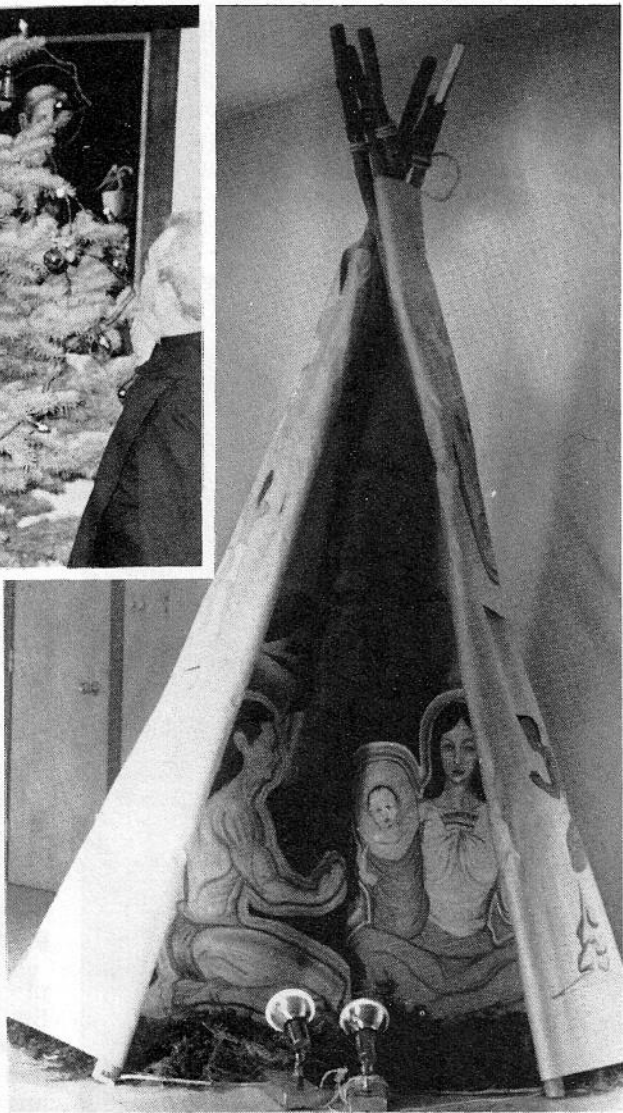


# ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7, No. 3

Muenster, Sask.

Winter, 1984



Signs of Christmas at the abbey.

# A prayer-filled, happy season

The season of Advent is introduced with special proper antiphons and hymns at our Vespers and Morning Praise. Our whole monastic prayer captures the themes of the season. The novices made an advent wreath for the monastic dining room.

As we drew closer to Christmas, beginning December 17, our evening Vespers included the beautiful "O" antiphons. This year Abbot Jerome helped deepen our appreciation of the antiphons by giving a brief reflection on each O antiphon before Vespers. Frequent choir practices these days also helped preview the themes of the season on our minds and in our hearts.



The main entrance tree — a home-grown blue spruce.

December 24 saw the junior monks busily putting up Christmas trees and decorations. Home-grown trees were brought in for the main entrance, dining room and recreation room. This latter was decorated by the entire community following the evening meal.

An original creche was added to the chapel in time for Evening Praise on Christmas Eve. Over the past few years, it has been the creation of the novices. This year it was inspired by the Huron Christmas Carol.

Following Evening Praise the junior monks welcomed the Christmas season by making a tour to the residences on our property to sing Christmas carols. This was done prior to Midnight Mass. Midnight Mass captured the solemnity of Christ's birth with joyful song and praise. Some students and their families as well as close friends of the abbey joined us in our abbey chapel for the celebration. Lunch was available following the mass, a joyous extension of the good will and friendship just celebrated.

After the noon meal on Christmas day, the community gathered in the recreation room for the opening of gifts. Father Abbot expressed gratitude in the name of the entire community for the many acts of kindness shown the community. The evening meal on Christmas day was the most festive meal and saw the return of many of our monks who have pastoral responsibilities. (The lay staff and sisters make all the meals during the Christmas season festive and special.)

