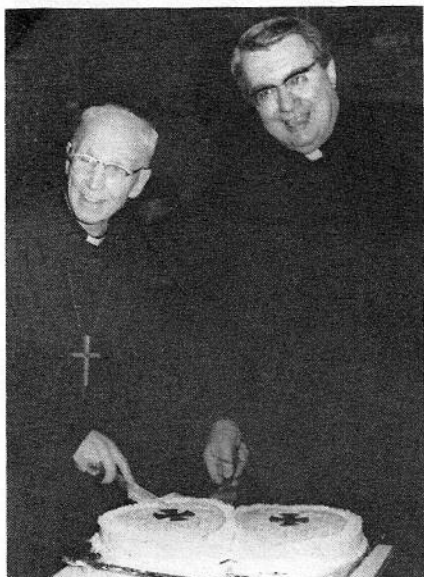
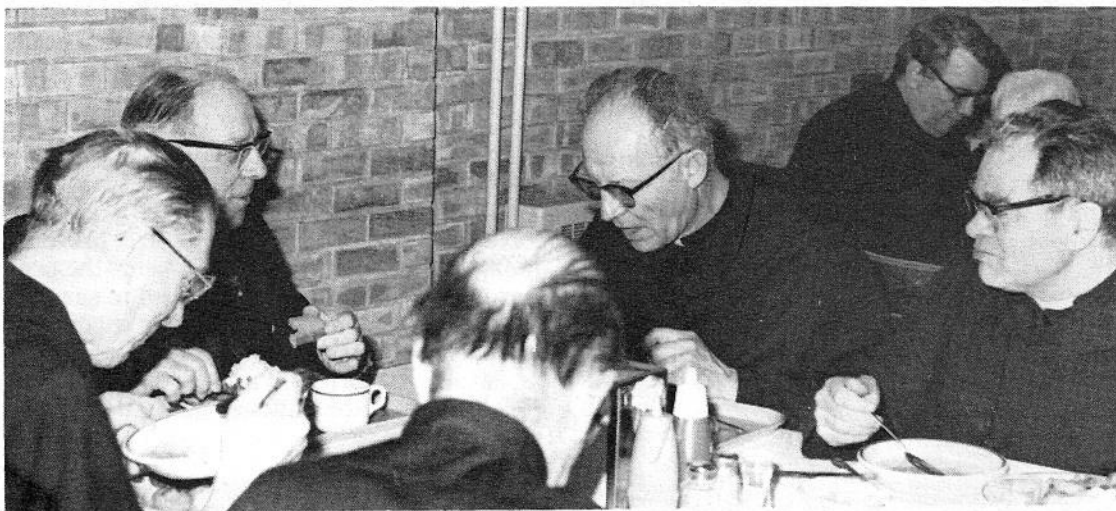


ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7, No. 4

Muenster, Sask.

Spring, 1984



Celebrating the feast of St. Benedict, March 21. Joining us for the festive meal and assisting Abbot Jerome Weber cut the feast day cake is Bishop James Mahoney of Saskatoon.

Abbot Jerome's activities

During the Church Unity Octave in January, I attended ecumenical services in St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Humboldt, and gave the homily. In the same church on March 2, I was present for the World Day of Prayer.

The bishops of Western Canada met at the Grey Nuns' Centre in Edmonton, Feb. 17 - 19. One of the principal topics was the visit of Pope John Paul II to Canada in September. There seemed no way in arranging time out for a visit to Saskatchewan. On the next day, the major superiors of Western Canada met with us to discuss collaboration in the work of the church in Western Canada. One of the topics discussed was the great need for priests and sisters in Northern Canada.

I was happy to represent the abbacy at the installation of the new eparchy of Saskatoon, Rt. Rev. Basil Filevich, who succeeds the late Bishop Roborecki. He looks after all the Catholics of the Ukrainian Rite in the province of Saskatchewan.

On March 25, I joined the Sisters of St.

