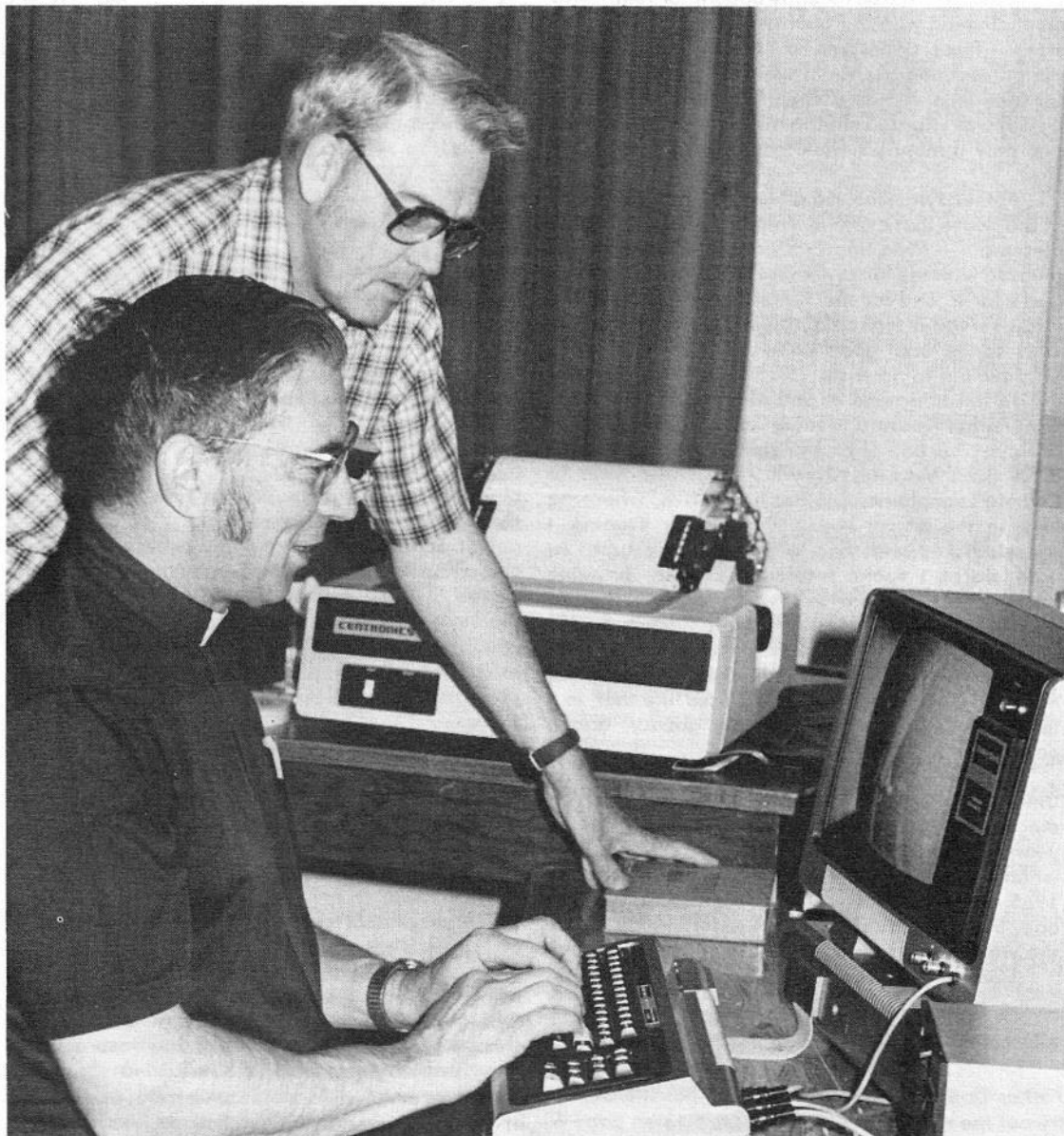


ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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Abbot Jerome visits Brazil mission

I would like to share with you some of the highlights of my visit to Maceio, April 11-25, and the impressions with which I returned.