The day following Christmas, we welcomed the families of our community members for an afternoon of skating, cards and visiting.

On December 27, our Sisters of St. Elizabeth invited us all to drop over for a come-and-go tea at their convent.

This Christmas spirit prevailed in our prayer, work and relaxation to the feast of the Baptism of Christ. The trees were taken down, the decorations were put away, the creches (in our chapel and outdoors) were retired for another year, but the spirit of Christmas, of the Word made flesh, continues to dwell among us.



Abbot Jerome Weber opening one of the Christmas gifts.

## Abbot Jerome's activities

The Carlton Trail Pro-Life Group sponsored its annual supper at the Uniplex in Humboldt on November 7, 1983. It was very good to see so many come for this supper and the program that followed in support of Pro-Life, and also to learn how generous the Carlton Trail district was in contributing money through the Carriage of Care.

On November 9, Father Werner Renneberg and I went to the United Church at Davidson. After a supper served by the ladies there was an inter-denominational meeting on Pastoral Care, sponsored by CAPE (Canadian Association for Pastoral Education). The principal speaker was Rev. Ron Evans, who is involved fulltime in pastoral care at the University Hospital, Saskatoon. He emphasized the importance of prayer and the spiritual life for those involved in pastoral care in hospitals.

The week after Christmas, December

27 - 31, I was at Glastonbury Abbey, in Hingham, near Boston, for a workshop on The Psalms and Monastic Life. The principal speaker was Father Peter Hammett, of St. Joseph's Abbey, near New Orleans. He spoke of the great role the psalms have had in the prayer life of monks from the beginning of monasticism. He showed also how Benedict used psalms in certain parts of his Rule, especially the Prologue and Chapter 7. He pointed out how often they were used by New Testament writers, by the early Church Fathers, and concentrated on St. Jerome and St. Augustine.

On New Year's Day I was at St. Benedict's Priory, Still River, also not far from Boston. There the Divine Office and the mass (except for the readings) were in Latin, with Gregorian Chant still being used. I enjoyed hearing those familiar melodies and joining in the singing.

# Abbey chronicle

**Father Rudolph Novecosky** attended the New Beginnings weekend in Saskatoon November 4 - 5.

Mary Smith, an Oblate of St. Benedict, returned from India on November 5 where she spent the past year.

**Fathers Albert Ruetz and Maurice Weber** attended the Science and Mathematics Convention, Sciematics '83, in Regina, November 9, 10, and 11. Father Maurice gave one of the science workshops and conducted a video presentation/discussion.

After attending the Religious Educators Workshop in Banff, **Father Lawrence DeMong** spent November 11 - 13 at the abbey before returning to the National Office of Religious Education in Ottawa.

**Father Peter Novecosky** and the novices

visited the Oblates at Battleford. Among their activities was a tour of Marian Press.

**Father Andrew Britz** travelled to Mississauga, Ontario, for the National Liturgy Committee meeting, November 14 - 16.

**Fathers Leo Hinz, Daniel Muyres and Roman Schneider** attended the Clergy Study Days at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Regina, November 14 - 16. Father Frank Morrissey, OMI, conducted the workshop on the new Code of Canon Law.

On November 15, **Brothers Gregory Brodner and Francis Fortney** reported that one of the main heating boilers was repaired. This was the first time such a repair was required since the installation of the boilers 23 years ago.

At the November 23 Abbacy Presbyterate



**Brothers Gregory Brodner and Francis Fortney** engineer the dismantling of the laundry equipment which is no longer in use.



Meeting, **Father George Brodner** reported on the workshop on teenage pregnancy and the elderly which he had attended in Regina at the end of September. Father George attended that meeting as Father Abbot's designate since **Abbot Jerome Weber** had not yet returned from Rome.

**Fathers Joseph Ackerman** and **Peter Novecosky**, along with the novices, participated in a Search weekend in Bruno, December 16 - 18.

**Brother Stephen Carthy** returned to the abbey for the Christmas holidays on December 17. He returned to continue his studies in history on January 3.

