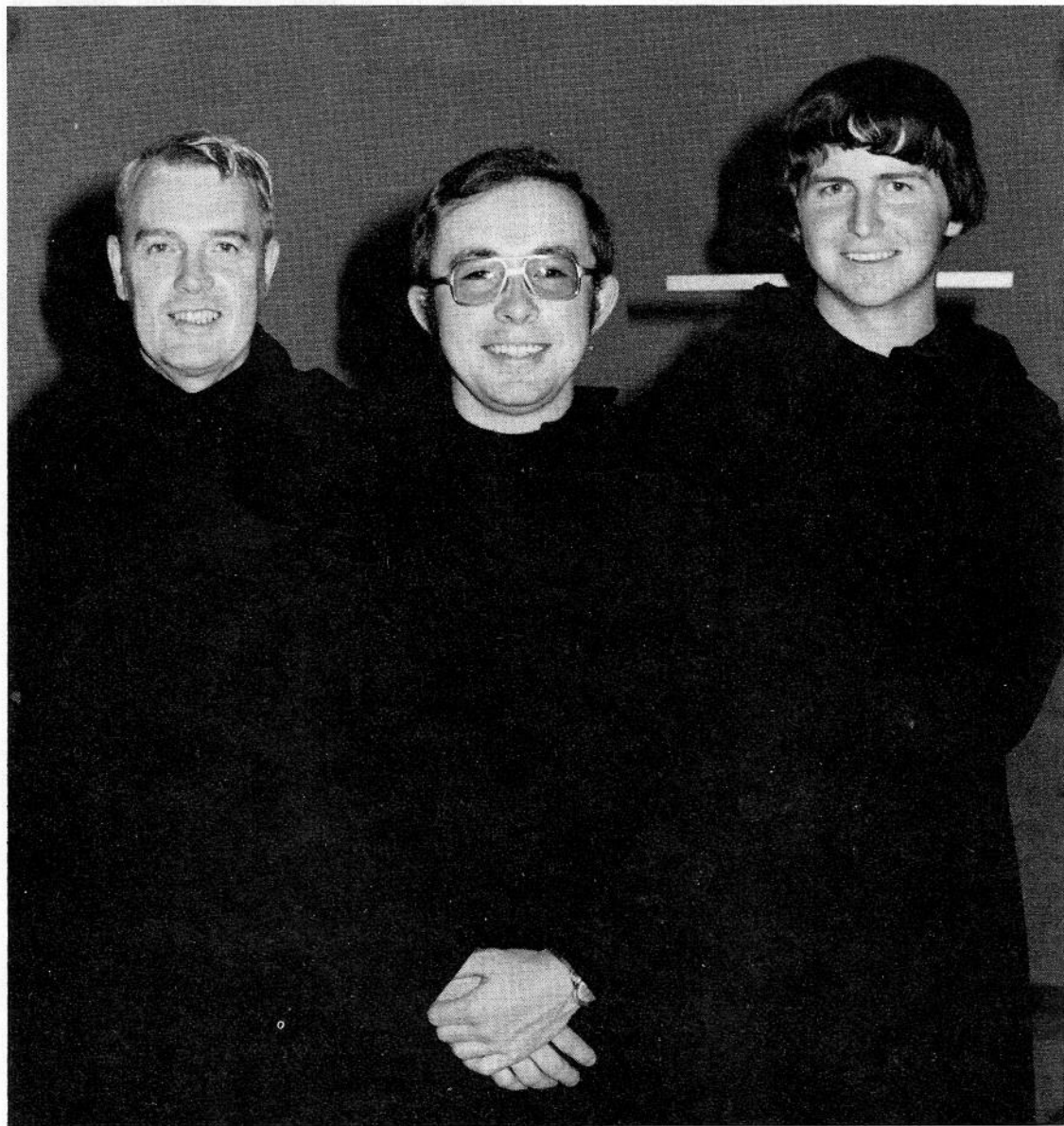


# ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4, no. 3  
Autumn, 1979



# Three make first profession of vows

Three men made their first profession of vows at St. Peter's Abbey on Aug. 6.

They are: Brother Patrick Genoio, Brother Mark Hunt and Brother Clement McSheffery.

Receiving their vows of obedience, a monastic manner of life and stability, was Abbot Jerome Weber. The Monday afternoon Mass, attended by the community and a few guests, was followed by Vespers and an outdoor supper.

