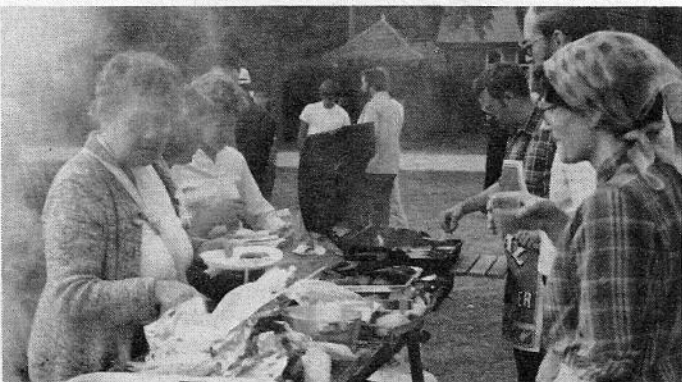
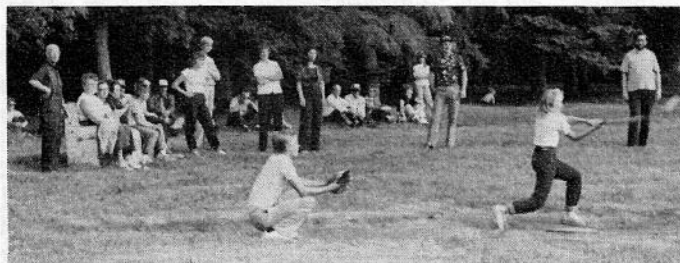


ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7. No. 2

Muenster, Sask.

Autumn, 1983



Our staff and their families joined us for our annual Family Day on Sunday, September 4. The afternoon included the traditional ball game, visiting, tours, beanbag tournament and barbecue supper.

Abbot Jerome's activities

During the first week in August I conducted a retreat for the Precious Blood Sisters, a cloistered community, in Regina.

On August 11, I joined the Ursulines and several confreres in celebrating the 50th anniversary as a religious of Sisters Jerome Pulvermacher and Patricia Mackey, and the 25th of Sister Claire Novecosky and the Elizabethans, on August 21, at Humboldt, as they celebrated the 25th of Sister Eileen Kirtzinger.

I was happy to celebrate Holy Mass, on August 14, during the week-long celebration of Muenster's 75th anniversary, at the cairn erected (by Brother Wolfgang Thiem) at the very site of the first Mass in the Parish area (1903), on the same section of land on which the Abbey now stands.

Since the National Convention of the CWL was being held so close (in Saskatoon) I was present for the opening Mass in Holy Spirit Parish on August 16, and also for most of the last day, August 19, at the Centennial Auditorium.

The climax of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the diocese of Saskatoon took place at the Field House in the city on October 2. I attended this wonderful family gathering of all the parishes of the diocese, and was glad to bring greetings and best wishes to our neighboring diocese (in which there are so many former residents of our Abbey) both from the Abbey and from the Benedictines of St. Peter's.

The CRC-W (Canadian Religious Conference of the West) met at Villa Maria, a retreat house conducted by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, in Winnipeg, October 20 - 23. As a member of the Conference I attended this meeting, where there usually are about 70 religious (most of them women) from the four western provinces. We learned a good deal about the new Code of Canon Law and religious from Father Monción, of St. Paul's University, Ottawa. While in Winnipeg, I took out several hours to visit my aunt, Mrs. Helen Sterzer, whose husband worked in St. Peter's press for several years in the early 30s.

Next day, October 24, there was a meeting

of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Bishops of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon. Part of the meeting was devoted to arranging for a joint meeting of Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy on March 23, 1984.

The following day the Roman Catholic bishops met. They all agreed to continue efforts to have Pope John Paul II spend at least several hours in Saskatchewan during his visit to Canada in September, 1984.



The October 1, 1983 Weekender section of the Regina Leader Post featured a front page story on St. Peter's Abbey done by Peter Edwards with three color photos by Don Healy.



Abbot Jerome Weber presents Sister Isabelle Zoller, OSE with a gift in appreciation of her 38 faithful years in our kitchen. Kitchen and laundry staff joined the community to mark this occasion at a farewell evening, September 16.