**Brother William Thurmeier**, who is completing his studies in philosophy at St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire, spent his

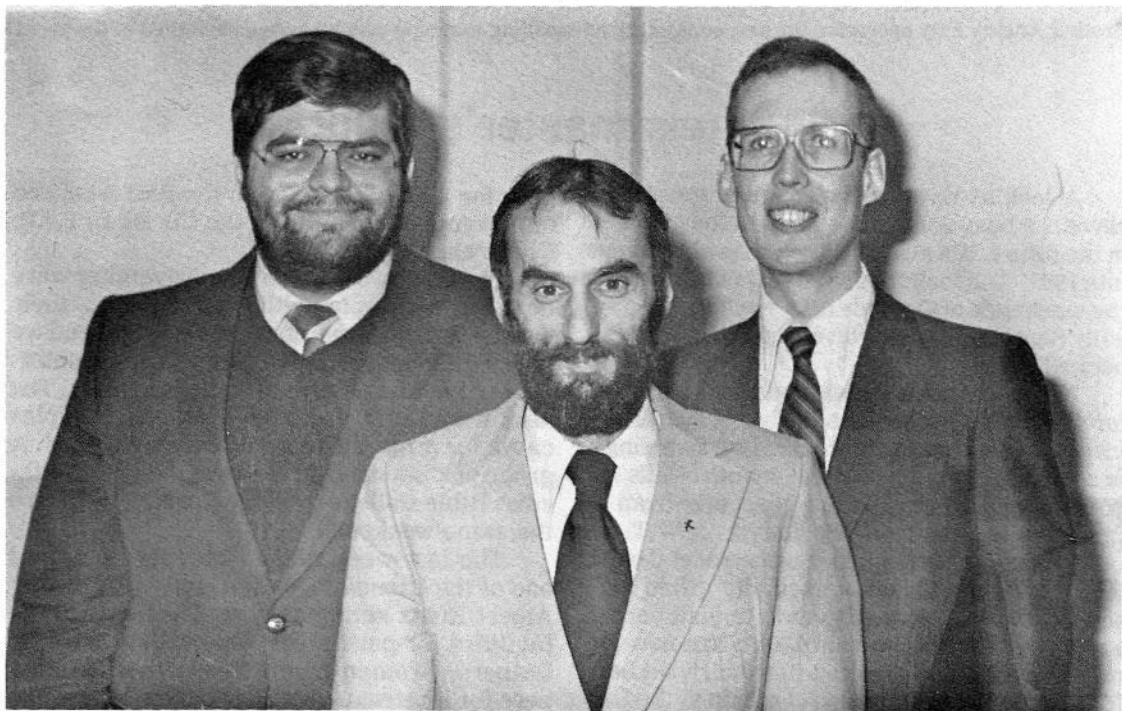
Christmas vacation at the abbey, December 23 to January 13.

**Father Lawrence DeMong** was home from Ottawa over the Christmas season, December 26 to January 3.

**Father Damian Yaskowich** was present for a "Meet the Artist Tea" at Wynyard on January 11. A show of his drawings and prints was on exhibit at the public library there December 8 to January 2.

**Father Leo Hinz** attended the National Forum of Worship Environment and the Arts in San Francisco, CA, January 9 - 12.

An Abbacy Marriage Encounter was conducted by **Father Martin Brodner** the weekend of January 20 - 22.



Starting the postulancy program at St. Peter's, January 10, are from left: **David N. Gauthier**, Lloydminster, Alberta; **Adrian Burg**, Maastricht, Holland; **Alex Mullie**, Saskatoon.



Brother Antony Etty operating the new computerized labelling machine which has been installed at the press.

## The guestmaster's report

A look at the bookings for the guestwing reveals a busy schedule — both in the past and in the future. We already have several bookings into 1985! And looking ahead to this fall, we see the weekends of October fully booked already, with September and November already half booked.

News about the accommodations at St. Peter's, with its good food and quiet, prayerful environment and beautiful natural surroundings, is spread mainly by word of mouth. Calls for bookings have been received recently from as far away as Montreal and Inuvik, N.W.T.