As juniors, the three are working at various assignments at the abbey, and taking some university classes at St. Peter's College. While Brother Clement is concentrating his efforts on university studies, Brother Patrick divides his time between classes and the college bookstore and the business office and Brother Mark divides his time between classes, the press, and other outside work.

Brother Patrick, 55, was born in Montreal. After his high school education and work as a junior clerk at the Bank of Montreal, he joined the RCAF in 1943 and graduated as Sergeant Air Bomber. He took part of his training in the West: at Saskatoon, Brandon and Winnipeg.

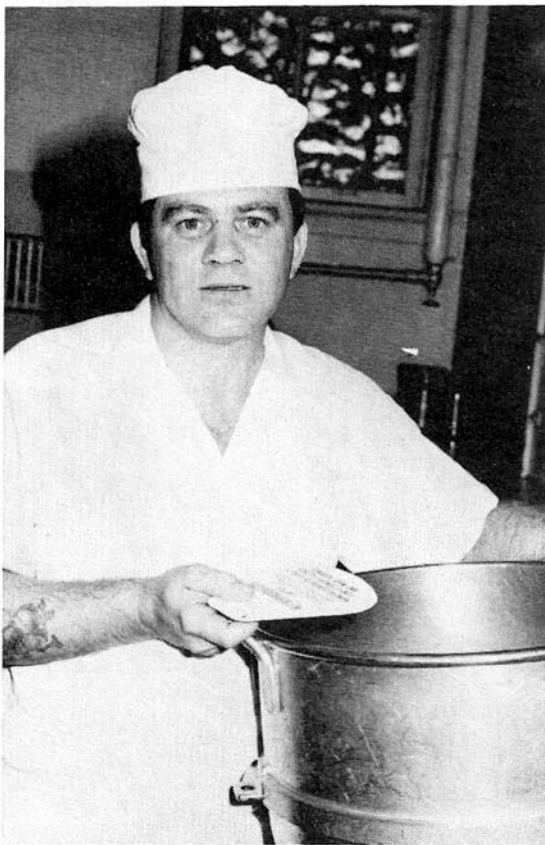
After the war, he returned to work at the Bank of Toronto, worked as a bookkeeper for a dairy distributor, and, in 1951, began work with Bell Canada. He worked with Bell, first in Montreal and after 1970 in Toronto, until he came to the abbey in January 1978. His last position was manager of Capital Stock Records.

Brother Patrick has been active in numerous church and community groups, including the Knights of Columbus. He also enjoys barbershop singing and became a life member in 1972 of the Barbershop Harmony singing organization. Curling is one of his favorite pastimes.

Brother Mark, 23, was born in Port-au-Port, Nfld., where he took his elementary education. He took his high school education at Corner Brook and graduated in 1974. That fall he spent a few months at a seminary in Dublin, Ireland, and from 1975-77

he was with the Canadian Armed Forces. One of his hobbies is collecting stamps and coins.

Brother Clement, 21, comes from Bath, N.B. After graduating from high school in 1976, he worked for a year for McCain Foods in Florenceville. In 1978 he took a semester of classes in chemical engineering at the University of New Brunswick. He is interested in art, handicrafts and sports. He is also interested in languages and is taking courses in French and Latin at St. Peter's College this year.