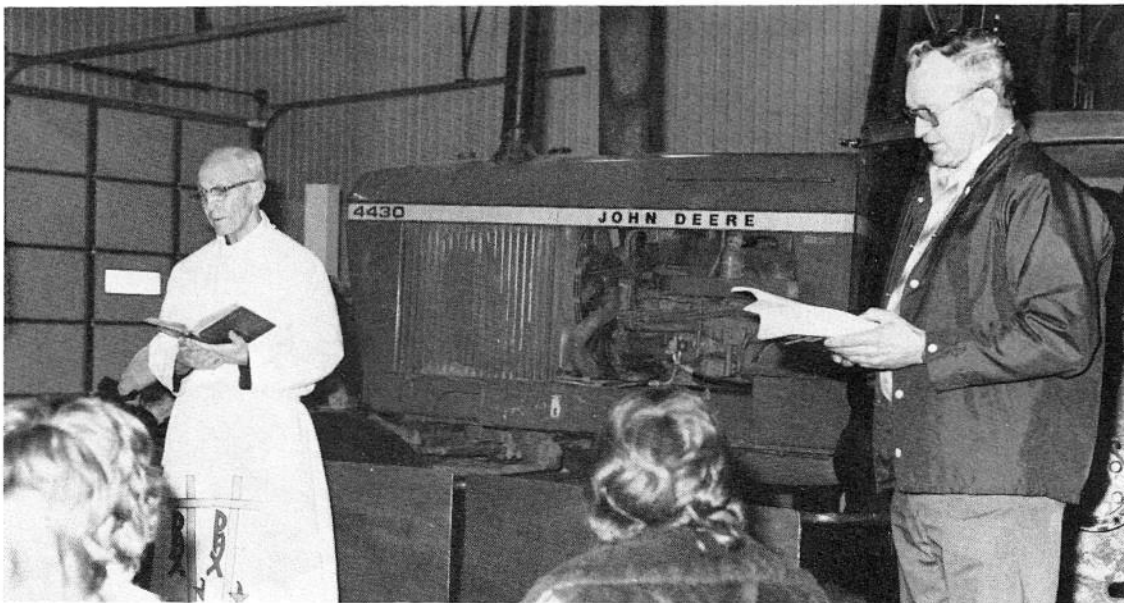
Elizabeth in the convent in Humboldt in their celebration of the golden jubilee of four sisters, and the 65th of another.

The Roman Catholic and Anglican bishops of Saskatchewan met in Saskatoon on April 2. One of the principal topics was to evaluate the joint meetings of the Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy of our province which were held at Regina (March 21), and at Saskatoon (March 23). All were most pleased at this first such meeting. The next day the Roman Catholic bishops met together.

During Lent I enjoyed giving a series of talks on the psalms to the sisters at Bruno.

On April 18 I attended a Prayer Breakfast in Regina. About 400 people were present, among them the lieutenant governor, the premier, the chief justice. It was good to see this emphasis on prayer among so many of our men prominent in public life.

Saturday, April 28, I attended the Knights of Columbus State Banquet held at the Elks Hall, Prince Albert.



Brother Bernard Lange, right, reads a Scripture passage prior to Abbot Jerome Weber blessing the new machine repair shop, March 21.



Father Maurice Weber enjoys a cup of coffee with visiting students at the annual College Open House, February 22.

Abbey chronicle

Abbot Jerome Weber, Fathers Leo Hinz and Werner Renneberg participated in the Ecumenical Service, Jan. 22 at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Humboldt. Abbot Jerome delivered the homily at this service which marked the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Father Lawrence DeMong was home from Ottawa, Jan. 27 - 29. He was in Regina, Jan. 24 - 27 working on a parish edition of *We Belong to the Lord Jesus*, a catechetical program for seven-year-olds. From Jan. 29 - 31 he met with the executive of the Western Conference of Religious Educators at Lumsden. Feb. 5 and 6 he was in Halifax for a workshop with the Halifax Diocesan Pastoral Council and a meeting with the catechetical co-ordinators of the Halifax Archdiocese.

The college dean and principal, **Brother Stanley Vindevoghel** and **Father Maurice Weber**, conducted the annual spring promotional visits to schools in the surrounding area from mid-January through February and into March. This personal contact with graduating students acquaints them with the program available at St. Peter's College.

Brother Stephen Carthy who is completing his BA degree at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, was home for the mid-semester break, Feb. 11 - 18.

Father Norbert Schwinghammer looked after St. Michael's Parish, Cudworth, Feb. 19 - 22 while **Father Edward Benning** attended a workshop for civilian chaplains in Winnipeg. Father Edward is also chaplain at the Dana Radar Base.

Attending a retreat for singles here, Feb. 25, conducted by Father Brian Hogan, CSB, of Saskatoon, were **Father Maurice Weber** and novices **Basil Schaan** and **Michael McAllister**.

To help the people of the abbacy prepare for the upcoming papal visit, **Father George Brodner** has been appointed co-ordinator of information and programs for the abbacy.

Father Maurice Weber attended a Western charismatic meeting in Calgary the first weekend in March.

An Abbacy Engaged Encounter was held here, March 2 - 4. **Father Leo Hinz** helped direct it.