Vince Morrison, former principal of the college, brought a group of specially gifted high school students from Regina for a visit here in early November. They, no doubt, had new impressions of monastic life after their visit here for a day. Rev. Ron Evans, chaplain at the University Hospital, Saskatoon, was another "regular" to return. He brought a group of clergy

here for a day of reflection the first weekend of November, right after the Christian Faith Conference.

The next two weekends in November were devoted to people with marriage on their minds. On the Remembrance Day weekend we had a full house for an engaged encounter. Father Leo Hinz was part of the lead team. The next weekend a group of Mennonite couples came for a marriage enrichment weekend. A group of students from Aldersgate Free Methodist Bible College in Swift Current was here the same weekend.

The last weekend in November featured one of the triennial Oblate Days, with Father Albert Ruetz acting as host. They shared the facilities for part of the time with a group of Lutheran women from Wynyard who came here for a retreat with their pastor before she began her Advent fast in Wynyard with Father Keith Heiberg.

At the beginning of December and again in mid-January a group of two dozen native men and women from across Saskatchewan came for two 10-day workshops dealing with the problem of alcohol in native communities. It is one of the programs sponsored by the Indian Community College in Saskatoon. Louise Benoit was the very competent and friendly co-ordinator.

The Christmas season saw light use of the guest wing, as the cold weather set in up until Christmas Eve. Some individual visitors at that time included a former junior, Joe McSheffery, who is now working on a reserve in northern Ontario. David Gauthier, who has since joined the monastery as a candidate, was also here several times for a visit.

January got off to a good start with the annual retreat weekend by St. Thomas More students. Their theme this year was ecumenism. Their guest speaker was Father Macbeath Brown, CSB, of the Ecumenical Centre in Montreal. Dialogue was also on the agenda next weekend, as Father Martin Brodner and two lead couples led a half dozen couples in a marriage encounter, Jan. 20 - 22.

## Abbey visitation

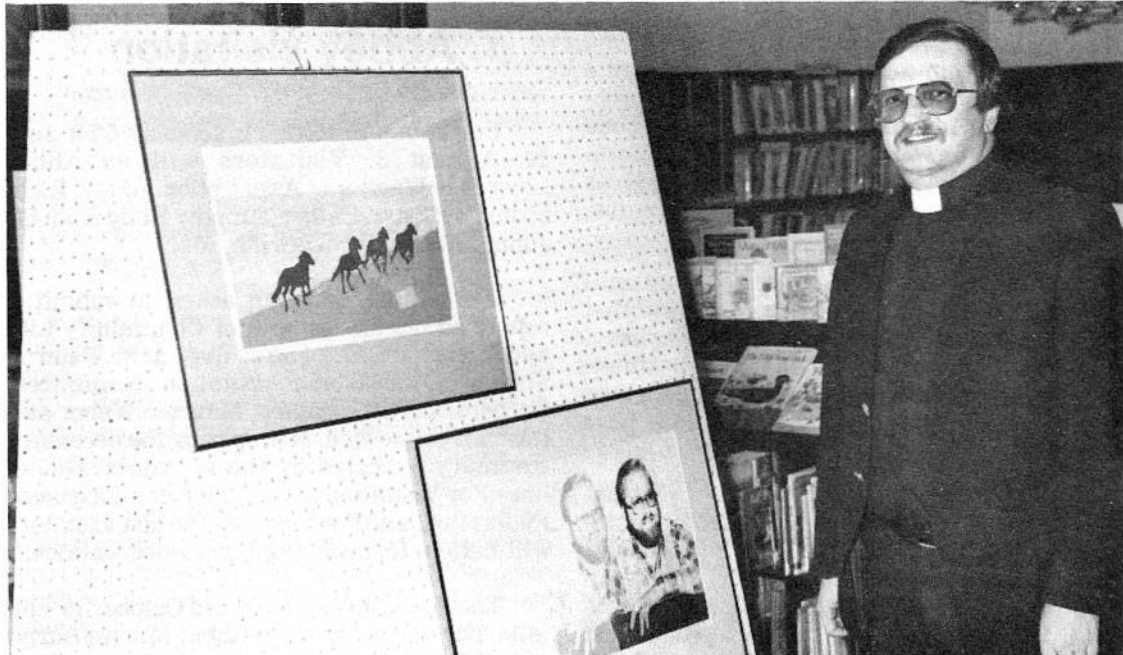
Our abbey visitation is scheduled for July 29 - August 3. Visitors will be Abbot Lawrence Wagner of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, ND, and Father Timothy Kelly from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN.