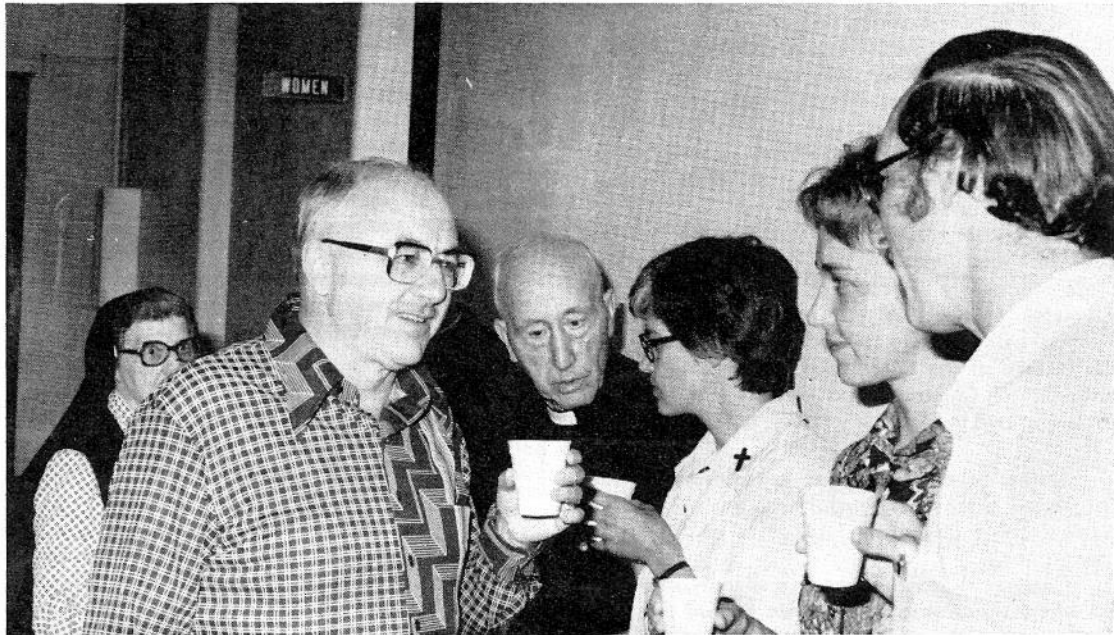


Vince Lalonde of London, Ont. arrived at the abbey as a candidate on Oct. 9. A couple weeks after he arrived he put his experience as a cook into practice one weekend while the kitchen staff was shorthanded.

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## COVER

From left: Brothers Patrick Genoio, Mark Hunt and Clement McSheffery.



*Father Leopold Sabourin shares an informal moment with some of his students taking the study week in St. Luke's gospel.*

## Around the abbey

The summer, as usual, provided community members with many opportunities for outside work, if they had the time.

Brother Bernard put out calls for volunteers to help put up the hay. Then there were weeds to be hoed, raspberries, beans and peas to be picked. Many times the days seemed too short — though too long for aching backs!

Meanwhile, the major college project of putting in a hot-water heating system continued, there were summer courses and camps, guests in the guest house, and the Prairie Messenger and press staff continued their regular hours, except for a two-week holiday at the beginning of August.

A violent electrical storm hit the area on July 3, dropping an inch and a half of rain in 30 minutes. Lightning also hit the Goss Community Press, putting it out of commission for three weeks until Brother Stanley and Franz Henn got it repaired. The Prairie Messenger had to be taken to Saskatoon for printing.

The Carlton Trail Community College again had a two-week summer arts program here in early July, ending with a display of pottery, art, etc. on Saturday, July 14.

Despite the late spring this year, harvest was completed at an almost record early date. Brother Bernard and the farm crew began combining the last week of August and finished the harvest on Sept. 21. Some of the crops were damaged by frost and hail, but the yield was bountiful.

The vegetable garden flourished, too. After the abbey larder was filled, many vegetables were sold to neighbors. The corn crop was especially good. Over two truckloads were brought in for abbey use, and about a thousand dozen cobs were sold to neighbors. The potatoe crop was not as good, and many neighbors had to be turned away. Brother Wolfgang reported that he raised about 1,800 lbs of tomatoes in the greenhouse this year, and Father Xavier extracted around 4,500 lbs of honey from less than 25 hives.

At a chapter meeting on Sept. 3, Brother Bede was elected to the Senior Council, and Father Peter appointed to it. Other members include Father Albert, prior; Father Daniel, procurator; and Fathers Edward and Andrew.

At the same meeting Father Leo was elected to the Senate of Priests. He joins Fathers Edward Martin and Roman.

The community made several donations this past summer, including the following: to Serra Clara monastery in southern Brazil, where Father Sylvester stayed; to Nicaragua, for food and medical assistance; to the Dominican Republic, for the victims of the hurricanes this summer; to the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America; and to St. Maur's Priory, Indianapolis, Ind.

A new face is also seen occasionally around the library since Mrs. Margot King from St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon, was hired as a part-time cataloguer.

Community members were dismayed on Oct. 20 when a welcome, gentle rain turned to snow. The snow continued for a day and threatened to stay all winter, until it warmed up a week later and the snow melted.

## After 50 years

As a tribute of thanksgiving to God's love and goodness, for his 50 years of service at St. Peter's Press, and in anticipation of his golden jubilee of profession on July 8, 1980, Brother Dominic Distel was able to visit scenic British Columbia plus Bellevue, Seattle and Olympia, Wash., in August.