After a most warm welcome at the airport at Maceio, I drove with Father Sylvester Vredegoor to the house which was recently bought for him. I was most pleased with the quality of the house and its size — three bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, parlor, and another room which can be used well for meetings. It was a cheerful place, bright and airy; it was situated next to the house of the sisters and only a minute's walk from the church of Sao Jose.

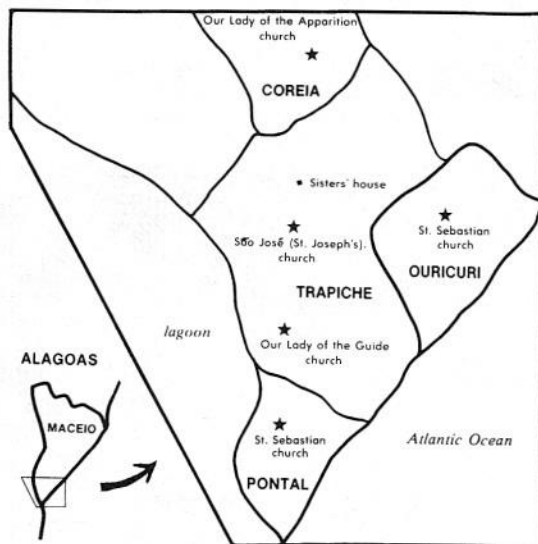
Father Sylvester had arranged for the blessing of the house that evening. I did the main part of the blessing — even in Portuguese — and I was pleased with the large number of people who were there for it, and for the "open house" and for the lunch served afterwards. It was a joyous evening, with songs and good cheer, a very enjoyable introduction to my visit.

In the afternoon of Saturday, April 12, I went with Father Bernard Stauber for an evening Mass at Novo Lino, one of his parishes, about a two-hour drive from Maceio. After the Mass we went to Colonia Leopoldina, another hour drive, where he lives in the parish house. On Sunday evening, I concelebrated with him in the parish church. At both places I spoke briefly in English, bringing them greetings from St. Peter's Abbey. Father Bernard translated what I said into Portuguese.

My visit was rather short since Father Bernard had scheduled two Masses in the rural area for Monday; he has about a dozen places like that, in a territory almost as large as the abbacy, and a population that is much larger.

On Tuesday, Father Sylvester and I went to Uniao dos Palmares where the priests from the diocese of Saskatoon have been working for 16 years. Father Don McGillivray was already there when Sisters Florianne and Jerome and I visited in 1965. Since then a new church has replaced the old one; there are three Brazilian sisters helping with the work among the poor of the parish.

Dom Miguel, the archbishop of Maceio, had



The churches in the five areas of Maceio served by Father Sylvester.

planned April 21 as the day on which to celebrate the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica and to show publicly his appreciation for the work of the Benedictines and of the sisters in Maceio. Dom Basilio, the abbot of the monastery in Olinda, about a four-hour drive away, was principal concelebrant and homilist in a Mass of thanksgiving in the evening. Dom Miguel and about a dozen priests of the diocese also were there.

After the Mass Sister Claire Novecosky, OSU, showed 50 slides of St. Peter's Abbey, the monks, some of our activities, as well as some winter scenes, since winter is so entirely unfamiliar to the people in Maceio. Father Sylvester gave a commentary; the many people there enjoyed seeing these slides.

A very important part of my visit was to go to all the parishes under the care of Father Sylvester and the sisters, in order to meet the people and bring them your greetings and my own. This began with Mass at N. S. de Guia at 7 p.m. on Saturday; this was followed by a Mass at Sao Jose at 8:30. Next morning we were at Ouricuri at 8; in the afternoon at 4 the Mass was at Correia; and at 7:30 at Pontal. Father Sylvester has such a schedule

COVER

Father Daniel Muyres and Brother Patrick Genois try out the new microcomputer. (Article on page 6)



Margot King, Saskatoon, clarifies some point about Desert Mothers with Brother Bede Hubbard and Father James Gray.

every weekend, and frequently there are baptisms and marriages as well.