Abbey chronicle

Several monks attended the funeral of Vincent Stewart, 37, at St. Peter's Cathedral, Muenster on August 8. Vince, who had worked at St. Peter's Press for many years, was killed in a single vehicle accident on August 4. Both his wife Lucille and his father, John Stewart also worked at our press.

The annual community theological workshop was conducted this year by **Father Andrew Britz**, August 9, 10, and 12. This year the subject was, SPARS: Information and clarifications.

Father Leander Dosch, OCSO who transferred from our community to the Trappist Abbey of the Holy Trinity, Huntsville, Utah in 1975, visited here August 10.

Father Martin Brodner was very active in the joint celebration of St. Peter's Parish and Muenster Village. August marked the 80th anniversary of the parish and the 75th of the incorporation of Muenster as a village. Many

events were planned for August 13 and 14, including the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, August 14, on the site (one mile south of Muenster) where the first Mass was celebrated in this area on May 21, 1903. Another remembrance was an 8-page tabloid, Muenster Jubilee, packed with news about the beginnings of the abbey, parish and village. Copies are still available from the Muenster village office.

On August 21, **Father Damian Yaskowich** showed slides taken during his year at Charlotetown, and his trip to Newfoundland.

Father Lawrence DeMong returned to Ottawa on August 23 after spending three weeks at the Abbey and with relatives and friends in this area. He resumed his second year as National director of Religious Education.

Visiting here August 23 - 26, and attending the solemn profession of **Brother Patrick Benois**, were five monks from Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D. They were: Brothers

Victor Frankenhauser, Gregory Senger, Llewellyn Kouba, Basil Atwell and Boniface Muggli.

Attending the workshop, Institute for Religious Living, conducted by Sister Jean Marie Sullivan in Edmonton, August 28 - 30, were **Father Peter Novecosky**, Novices **Antony Ety**, **Michael McAllister**, **Basil Schaan** and **Kurt van Kuren**, and **Jacynthe de Margerie**.

Father Albert Ruetz attended the funeral of Christopher Maxwell, 22, at St. Francis Church, Saskatoon on September 2. Christopher, son of Benedictine Oblates Grant and Vivian Maxwell was killed in an automobile accident August 31.

Brother William Thurmeier returned to St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire on September 4 to complete his studies in Philosophy.

Father Andrew Britz gave a talk on Christology to the priests of the Wynyard Deanery during their deanery workshop here, September 6 and 7.

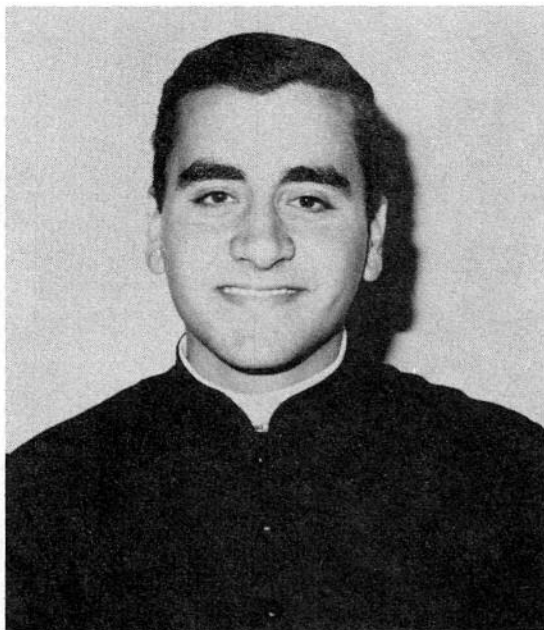
Brother John Brodner, who had just celebrated his golden jubilee of profession in July, began losing his vision in his left eye early in September (he had lost the vision in the right eye last December.) Doctors at the University Hospital, Saskatoon were able to halt any further deterioration of his vision. Brother John rejoices that he can still see enough to get around, to mop the abbey corridors, but his hair-cutting days (after 50 faithful years) seem to be over.

Brother Stephen Carthy returned to Saskatoon on September 9 where he will complete his final year toward a BA in History.

Despite rain, a large crowd of local people turned out to pick their own potatoes on Saturday, September 17. Two potato diggers had difficulty keeping ahead of the customer demand.

Father Xavier Benning reported that this year's honey crop reached 3800 pounds. **Brother Wolfgang Thiem** raised some giant squashes, the largest weighing 160 pounds. **Brother Gregory Brodner** reported that over 5000 cobs of corn were sold.