On his trip, Brother Dominic enjoyed visiting with the monks of Westminster Abbey, Mission, B.C., and also with the confreres at St. Martin's Abbey, Olympia, Wash.

Brother Dominic's former neighbors in Lake Lenore, the Rositchers, a family of 14, now living in Calgary, Kamloops, Trail, Chilliwack, B. C., and Bellevue, Wash., sponsored his trip and introduced him to good-natured hospitality.

The Rositchers also assisted Brother Dominic in visiting many of his former friends in Kamloops, Chilliwack and Vancouver. Great was the joy at this get-together; but greater still the renewal of their friendship.

May God bless their renewed friendship in a way that he knows best.



Father Maur Dlouhy, St. Procopius Abbey, and Abbot President Martin Burne, St. Mary's Abbey, conducted a visitation at the abbey from Oct. 9 - 16.



## Personnel notes

Abbot Jerome Weber was main celebrant at the annual St. Peter's Abbacy Mount Carmel pilgrimage, July 15. On Aug. 12 he attended the celebration of the 50th anniversary of ordination of Archbishop Maurice Baudoux at Prud'homme.

Father Albert Ruetz left July 15 for Spokane, Wash., to gain experience giving directed retreats at the Immaculate Heart Retreat House. Before returning home he also made an eight-day directed retreat there.

Father Martin Brodner was one of 12 diocesan directors of liturgy committees from Western Canada to attend a national liturgical conference in Toronto, Oct. 15-18. It was the first time in 10 years that such a meeting was held on the national level. The agenda included four speakers who gave presentations on approaches to liturgy.

Father Leo Hinz travelled to Holy Trinity Abbey, Huntsville, Utah, in early July to visit his classmate, Father Leander Dosch, now a Trappist monk there. Father Leo was in Saskatoon Aug. 13-17 as canonical consultant to the Sisters of Mission Service who were revising their constitutions. He represented the abbacy priests senate at the national federation of senates of priests meeting in Toronto, Oct. 15-18. The topic was the priest's role in preparing, celebrating and supporting Christian marriage.

Father Rudolph Novacosky went to Vancouver Oct. 17 for pain treatments at Vancouver General Hospital. In late November he plans to go to Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., for further treatment to alleviate the pain he has suffered since his hunting accident two years ago.

Father Andrew Britz gave a series of talks on sacramental theology to the permanent deacon candidates in Winnipeg the Oct. 16 weekend.

Brother Thomas Gerwing left the community Sept. 4 to pursue full-time work propagating the Kodaly Choral method of teaching music. Brother Thomas, as a cloistered oblate, never took vows but lived in the community as a "lay helper."

Father Bernard Stauber left Oct. 5 for Maceio, Brasil, and expected to arrive there Oct. 10. During



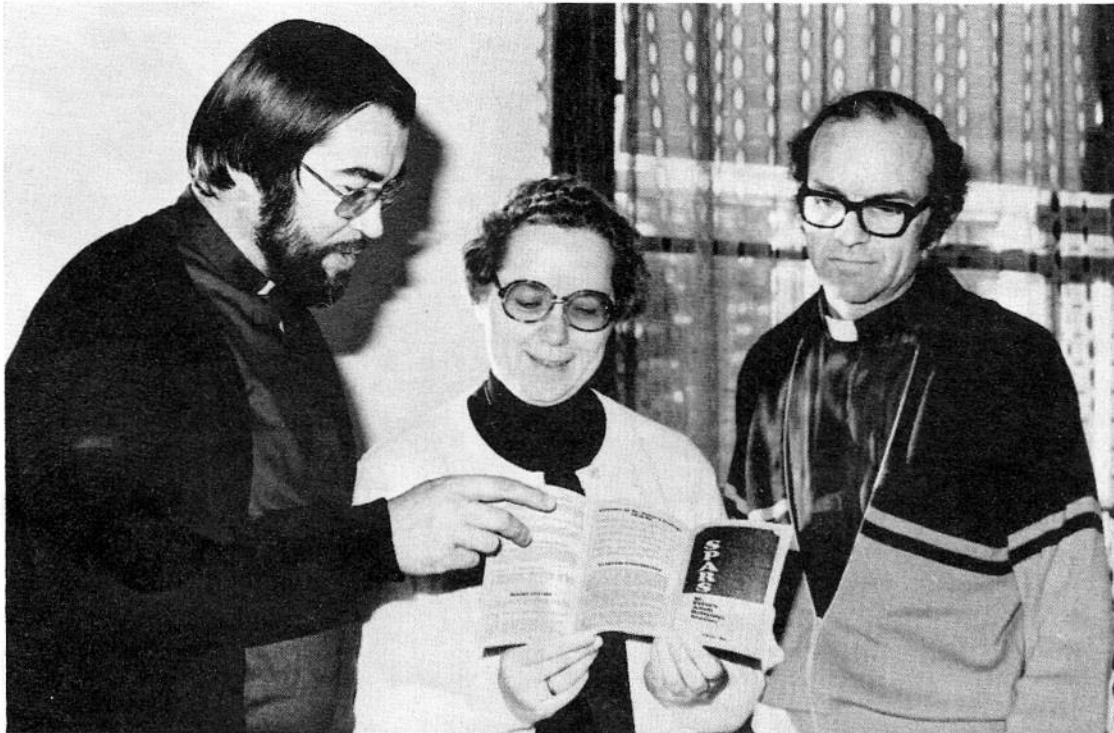
Sister Suzanne Mowchan extracts a candle from its mold in her hermitage. This summer she began making candles for use at the abbey and in parishes of the abbacy.