I also visited several families in which there are children whose education is being paid for by voluntary contributions from some people in the abbacy. These visits with Sister Claire or Sister Maria Doepker, OSU, brought me into some of the very poor homes, and again showed me very vividly some of the living conditions of millions of families in the whole of Latin America. To describe these, or even show pictures or slides, is utterly inadequate; it must be seen and experienced to get an idea of the reality.

There have been great changes in the area of Maceio, which I first visited in 1965, and in the parishes which we accepted then. There are the physical changes — more and better homes, better roads, more facilities for education and health; even a large football stadium (soccer). The churches have been improved, especially in Sao Jose which, in 1965, had a good part of one wall missing. It had new roof-beams put into place during the past year, because termites had eaten into most of the old ones; it had an interior paint

job, and colored glass put into the spaces for the windows — and all this was done with money raised by the parishioners themselves. A new church and a social centre were built at Correia.

The co-operation between priest, sisters and parishioners has continued to develop from the beginning. There is an ever growing response to the need for leadership, and more lay leaders are emerging as a result of various leadership courses, and a growing awareness of the duties that go along with being followers of Christ in his church.

Again and again I heard words of appreciation and gratitude for the presence of the priests and the sisters in the diocese of Maceio, especially from the archbishop himself. It is easy to see the esteem in which they are held. So many come to the house for help, or merely to be with them.

It was again most encouraging to see the real contributions which the priests and sisters are making to the church in Brazil.

Finally, sincerest thanks to the people of the abbacy, and beyond, who, by their donations, are making this work possible.

Around the abbey

The spring of '80 will be remembered for many things, including drought conditions and tent caterpillars.

This spring was one of the driest people could remember. The first rain — about half an inch — fell on Pentecost Sunday, May 26. Farmers were concerned about their crops and pasture land, and Brother Bernard Lange had to haul feed out to the cattle in the pasture.

The consistent hot weather, however, enabled Brother Bernard to begin seeding very early, on May 4. He continued straight through and completed seeding on May 14.

Across the province and at the abbey, the tent caterpillars made their presence known — and seen. Some trees were black with them and their voracious appetite denuded many trees of their

leaves. It can only be worse next year, unless something unexpected happens.

The flat roofs on several buildings have begun to leak quite badly. A scan of them by Tremco in May showed that most have to be repaired and the abbey roof completely replaced.

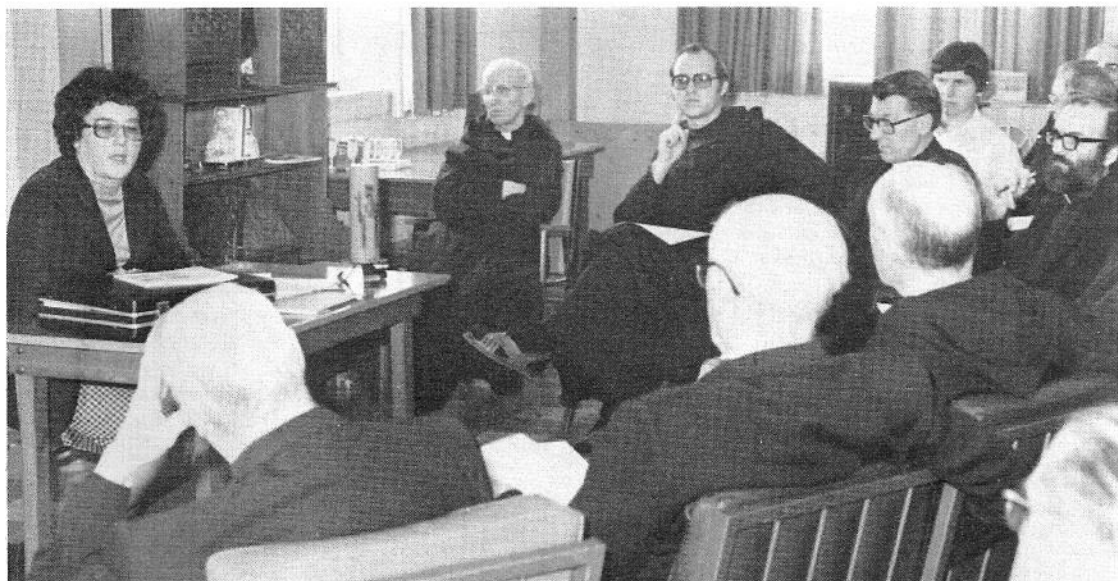
The feast of St. Benedict on March 21 kicked off the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict. Sister Joan Baron, OSE, gave a presentation on facilities for the sick and the aged at a community meeting.