New additions to the farm: a machinery shed with floor heating and three steel grain bins.



Achraf Farid Isaac returned to his seminary in Cairo, Egypt September 4. He had been at St. Peter's since June 15.

The Prince Albert chapter of the Canadian Association of Separated, Divorced and Widowed Catholics hosted its first conference September 30 - October 1 in Prince Albert. **Father Leo Hinz** gave one of the addresses on October 1.

Brother Stephen Carthy, attending University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, was home October 14 - 15.

Father Andrew Britz attended the Western Liturgical Conference in Edmonton, October 17 - 20.

Father Peter Novecosky spoke at the Saskatchewan Writers Guild Conference in Swift Current, October 21 - 22.

Recently named to a committee responsible for the planning of our up-coming 1984 visitation were; **Fathers Martin Brodner**, **Maurice Weber** and **Damian Yaskowich**.

On October 31, **Father Lawrence DeMong** arrived home for a few days on his way to Edmonton, then Banff for the Western Religious Educators Workshop.



Brother Patrick Geno is congratulated at a come-and-go tea following his solemn profession of vows.

Brother Patrick makes solemn profession

Brother Patrick Geno made his solemn profession of vows as a Benedictine monk at St. Peter's Abbey on August 24.

Brother Patrick 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 St. Peter's in January 1978.

Barbershop singing has long been one of Brother Patrick's interests. In 1972 he became a life member of the Barbershop Harmony singing organization. Brother Patrick lists curling as one of his favorite sports.

For the past two years, Brother Patrick participated in the monastic studies program at Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D. He also attended the Summer Monastic Institute for Junior Monks at St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas this past summer, and at St. Gre-

gory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma the previous summer.

Brother Patrick works in the business office and the bookbindery. He was recently elected to the monastery's liturgy committee.

Pastoral changes

Abbot Jerome Weber announced the following pastoral changes in the Abbacy, effective September 25.

Father Leo Hinz remains pastor of St. Augustine's Parish, Humboldt, with Father Damian Yaskowich as weekend assistant.

Father Werner Renneberg continues as chaplain of St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt and becomes pastor of Assumption Parish, Marysburg, and St. Joseph's Parish, Fulda.

Father Philip Loehr remains pastor of Holy Trinity and St. Bernard's Parishes, Pilger; St. Benedict's Parish, St. Benedict; Canadian Martyrs Parish, Middle Lake.

Father Maurice Weber has been freed from parish duties since his tasks as principal of St. Peter's College and supervisor of the student residence demand much of his time.

Abbot Jerome's visit to Rome

Every five years Catholic Bishops from all over the world are asked to send a report to the Vatican, and to visit there personally, if possible. This report deals with such topics as the pastoral and administrative organization of the diocese, the general religious situation, the use of the sacraments, Catholic education and the role of the laity. The Bishops of Canada were scheduled to go in 1983. Since it was also a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Redemption and a Holy Year, I decided to accompany the Bishops of Western Canada who had arranged to be in Rome September 18 - 30, for their "ad limina" visit.

One of the highlights for me was the general audience given by Pope John Paul II in front of the Basilica of St. Peter's on September 21. It was a thrilling experience. I was with the Bishops from Western Canada and the Maritimes and some from the U.S. We were given seats in front of the platform from which Pope John Paul was to preside.

It was very moving when suddenly the crowd broke into shouts and cheers as a helicopter appeared, carrying the Pope from his summer residence at Castelgandolfo, near Rome. Shortly after that the car carrying him was driving along the aisles in the midst of the people, until it stopped near the platform erected for him, and he walked the last 100 feet to the platform.

He began the liturgy of the Word, the penitential rite, the prayer, the reading from Ephesians 4 and 5, and the homily. In it he spoke about our redemption and emphasized the great love Christ showed for us by giving His life in sacrifice on the cross. After that Bishops from different countries came to the platform and announced the places from which the pilgrims came. It was amazing to me to hear that they came from many different cities and regions: Canada, U.S., Mexico, Brasil, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Japan, Australia., etc. After the place was named the people from it would cheer and applaud and wave to him, and he would smile and wave back. After each language group had been introduced he spoke briefly in that lan-

guage, and added others which had been mentioned (English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, Hungarian.)