Abbot Jerome Weber and **Father Andrew Britz** attended the installation of the new eparchy of Saskatoon, Bishop Basil Filevich, in Saskatoon, March 4.

Attending the wake service for Agnes de Margerie, 86, mother of press employee Jacynte, at Vonda on March 7 were **Fathers Andrew Britz** and **Damian Yaskowich** and **Brother Francis Fortney**. **Abbot Jerome Weber** and **Fathers Peter Novcosky** and **Maurice Weber** attended her funeral the following day, also at Vonda.

Thirty-seven couples attended the spring Marriage Preparation course, March 11, 18 and 25 at St. Peter's Abbey. Main talks were given by **Fathers Martin Brodner**, **Florian Renneberg**, **Daniel Muyres** and **Leo Hinz**.

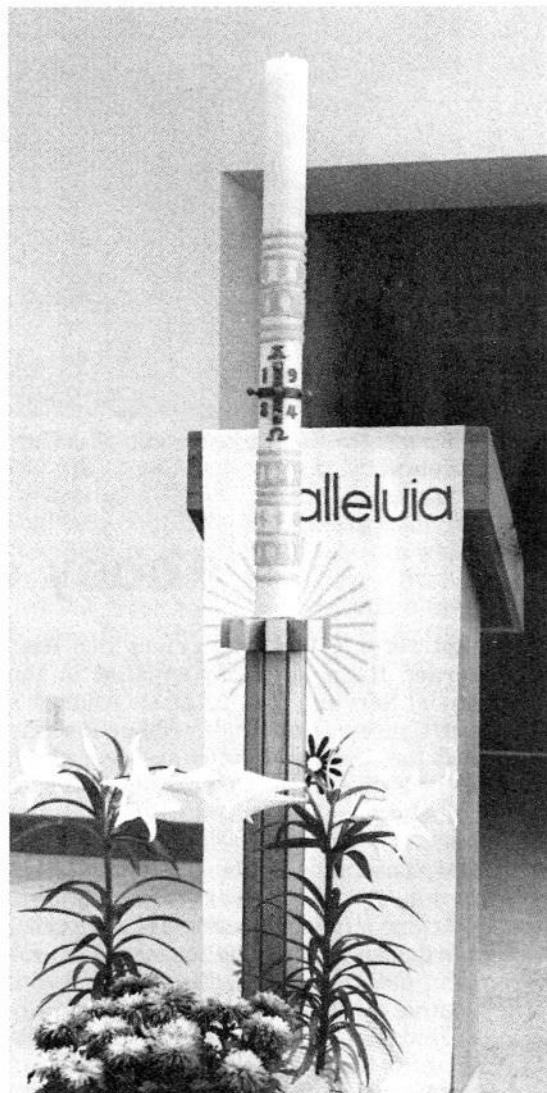
Brother Oswald King and postulant **Adrian Burg** attended the workshop on Healing Ministry in the Church Today, Saskatoon, March 16 and 17.

Father Peter Novcosky attended the Saskatchewan Newspapers Workshop in Saskatoon, March 16 and 17.

Father Andrew Britz attended the workshop for the Anglican and Catholic clergy in Saskatoon, March 23. Keynote speakers at this ecumenical workshop were **Father Thomas**

Ryan, CSP, Montreal, and **Canon John Baycroft** of St. Matthias Anglican Church, Ottawa.

By the end of March, **Brother Gregory Brodner** reported that the water level of the large dugout had risen three feet. Spring thaw coupled with transferring water over from the small dugout accounted for this encouraging increase to the water supply.



The Easter candle was made by the novices and decorated by **Father Damian Yaskowich**.

Father Maurice Weber was celebrant at the St. Peter's Abbey Third World Solidarity Day, April 8. The day was co-sponsored by the Diocesan Pastoral Council Social Justice and Youth Committees.

Postulant **David Gauthier** spent April 16 - 18 at Lumsden for days of quiet and reflection.

Father Peter Novecosky attended the Benedictine Formation Directors Workshop, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, April 24 - 28.

Postulant **Adrian Burg** left the community April 27. He plans to study for the diocesan priesthood next September.

Father Xavier Benning reported that the 25 hives of bees arrived April 27.

Brother Stephen Carthy decided not to apply for solemn vows with the community and left at the end of April.



Father Rudolph Novecosky working on the abbey stamp collection.



Joining the **Prairie Messenger** staff, May 1, are Sister Marion Noll, OSU and Carol Bernhard. Sister Marion will join the editorial team and Carol will become layout artist.