his summer visit to Canada, he had the opportunity to visit relatives and friends and speak at several parishes in the abbacy.

Brother Stanley Vindevoghel left Sept. 7 to attend the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, to take a final year of studies toward his BA degree with a major in sociology. He is staying with the Basilian Fathers at St. Thomas More College.

Brother Peter Dougan left on Oct. 26 to stay with relatives in Toronto. He has been granted a six-month leave of absence from the community.

Sister Rosemary Stevens, still plagued with undetermined health problems, left St. Peter's on Sept. 26 to return to her home convent at Santa Barbara, Calif., for treatment. She had lived on the abbey grounds as a hermit for almost a year.



*Examining the brochure explaining the new St. Peter's Adult Religious Studies program are: Father Andrew Britz, principal; Sister Loretta Konlup, SPARS program co-ordinator; and Father Lawrence DeMong, director of religious education.*

## St. Peter's College principal's report

Michael Hall, the main college building, has been a busy place this fall. First of all Brother Francis Fortney and Leo Torborg have been putting the finishing touches on the new hot-water heating system. After plugging a few leaks here and there all indications are that it will work — work much more efficiently than the old steam system.

Hopefully, with thermostats everywhere we will stop heating half of Saskatchewan each time we try heating the building. Brother Stanley Vindevoghel spent much of his summer insulating around all the windows and tightening the windows themselves. With many of the windows sealed shut, we hope to save a lot on our energy bill.

The Arts and Science program has more students than we have had for many a year. This year we have 41 full-time students. After several years of having more young ladies than lads in

Arts, the boys have made a comeback. This year they outnumber the ladies two to one. But with 26 in the secretarial program, things seem to balance out quite well.

This year we have begun teaching music in the Arts program to give a counter balance to the Science and Commerce programs. Hopefully, next year we will also be able to add an art class. With such a class we will be able to provide a well-rounded program in Arts and Science. It would be nice if some of our readers would suggest our program to their friends and neighbors.

This year St. Peter's College is beginning two non-credit programs for adults. The first, St. Peter's Adult Religious Studies (SPARS), seems to be taking off beyond our wildest hopes. We planned five 5-week courses, but likely will end the season by offering at least 12 such sessions.

This program aims at deepening adults' appreciation of their vocation as Christians and encourages the emergence of Christian leadership in all churches. Through a renewed awareness of the faith, individuals will be personally enriched and better equipped to stimulate and promote growth in the various Christian communities in our area.

The second program, Conversational French, has also drawn more students than we expected. We planned on having the class run concurrently to the university year. Father Lawrence DeMong has had to offer a second section.

The college has installed a new language laboratory to promote the learning of French in our area. Some day we hope to add a class in German so that people of the area can appreciate their roots more deeply.

We hope to use the Doctor Tomatis electronic ear to aid adults in the learning of a second language. We ordered the equipment directly from France last July, but it still has not arrived.