At the end he rose to give the blessing and invited all the bishops to join him in this. So all of them went forward to the top of the platform or on the steps. I was on the platform and turned to face the crowd. What a sight! To look at 50,000 people or more, a sea of faces, looking at Pope John Paul, the visible vicar of Christ the Lord, and centre of unity for all Catholics — an inspiration and a moving sight indeed.

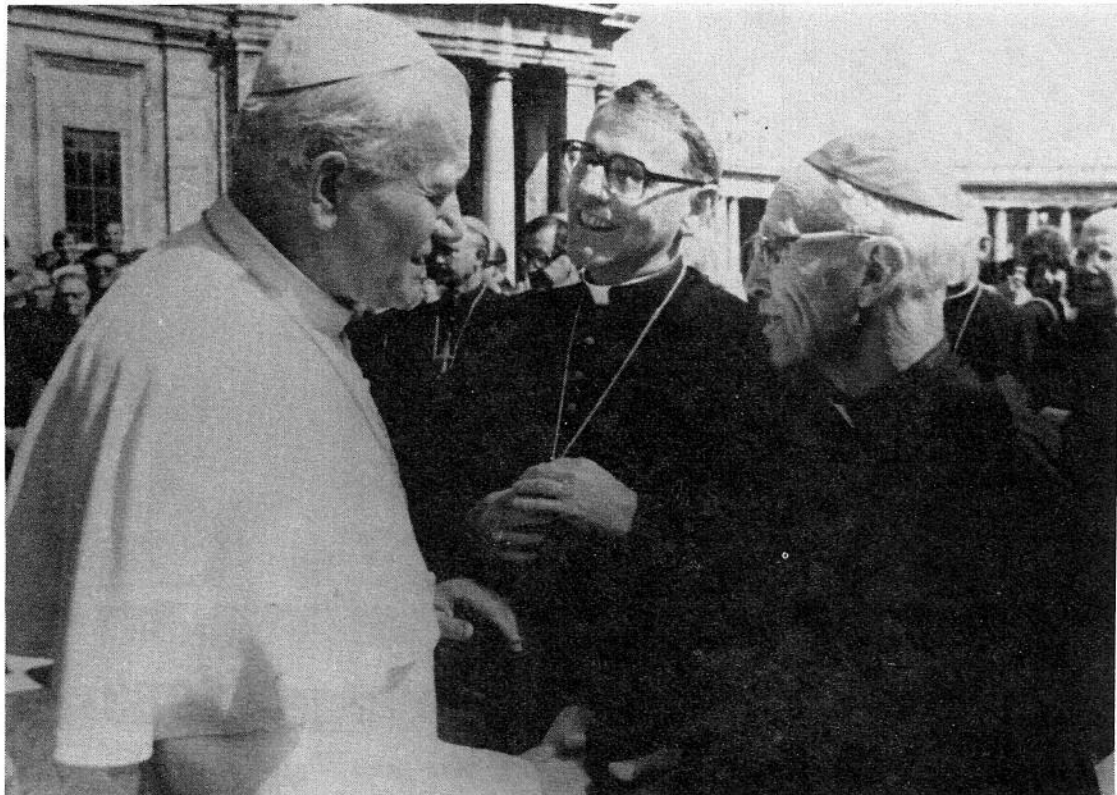
After the blessing we returned to our places. The Pope then came down and personally greeted each bishop. Then he moved again to the crowds shaking hands with the people near the aisles and going to a section near the front where a German band from Stuttgart was, and which had enlivened the morning with music from time to time. He went to the sick who were present to give a special blessing and then to a table where many gifts had been placed for him.

Try to imagine the traffic jam that follows such an audience. It takes a long time to move the cars and buses through the narrow streets and across the bridges over the Tiber River which many have to cross to get back to their lodgings.

I went to get some refreshments and by the time I was finished I was able to get a taxi to take me to join the Western Bishops in a chartered bus (also air-conditioned) to visit and pray at the major basilicas, which is part of the pilgrimage for the Holy Year in Rome.

We went to the basilica of St. Paul, which is in the care of the Benedictines of the Abbey Nullius of St. Paul; then to St. John Lateran, the Cathedral of the Pope, and finally to St. Mary Major, in which is the tomb of St. Jerome, my patron saint. In each of these there were crowds upon crowds of pilgrims coming and going. After this I took the underground train to the Circus Maximus, and then walked to St. Anselmo, the international Benedictine College, where I was staying.