Father Andrew Britz co-ordinated a change-over in the heating system in the gym this spring. Blowing the hot air directly into the gym and returning the cold air through the former hot air ducts should help conserve heat and energy.

On April 20, the community and a large crowd were royally entertained by the St. Michael's Boys' Choir on tour across Canada. A pleasant surprise in



The wrecking crew taking down the old Buchacher house this spring takes a coffee break. They are, from left: Brothers Mark Hunt and Clement McSheffery, Vince Lalonde, Steve Carthy and Brother Francis Fortney.



Sister Joan Baron, OSE, spoke on care of the aging at a March 21 community meeting.

their program was their encore of the Halleluia chorus from Handel's Messiah.

The St. Peter's Adult Chorus presented their spring concert here and in Englefeld on April 27. And on the May 2-4 weekend they went to Regina to help the Regina symphony and philharmonic chorus perform Beethoven's ninth symphony.

Mrs. Margo King broke some new ground for many community members on April 23, when she delivered a paper on Desert Mothers.

Marikay Falby of Saskatoon made her oblation as an external oblate on May 24 after the Vigil service.

At a community meeting on May 28 Fathers Peter Novecosky and Andrew Britz gave a report on a meeting they attended in Saskatoon discussing the possibility of beginning a bible college in Western Canada.

The abbey decided at a May 28 chapter meeting to go ahead with plans to build a new press building this summer. Two weeks earlier the community voted to spend \$15,000 over the next three years to purchase books on monastic and religious life, as a sesquimillennium project.

Personnel notes

Abbot Jerome Weber and Father Werner Renneberg attended the provincial CWL convention at Swift Current, June 2-3.

In February, Father Albert Ruetz was chosen to be honorary president of the Saskatchewan Mathematics Teachers' Society. Last November at the Math and Science convention in Saskatoon, he was presented with a plaque by the Saskatchewan Math Teachers' Society: "In recognition of your excellent leadership in the field of mathematics." Presentation was made by Dr. Garth Thomas, former head of the mathematics department, University of Saskatchewan.

Father Werner Renneberg replaced Father Matthew Michel as pastor of St. Benedict on Mother's Day, May 11. Father Matthew is now resident at the hospital in Cudworth and Father Lawrence DeMong is assistant to Father Werner.

Father Peter Novecosky attended a meeting of the Canadian religious formation directors, in St. Jerome, Quebec, March 24-28.

Father Maurice Weber preached a retreat to the Benedictine sisters at Cottonwood, Idaho from June 1-7.

Brother Francis Fortney went to St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt, May 3, with an infected bladder.

Brother Peter Dougan received his dispensation from solemn vows on May 7 and is now residing in Saskatoon.

Brother Stanley Vindevoghel returned to the abbey for a brief visit at the end of the university semester in April. He returned to Saskatoon again for more classes during intercession.

Brother Clement McSheffery received his dispensation from simple vows and returned to Bath, N. B. on May 16.

Three candidates were accepted on May 14 to begin their novitiate on July 10. They are: Vince Lalonde of London, Ont., Al Thurmeier of Albuquerque, N. M., and Steve Carthy of Cambridge, Ont.

Brother Mark Hunt watches Father Damian Yaskowich assemble a stained glass window for the abbey chapel (below). The stained glass windows (right) were installed in the abbey Blessed Sacrament Chapel on Holy Saturday.