Father Lawrence DeMong studied Tomatis' principles for five weeks this summer in Toronto. He writes the following to introduce you to his truly revolutionary thinking:

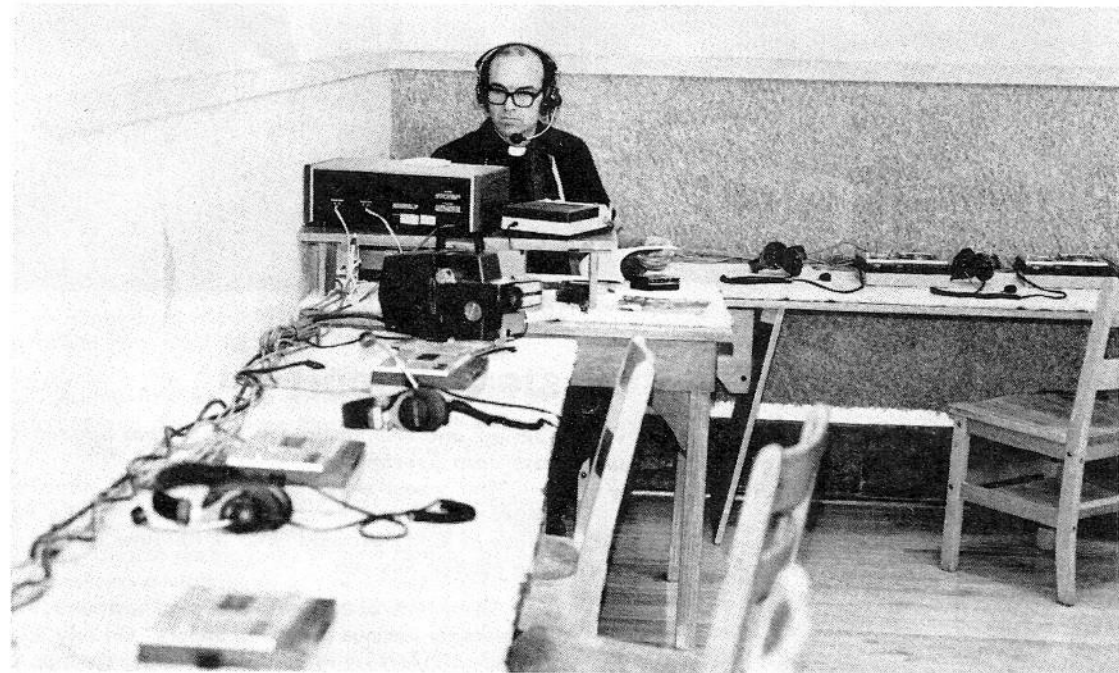
## Tomatis

Ever think your hearing is getting bad? It's probably not your hearing at all. It's listening.

For a variety of reasons we tend to turn off our hearing or never get it started properly. From our mother's womb we are already conditioned to sound. If our mothers were happy or depressed during pregnancy we, as unborn babies, were being conditioned to open up to sounds or to close them off.

Alfred Tomatis, a French doctor, has made some important discoveries during the past several decades in the realm of hearing. He has shown that we select what we want to hear. And even subconsciously, we turn off sound that threatens us or presents no interest. Beginning with professional singers whose voices were failing, he found that the voice can contain only those qualities that the ear hears.

If the upper harmonics are gone or the pitch is bad, it is more often a problem of the ear than the voice. Tomatis found that people having similar hearing ability applying for a job needing good hearing were really able to do better than those trying to get a pension because of loss of hearing:



Father Lawrence DeMong is at the controls of the new language lab installed this fall in the college.

we hear what we want to hear. Therefore, he began giving listening tests, not hearing tests.

Tomatis succeeded in opening up autistic children to normalcy with therapy using the mother's voice filtered to simulate womb sounds and "re-did" their gestation and birth. Most of us have an imperfect "listening curve" which results in lower performance in singing, use of language and general well-being.

Shortly after Vatican II a group of monks in

France discontinued their long hours of chant. Soon they were suffering from such fatigue that they called in doctors who prescribed more sleep and "better" nutrition — all to no avail. Tomatis got most of them back to normal by having them resume their chanting. Their brains had become so discharged by the absence of sound that some of them had actually become mental cases.

Want to raise your own feeling of well-being? Try singing or listening to Mozart or Gregorian chant. They're the best for brain recharge!



*Father Edward Benning began building a new church at Englefeld this summer.*

## The Guestmaster's Report

The biggest news in the abbey's guest wing this summer was the departure of Brother Thomas Gerwing, guestmaster, who left the community on Sept. 4 to pursue full-time work propagating the Kodaly Choral Method of teaching school music. Brother Thomas had been the capable and very affable guestmaster at the abbey for over three years

On Sept. 5, Father Peter Novocosky was named acting guestmaster for a three-month

period, and Brother Patrick Genois was appointed assistant guestmaster.