Early next morning I took a bus to the Vat-



Abbot Jerome Weber shakes hands with Pope John Paul II at a general audience, September 21. Bishop Blaise Morand, of Prince Albert waits his turn.

ican and joined the Western bishops in the sacristy of St. Peter's Basilica. We vested for Holy Mass and then were led by a server through the crowds of people already there, down narrow stairs and through corridors until we arrived at the tomb of St. Peter which is directly underneath the main altar of the Basilica. Here we concelebrated mass with Bishop Morin, the retired Bishop of Prince Albert. There at the tomb of St. Peter I prayed specially for all the people in the Abbey Nullius of St. Peter.

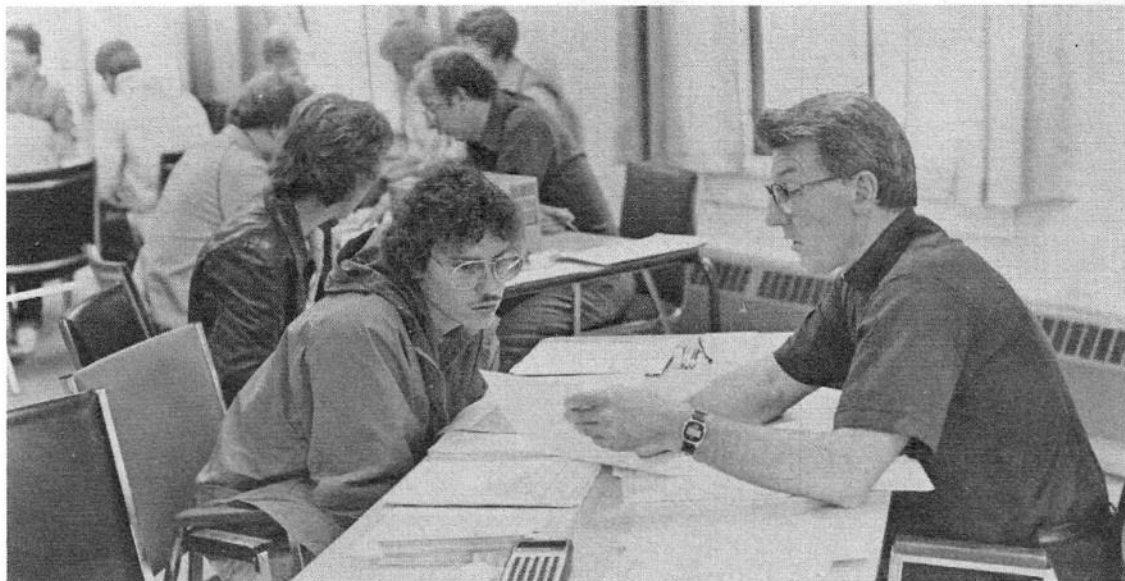
Later I went to have dinner at an eating place nearby conducted by some German Sisters. I was with a Polish lady from Cracow, whom I had met previously in Rome, and also in Canada. From her I learned first hand about the many difficult times in Poland during the period of martial law.

On other days I joined the Bishops as we

went to several of the Congregations; for Bishops, for the Doctrine of the Faith, for Sacraments and Liturgy, and discussed with those in charge various problems of the Church coming under their care. I went personally on another occasion to the Congregation for Bishops and spoke with Bishop Neves about the situation in the Abbey Nullius.

Time went too quickly, though, and since I had scheduled my return flight for September 29, I did not have an opportunity to have a personal visit with Pope John Paul, as I had hoped. That was a disappointment, of course.

On Thursday, September 29, I took Alitalia to Toronto, and Air Canada to Saskatoon. The next day, September 30, I returned to the Abbey happy to be home again after having been enriched by the experience of being in Rome again (the 10th time!).



Father Maurice Weber, right, assists one of the registering students, September 5. Brother Stanley Vindevoghel, dean of students, is seen in the background.