Each monk is being asked to submit a report on his assessment of Community Life and Monastic Discipline as lived at St. Peter's. This will assist the visitation committee, Fathers Martin Brodner, Maurice Weber and Damian Yaskowich, in preparing the necessary summary expected by the visitors. Guidelines For Visitation in the American-Cassinese Federation, and the report by the last visitors will help in formulating these observations.

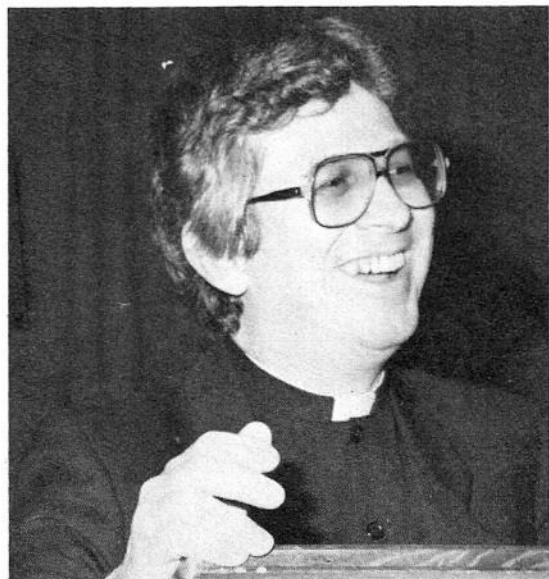
The last visitation was held October 10 - 16, 1979. The visitors were Abbot Martin Burne of St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey, and Father Maur Dlouhy of St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois.



Some of the community members at the Diocesan Pastoral Council Fall Delegates' Meeting, October 25.



**Father Damian Yaskowich with two of the 26 pieces making up his recent art exhibition at the Wynyard Public Library.**



**Father Bud Pare, CSB, Toronto, was guest speaker at the eighth Christian Faith Conference, November 4 and 5.**

## **Deceased brethren**

Father Matthew Campanele, 41, St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire, died October 5.

Father Patrick John McCafferty, 60, St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey, died October 13.

Father Ralph Bailey, 72, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died October 26.

Father Amandus Studer, 83, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, died November 9.

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In our next issue we hope to carry a story from our mission team in Brasil.



# Benedictine Oblates

Oblates gathered from Muenster, Humboldt, Annaheim, Bruno, Cudworth, Saskatoon and Regina for the Fall Oblate Meeting on November 26. Father Albert Ruetz, Oblate director, addressed the Oblates on the topic "The Body of Christ" and showed specifically how this applied to their praying the Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church and in their relationships with their neighbor. Kathleen Sharp, Camrose, Alberta, was enrolled as an Oblate candidate on this occasion. Several observers were also present to obtain further information about Oblates.

The following were enrolled as Oblate can-



**Kathleen Sharp, Camrose, Alberta, was enrolled as an Oblate candidate.**



**Mrs. Jamie Alguire, Cornwall, Ontario, was enrolled as an Oblate candidate in her local church by Father Bernard Cameron.**

didates for St. Peter's Abbey in private ceremonies: Mrs. Jamie Alguire at Cornwall, Ont., on November 18; Michael Slattery at Fort McMurray, Alberta, on November 21; Anne Loxterkamp at Humboldt, on December 7.