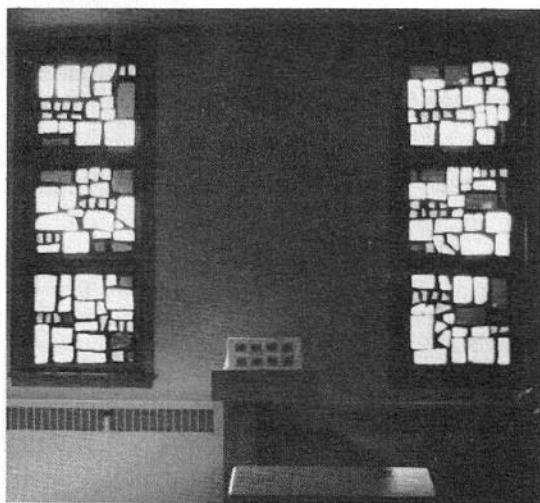


Microcomputer installed

A TRS-80 Model 1 Level II microcomputer was purchased by St. Peter's Abbey and installed in early June, inaugurating the age of computers at the abbey!

Father Daniel Muyres notes that many abbeys are using computers today to streamline work in the business office. At present he and Brother Patrick Genois are learning how to use the computer, what its possibilities are and how to write programs for it.

Various programs can be purchased to use the computer for farming operations, office work, inventory control and printing mailing lists.



The Guestmaster's Report

The spring months saw the regular quota of groups and visitors use the guest wing, with some "regular" groups back and a lot of individual guests.

One of the "regulars" was the hog management course sponsored by the dept. of continuing education. About 20 young farmers came for this class the last three weeks of March.

Marriage encounters also favor the abbey facilities. The National marriage encounter group had a mini encounter here Sunday afternoon, Feb. 24. Then eight couples took part in a National marriage encounter weekend, March 21-23. One of the "odd couples" at this weekend was Father Daniel Muyres and Brother Wolfgang Thiem. Earlier in March, 12 couples from around the province took part in a WorldWide marriage encounter weekend, which Father Maurice Weber took part in.

A regular Easter week group are the Bruno Ursuline sisters. This year seven made a directed retreat under the direction of Father Bernard DeMargerie of Saskatoon.

The SEARCH program for youth is picking up steam in the abbacy. The April 18 - 20 weekend was booked full and a number of local teenagers had to be turned down. Mini Searches were held on Feb. 17 and June 1.



Sister Francis Clare, SSND, Minnesota, visited the abbey for a few days at the end of April and spoke on charismatic prayer to the monks in formation. Sister Isabelle Zoller, OSE, a long-time associate of St. Peter's, celebrated her 50th anniversary of religious profession this year.

The Last Touch Regional Youth Council brought over 90 teenagers here the last weekend of March. On the last weekend of April about 50 people came for the Saskatchewan Camping Association meeting, with Father John Boutin as co-ordinator. During the second last week of April, an in-service workshop was held for 12 community college field representatives from Saskatchewan.

The only large group to make it in May (several cancelled out) was CUSO, which had a session here May 2-4. There were a number of individual visitors and retreatants this month, including Keith Moreau, who made an eight-day retreat here prior to his ordination to the priesthood in Saskatoon, and Henry Arcand, a native working with the Oblates at Ile-a-la-Crosse.

Another interesting visitor was Father Fidelis Becker, retired in Staples, Minn., who came for a few day's visit in early June. Father Fidelis took classes at St. Peter's College around 1924. He then entered the novitiate here and took simple vows. He left the community at this time. This was his first visit back to St. Peter's in over 50 years and he could recall many incidents from that time, as well as many experiences as a missionary in Africa.

Deceased brethren

Father Cornelius Benedict Osendorf, 78, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, a missionary in the Bahamas for over 45 years, died on March 6.

Brother Marko Slat, 97, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, believed to be the oldest Benedictine monk in the United States, died on March 7.

Father Alexis (John) Horvath, 67 Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died on March 7.