Report on St. Peter's College, 1983-84

The number of students enrolled this year seems to be a record for college classes. There are 82 full-time students and 93 night class students. As well, 27 Office Education students are attending a Saskatchewan Technical Institute class offered through Carlton Trail Community College at St. Peter's. A Pre-Vocational class with Sister Miriam Spenrath, OSU, as principal and promoted by the local school unit, has enrolled 28 students. Thus, there are over 130 students on campus this year, and the activity gives us a flavor of previous years when we had high-school pupils here. However, the 12 boarders presently with us, are a far cry from the many we took care of during the 1960's.

New classes offered this year include the following: Introduction to Computers 100, Introduction to Computers in Education 218, Applying Computational Technology to Education 418, Introduction to Early Childhood Education 231, Establishing an Environment Conducive to Learning in Early Childhood Years 331, and Canadian History from Earliest Settlement to the Present Day 206. Seventeen other classes

that have been offered as regular fare in previous years are still being given.

Faculty is made up of sixteen teachers, some coming from Humboldt and others coming from Saskatoon. Benedictine monks on staff include: Fathers Florian Renneberg (Biological Sciences 100), Maurice Weber (Chemistry 110), James Gray (English 110), Abbot Jerome Weber (History 112) and Albert Ruetz (Mathematics 104 and 105). Father Andrew Britz is listed for Biblical Literature 202.

For the first time in history, a brother is the Dean of the College. He is Brother Stanley Vindevoghel. "Bro. Stan" is just finishing off a class to complete work for bachelor degrees in sociology and social work. As Father Andrew Britz became more involved with the Prairie Messenger as editor, Father Maurice Weber became principal and chairman of the college Executive Board. Father Albert Ruetz continues to spur on the students in the sports area, while Sister Zita Maier, OSU does well in the social and religious areas. The recent Halloween Dance and a Eucharistic Celebration with

family members of the students have been judged to be quite successful.

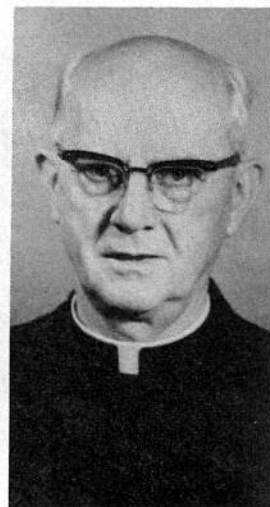
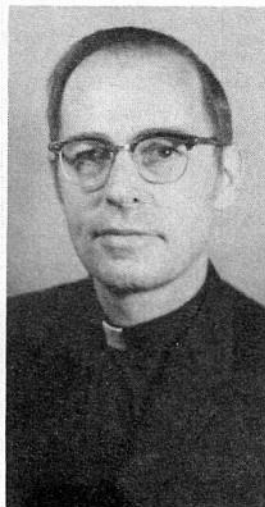
The campus continues to look much the same. A new addition has come in the form of a stairs and entrance to Michael Hall from the north side (see back cover). The old fire escape door has been replaced with a much more serviceable and eye-pleasing construction. This was conceived by Father Andrew and executed under the supervision of Willy Jonas and Leo Torborg.

We are already planning for next year's classes. These hopefully will include some offerings in Education Curriculum, Educational Administration, English, and the Social Sciences.

The life in St. Peter's College receives a real boost from the people who capably work in different aspects such as the business office under Father Daniel Muyres, or those who maintain the buildings as janitors, "Stan the Jan" Pesowski has decided to retire a bit and is only here on a half-time basis. Rene Petipas has taken over as full-time janitor.

With the present increase of about 12 per cent in the student body over last year, it seems that St. Peter's does have a vital role to play in the life of the local communities. Although

some pupils come from such places as Estevan or Yorkton or Manitoba, most of our students live within an hour's drive from the school. At the moment the educational apostolate seems alive and well and we look forward to the future with anticipation and hope.



Father Leo Hinz, left, has been appointed vicar general succeeding Father Edward Benning who has held the position since 1972.



Several monks participated in the Carriage of Care pro-life rally here September 12. A sing song followed an address by Joe Kammermayer, guest speaker for the rally.



Father Sylvester Vredegoor showed slides of Brasil as part of his farewell celebration, September 25. He returned to Brasil the following day to rejoin our mission team after spending three months in Canada.

The guestmaster's report

The guest wing at St. Peter's Abbey continues to have a variety of groups and individuals coming for conferences and/or retreats and days of quiet.