The guest wing also hired Lillian Hinz of Muenster for part-time janitorial work, to take the place of Stan Pesowski, who is full-time janitor in the college this year.

The month of July was occupied with directed retreats for various groups of Sisters. On July 3, a group of Sisters of St. Louis spent eight days on a directed retreat. They were able to join the



community at an outdoor supper at both the beginning and end of their retreat. Two groups of Ursuline Sisters from Bruno came for a directed retreat on July 11 and 15 respectively. The latter group was directed by Miss Doreen Kostyniuk.

During the third week of July, Father Leopold Sabourin, SJ, gave a study week on the themes in St. Luke's gospel.

On July 22, the annual hockey sports camp began here, with groups of 100 hockey aspirants coming here each week, for the next four weeks. Jack Cook of Saskatoon was in charge of the camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McSheffery and Mary, of Bath, N.B. arrived on Aug. 3 to participate in Brother Clement McSheffery's profession of vows on Aug. 6, and to visit for almost a week.

On the first Sunday of August, Brother Wolfgang Thiem got a chance to practice his French as he gave a tour to a French immersion class from Saskatoon. The Bens clan made St. Peter's their center for a family reunion Aug. 11-12, with arrangements made by Sister Viola Bens who worked at the abbey several years as a director of religious education. A number of teachers

boarded here the week of Aug. 20 and took part in an STF Kodaly music course taught by Brother Thomas Gerwing, and a creative dance course taught by Marianne Levant.

One group used the guest facilities in September: 25 students from the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon, made a retreat here Sept. 14-16. The Glenn Dobson family from Nipawin came several weekends to fire their pottery in the abbey kiln. Leo Collin of Edmonton was here the latter half of the month for a live-in.

There were again individual visitors, relatives, and retreatants this summer, including Dennis Gruending of Regina, who came for the Sept. 23 weekend to work on a book being written by several Canadian journalists. He is writing a chapter on his experiences with the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix. And on Sept. 25, Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Friendshuh of San Andreas, Calif., stopped in for a brief visit. Mr. Friendshuh is a nephew of the late Abbot Bruno Doerfler. Abbot Bruno was the oldest in the family, and Mr. Friendshuh's mother was the youngest.



The corn was almost as high as an elephant's eye this year, as Brother Gregory Brodner demonstrates.



*These giant squash, weighing up to 125 lbs, were raised by Brother Wolfgang Thiem this summer near the greenhouse.*

## Father Sylvester back in Maceio

*Father Sylvester returned to the abbacy mission team at Maceio, Brazil, at the end of September. He had left his parish at the beginning of this year for Santa Maria de Serra Clara monastery in southern Brasil. He stayed there til August and then spent about a month in the Nova Venecia diocese, where comunidades de base are flourishing, and visited a Benedictine monastery in Salvador before returning to Maceio.*

My plans after I return to Maceio are to follow the Spirit with regard to our pastoral activity, our equipe (team) and personal spirituality, and our extra-parochial responsibilities.

As to the first, the parish of Sao Jose, I am more convinced than ever that we have to steer every activity toward or within the line of *comunidades de base* (grassroots communities) because they are most appropriate for discovering and living the faith in God and fellow men. These ceba are the local church at its best. If you want further documentation on them, read the Puebla Document, 489-93.

With regard to personal and team spirituality, I do wish to intensify our moments of prayer in the line of this Salvador monastery, if the Sisters will go along with that. Here we get together at 6 a.m., noon, 6 and 7:15 p.m.

At 6 a.m. the abbot wishes everybody rather in-

formally, yet patristically, a good morning and invites the monks to celebrate the death-resurrection mystery. Then follows invitatory psalm, examination of conscience, opening prayer, psalm, Old Testament reading, meditation psalm, gospel and a homily, prayers, a very simple offering of gifts, preface, etc., psalm at communion, prayer, blessing by the abbot and, after about 10 minutes, breakfast.

Noon prayer is about 30 minutes; Vespers, about 45; and evening prayer, about 15 minutes.

Obviously at Maceio we have to balance our time, interests and needs so as to attend well to our total mission. The Puebla Conference places a lot of emphasis on prayer and the religious life. We'll have to do some soul-searching. But I hope to discover the key to opening the hearts of our people to family and group prayer, and incarnating prayer into our meetings.