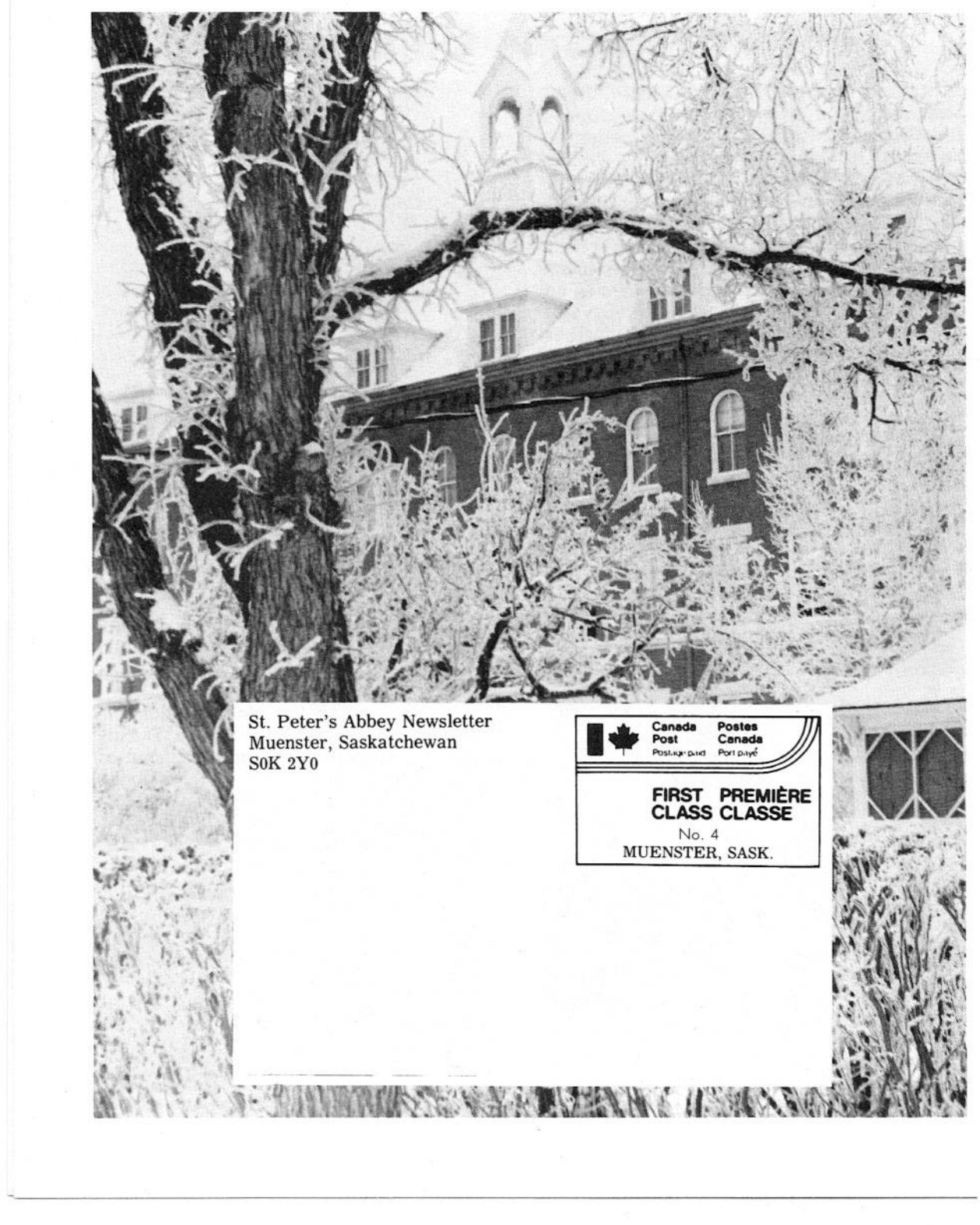
Being enrolled as an Oblate candidate is the first step in becoming an Oblate. During this year the candidate becomes accustomed to praying some form of the Prayer of the Church and to living according to the Oblate Guidelines.

After a year as a candidate they may make their final oblation as an Oblate if they desire to do so.

## Addresses

The address of Fathers Sylvester Vredegoor and Bernard Stauber is:

C.P. 161,  
57,000 Maceio, Alagoas,  
Brasil



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