Looking ahead, most of the weekends for the next four months are already booked, with several groups booked in for an extended stay of five to 10 days.

Looking back to August, the month opened with the regular hockey school. More than 100 boys stayed here for only one week this year, under the guidance of Jack Cook of Saskatoon. Another group of youth, called Youth Across Saskatchewan with Persons who are Mentally Retarded, spent the weekend of August 19 - 21 here, with Debra Menz of Saskatoon as co-ordinator. One of the highlights of that weekend for the youth was a horse-drawn hayride, courtesy of Jordan Bergerman of Muenster.

At the beginning of September we hosted Father Jerome Hellman, OMI, and 11 seminarians from St. Pius X, Saskatoon, for a week-

long retreat. Since the guest wing was booked by another group, the seminarians were housed in abbey rooms. The retreat also provided an opportunity for the monks to challenge the seminarians to a couple of volleyball games in the evening after Evening Vigils. The retreat must have been fruitful as a booking for next year has already been made.

A group of Lutheran pastors from the Yorkton area also spent several days of retreat here in mid-August. They also found the surroundings (and food!) conducive, as they have also reserved space for next year already.

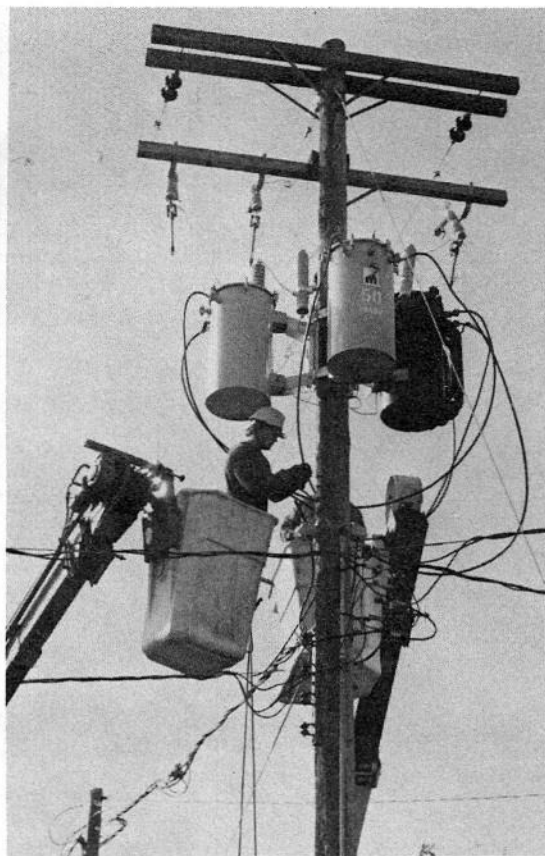
There were a few anxious moments the week the Lutherans were here, since their stay dovetailed with the use of our facilities by two other groups. On September 21 three groups were here at the same time — for a total of about 300 people — in addition to our regular student body of more than 100! That Wednesday the Lutheran pastors moved out in the afternoon, a Saskatchewan Health Is It youth group moved in in the morning, and a group of

225 people came from Saskatoon for a day-long session here of the RCIA program. To relieve the kitchen staff from the impossible task of feeding all these people, the Muenster CWL ladies served a cold-plate lunch in the gym for the RCIA group and they also helped serve an outdoor barbecue supper for them. It turned out to be a hectic, but fruitful, day.

A couple of groups which had booked in during October were forced to cancel, but the month will be remembered for the visit here by the Paderborn Cathedral Choir, brought here by Al Gerwing. They sang a magnificent concert of Latin and German music for 900 people in our gym on Thanksgiving Day evening. The 36 adult members of the choir thoroughly enjoyed their two-day stay here while the 60 boys had a whale of a time with families in the area who made them feel right at home.

At the end of October a group of 31 social workers from the department of social services booked in for the first of three one-week sessions here this fall. No sooner had they left than the Anglican Primate's World Relief and Development Fund group arrived for a weekend session. Addressing them was Dr. Robert Moore, now visiting professor at Carleton University, Ottawa, and a former ambassador to Canada from Guiana.

Also staying in the guest wing area are Rene Petitpas and Linda Fraser. Rene is working in the college and Linda is a substitute teacher for Office Education for a few months.



Saskatchewan Power exchanged power transformers at the Abbey on September 22.