With regard to extra-parochial activities, Dom Miguel would desire a lot of things, but some completely beyond me. For instance, he would be most happy if a group of monks came to his diocese to form a real Benedictine monastery. As I wrote several months ago, I do not think the Spirit is leading me in that direction, surely not to form one more monastery similar to those already existing in Brazil. If anything I would like to live the ideals of St. Benedict with a small group of men and women, attuned to the prophetic message so needed today.

Dom Miguel also strongly desires a deepening of prayer in his diocese. I would be betraying my mission, my monastic vocation, my priestly life and my very baptism if I would not want to attend to that wish of the bishop. But it must not stay on the theoretical level nor must I think I am the only one battling toward that.

I'll try to exchange ideas with other apostles — if you allow me such a holy title. It will have to be radically based on the scriptures and the day-to-day events of our people.

Boniface Wimmer might have exaggerated some "needs," but he had his feet on the ground. He inspires me, as does Augustine of Canterbury. Except that Latin America is in the midst of other sufferings, and we have to respond with the fullness of our Christian convictions and hopes.

Dom Miguel also wants me to think about concrete work to develop vocations in the diocese. That is a major job in itself. On the other hand, I am more and more inclined to placing all our efforts on

cebs and within those small communities develop the different ministries, including the priesthood.

At Nova Venecia they have tremendous people, men and women, that accept different functions and carry them out in a most exemplary way. One layman leads prayer and word services every Saturday and Sunday. He has full permission to go out to any community and stimulate that community, or correct what is wrong. You might call him "visitorator." He actually co-ordinates 15 lay visitors for the 70 communities, and is a real gem. The minute Rome allows ordination of married people, he will be ordained.

Gosh, I think I'll have to become 20 again in order to do everything I want go do! I haven't even mentioned the work of socio-political conscientization, much needed here and now.

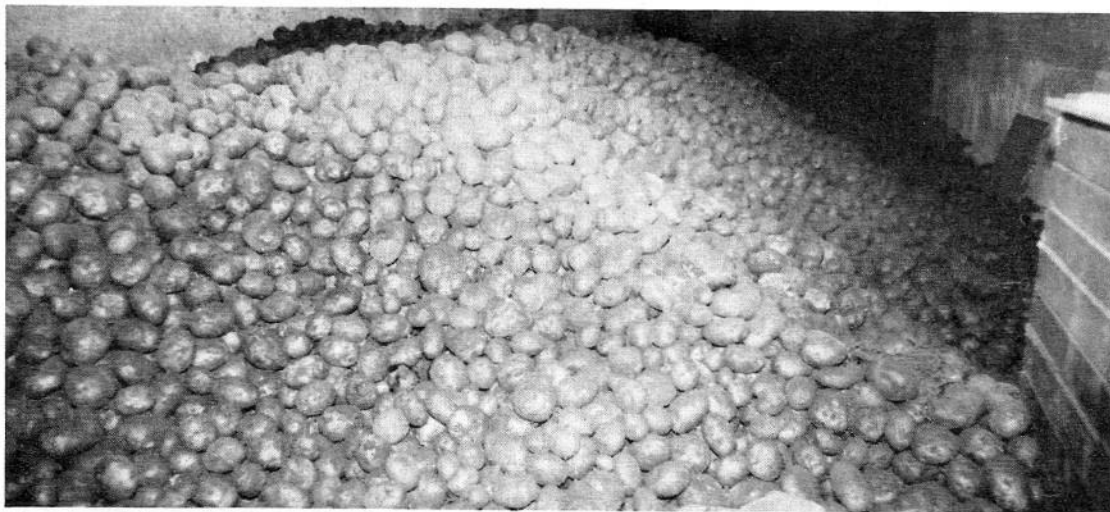
## Deceased brethren, relatives

Brother Marciano Saiz V, 73, Monasterio Benedictino Del Tepeyac, Mexico, died May 14.

Brother Valerian Horky, 85, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Ill., died July 28.

Father Matthew Martin Kiess, 78, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., head of St. John's University chemistry dept. for 38 years, died on Aug. 21.

Sister Hilberta Ludwig, OSB, 89, St. Placid's Priory, Olympia, Wash., sister of Father Alphonse, died on Sept. 16



*The potatoe bin was filled to its quota, with the help of many community members, Sept. 8.*



St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter  
Muenster, Saskatchewan  
S0K 2Y0