Abbey stamp collection

Father Rudolph Novecosky has spent many hours this winter working on a hobby he inherited from Father Paul Kuehne who died Feb. 20, 1983. Assisted by the novices and postulants, particularly Adrian Burg, Father Rudolph has been able to organize the stamp collection. The collection of Canadian stamps is very extensive and the international stamps are very impressive.

Father Rudolph said he has many duplicate stamps which he would like to trade with interested collectors. The collection of German stamps is small, so Father Rudolph mentioned he would welcome any German stamps if anyone is interested in passing them on to him.



Oblate Day was held at the abbey on March 24. Pictured from left, Elizabeth Saretsky of Humboldt, enrolled as a candidate; Anne Blechinger, Annaheim, Mrs. Margaret Christenson, James and Marion Penna, Mrs. Katie Rohnke all of Saskatoon, made their final oblation. Pictured also is oblate director, Father Albert Ruetz. The afternoon included a talk on "Prayer in the Rule of St. Benedict" by Abbot Jerome Weber.

The guestmaster's report

The guest area has seen medium useage this spring both by individuals and by groups.

Bookings were heaviest the last part of January and the first part of February, when two native groups used our facilities, for about 10 days each. The Saskatchewan Indian Community College, centred at Saskatoon, held a workshop on alcoholism at the end of January. At the beginning of February, the Indian Recreation Directors Training Program held its fourth session here.

Teachers from the local schools came in full numbers here Jan. 23 for a twilight teacher's retreat, conducted by Sister Viola Bens, OSE, Ile-a-la Crosse, former director of religious education for the abbacy.

Serena-Saskatchewan held its annual provincial workshop for natural family planning teacher couples here in mid February, with a very good representation. Many brought their

family this year too. Not all the couples could stay here overnight and thus some had to take rooms in nearby hotels.

Those couples just planning their married life together came here the first weekend of March, for an abbacy-sponsored Engaged Encounter. All rooms were filled to capacity as this form of marriage preparation is beginning to increase in the abbacy. The regular three sessions of marriage preparation were given the last three weekends in March.

An Anglican group from Emmanuel-St. Chad, Saskatoon, had a fruitful weekend here the second week of March. Shortly after, they booked two weekends for next year.

A group of camping people came here to plan their activities for the year, during mid March. Three groups were here the last week of the month. At the beginning of the week a group of United Church ministers came from

northern Saskatchewan. One of the ministers found the atmosphere so conducive, she returned a few weeks later for a day at the abbey with her Bible study class. Later in the week a dozen people from the Saskatoon Community College came for some days of planning. And at the end of the week a group came from Grovner Park United Church for a session on grieving. They had recently lost their minister because of cancer.

That same weekend, a group of teenagers from Lanigan spent Saturday here to prepare themselves for confirmation. Guiding them in a Scripture reflection was Father Keith Heiberg of Wynyard.

Holy Week was relatively quiet at the abbey, where we had our own services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday because of renovations being done at St. Peter's Cathedral. A group of Sisters of the Child Jesus came here Easter Week for a session. Their former superior general from Paris came to conduct the sessions.

Various other groups and individuals came for a day or longer, to get a breather, to be refreshed, to have a place to lay their heads, or just to get away for a while.

Formation Day

St. Peter's Abbey was the setting for the first Saskatchewan gathering for people in religious formation, Feb. 18. Eighteen religious attended including candidates, novices, juniors and formation directors.

Communities represented included: Presentation of Mary, Saskatoon; Bruno Ursuline Sisters, Regina; Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Humboldt; Benedictine monks from our community; and a Franciscan friar, Lumsden.

The day included opportunities for the participants to get to know each other and about the communities they were representing. There were planned recreational activities, and a keynote talk on prayer by Father Andrew Britz. Those attending also had the opportunity to attend Vespers with our community.

Evaluation by the participants indicated that the day was very well received and useful. Other such days will be planned for the future. Already one is planned for May and will be held at Lumsden.



Informal discussions were part of the Formation Day activities.

Dom Miguel completes 10 years in Maceio

Our abbacy mission team, consisting of Father Sylvester Vredegoor, OSB, and Bernard Stauber, OSB, and Sisters Maria (Imelda) Doepker, OSU, and Claire Novecosky, OSU, share this tribute to the bishop they are serving under. This May marks the 10th anniversary of the installation of Dom Miguel Fenelon Camara as bishop of the Diocese of Maceio.