Addresses

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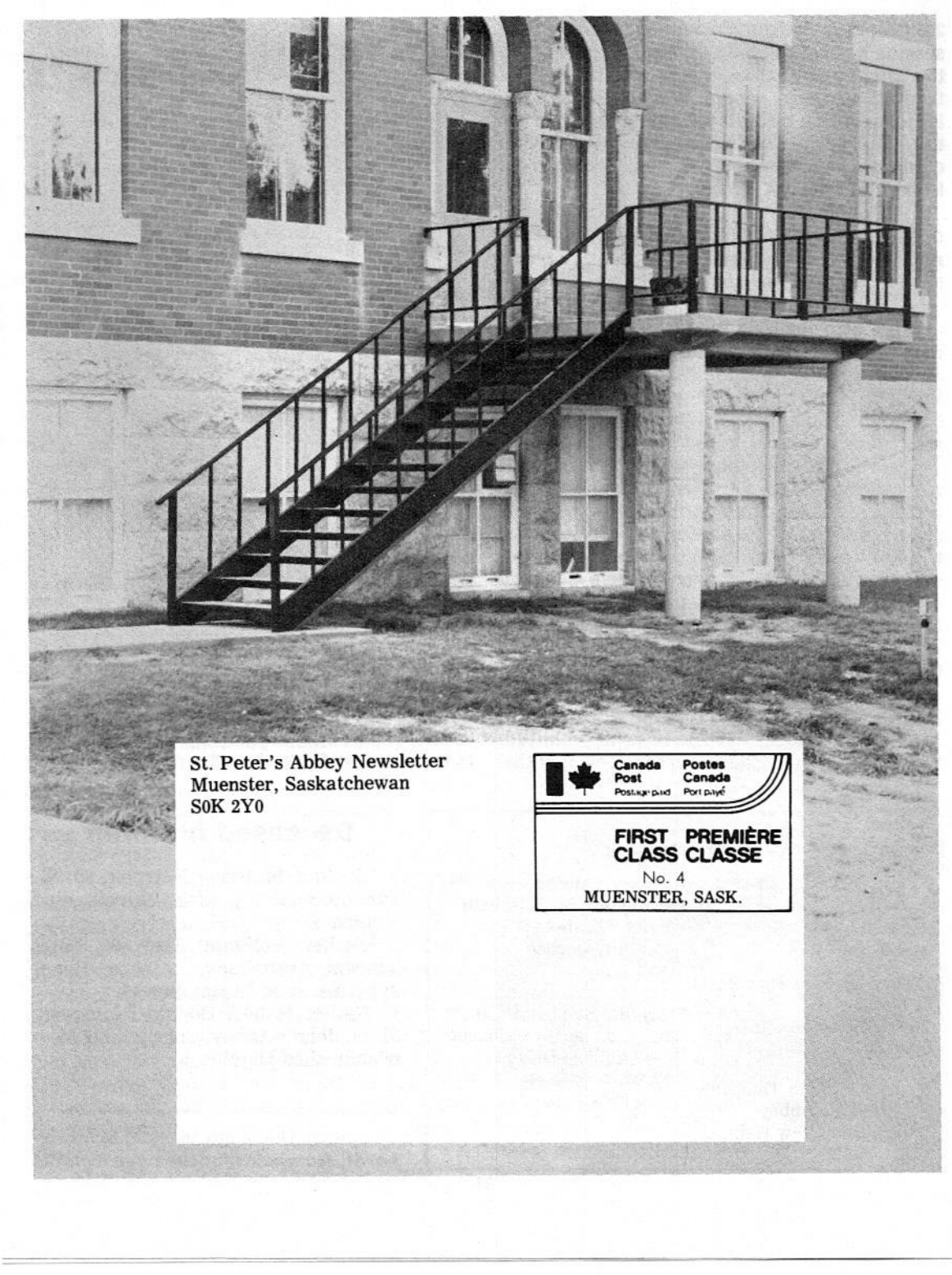
Deceased brethren

Brother Matthew Netreba, 90, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, died August 6.

Father Wolfgang Frey, 80, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died September 14.

Father Robert Donald Blumeyer, 61, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died October 5.

Special thanks to Michael Schweighardt, Humboldt for the page 8 photo.



St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter
Muenster, Saskatchewan
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