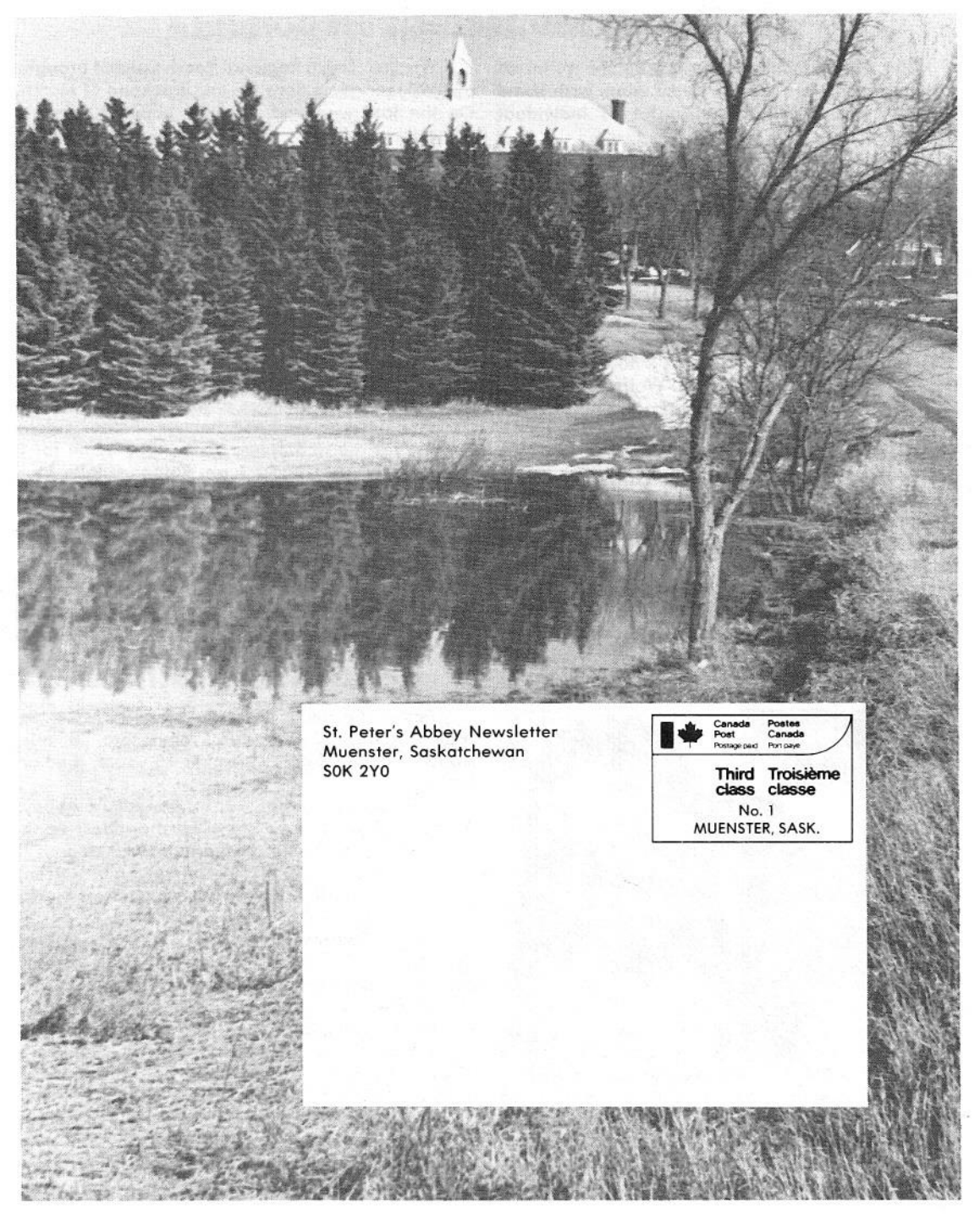
Father Charles Forsyth, 68, Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, Colorado, died on March 13 after a two-year illness from emphysema.

Brother James Michael Hugues, 78, St. John's Abbey, died on March 26.

Brother Louis Bruggeman, 66, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, died on April 6 from cancer and a heart attack.

Brother Method Kuzeja, 66, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, died on May 8.

Father Marcian (Stephen) Kornides, 66, Saint Vincent Archabbey, died on May 27.



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