Dom Miguel Fenelon Camara

In May, 1974 Dom Miguel Fenelon Camara was installed as bishop in the Diocese of Maceio where the St. Peter's Abbacy Mission Team works. We of the team feel privileged in working with Dom Miguel who has proven himself a sincere friend and a devoted pastor. The following is an evaluation made by one of the members of the Co-ordinating Pastoral Team of the diocese:

Dom Miguel was a gift from God to Maceio. With his goodness, simplicity and human values, he conquered the friendship of the clergy and the admiration and respect of his people in the diocese. Idealistic and an untiring worker with his experience as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Fortaleza, he put new life into the priests and uniting forces, fortified the pastoral action of religious and enriched the formation of the pastoral agents of the church of Maceio.

Preparing for the continuous evangelization in the Archdiocese of Maceio, he reopened the philosophy studies in the seminary for the formation of future priests and established the Institute for Pastoral Theology for the laity. Apostolic movements were begun which deepened and extended the mission of evangelizing. Among these were included areas in the field of health, the abandoned child, the unwed mother, youth, community education, "favella" (slum dwellers) and the rural worker.

Understanding and accepting the option made for the poor by the National Council of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB), Dom Miguel worked hard and with much courage and dedication in the outlying areas of the city, the slum areas and the more abandoned communities in helping, developing and promoting a genuine program of evangelizing. Discovering problems, searching for solutions, multiplying centres of religious formation, he helped in forming basic Christian communities as well as creating nine new parishes in the capital city.

Much has been accomplished, much needs to be accomplished. We ask God's blessing on Dom Miguel as we accompany him into the future. — Claire Novecosky, OSU

Dates to remember

The annual community retreat is scheduled from Monday, June 25, to Friday, June 29. Retreat director will be Father Bud Pare, CSB, of Toronto.

The abbey visitation will be conducted from July 29 to Aug. 3. Visitors will be Abbot Lawrence Wagner, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N.D., and Father Timothy Kelly, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn.

Deceased brethren, relatives

Father Harvey Shepherd, 69, St. Maur Priory, Indianapolis, Indiana, died Nov. 18.

Father Lambert Gattman, 76, St. Bernard's Abbey, St. Bernard, Alabama, died Jan. 18.

Father Stephen Sramek, 73, St. Andrew's Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio, died Jan. 28.

Father Robert Mastny, 83, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, died Jan. 28.

Father Adrian Klepac, 79, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, died March 7.

Father Felix Wirth, 71, St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, died March 17.

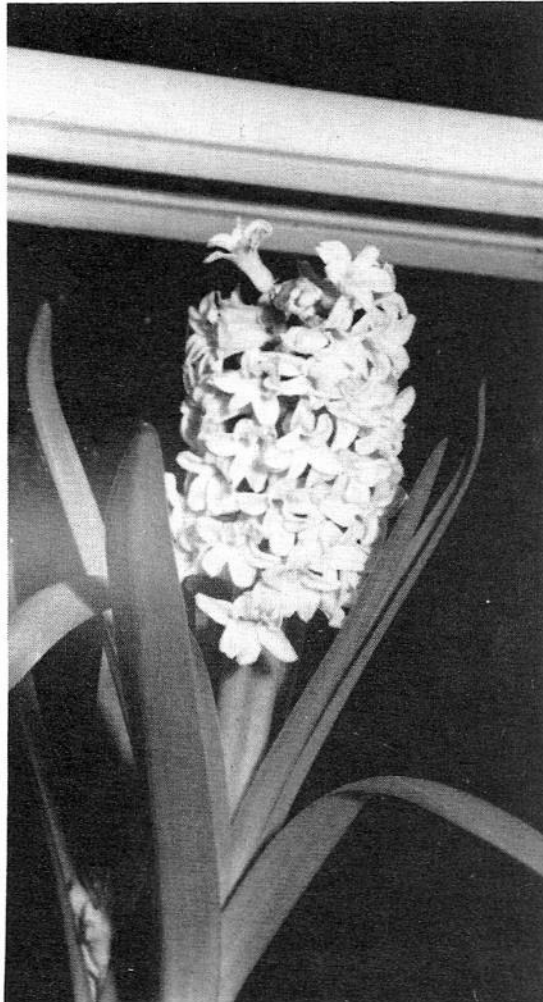
Father Benedict Tobin, 65, St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire, died March 21.

Brother Stephen Martin, 69, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, died March 22.

Leo Gehlen, 71, Humboldt, brother of our deceased Father William Gehlen, died March 7.

Louis Ludwig, 84, Saskatoon, brother of Father Alphonse Ludwig, died April 22.

Joseph Novecosky, 77, Humboldt, father of Father Rudolph Novecosky, died April 28.




Adding a breath of spring to the cool wintry February days were the spring hyacinths which Leo Collins supplied for the abbey windows.

Addresses

The address of Fathers Sylvester Vredegoor and Bernard Stauber is:

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