

# ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

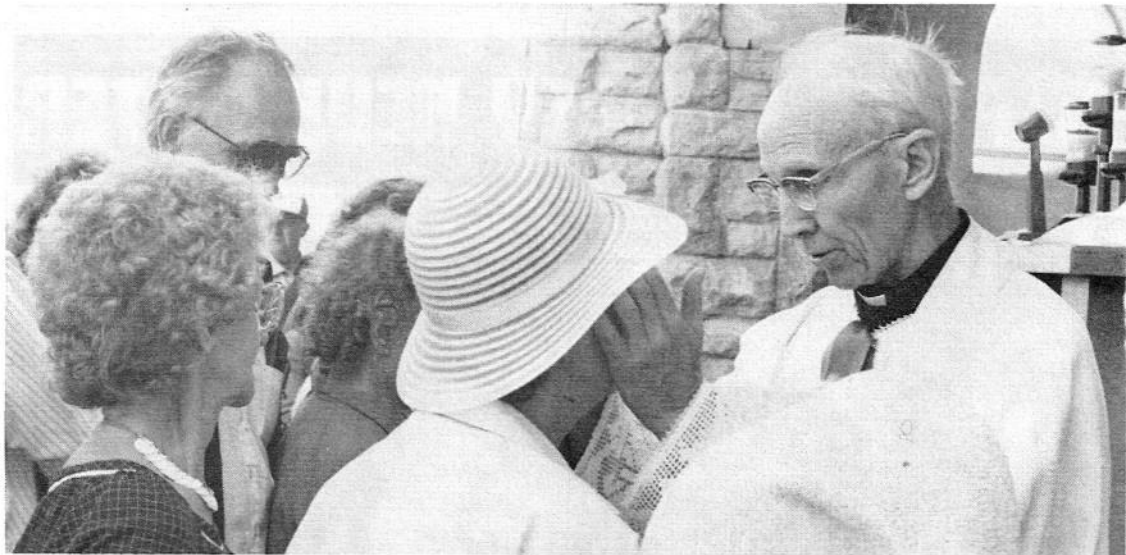
Vol. 8, No. 1

Muenster, Sask.

Summer, 1984



**Brother William Thurmeier with his parents, Catherine and Frank Thurmeier of Saskatoon, and his sister and brother-in-law, Denise and Ernest Thebo of Richmond, Virginia, on the occasion of his profession of solemn vows, July 11.**



**Abbot Jerome Weber gives individual blessings to pilgrims at the conclusion of the annual Mount Carmel Pilgrimage. About 1800 people attended this celebration on July 22.**

## Abbot Jerome's activities

Most of the Sundays of May and early June were given to confirmations. This involved meeting with each group to be confirmed before the actual day of confirmation, an experience which I always look forward to, since it gives me an opportunity to meet with the young boys and girls.

On May 16, I attended an ecumenical service in the Anglican church in Watrous and gave a talk on Benedictine life and on prayer.

The provincial CWL annual convention was held in Kindersley June 4 - 5. I was there for the banquet on June 4.

On June 9, I concelebrated with Father Ken Koep at the funeral of his father, Henry, 90, at St. Augustine Parish, Humboldt. Father Koep and his two brothers, Jim and Bob, attended St. Peter's College.

The Victorian Order of Nurses, Saskatoon, officially began a program of adult care at the Elizabethan Convent in Humboldt on June 9. It was good to be present and see what is being done twice a week for our senior citizens and for some of the sisters.

The Muenster K of C Council, known as the

Abbot Bruno Doerfler Council (named after the first abbot of St. Peter's), began on June 24, in the college gym. I celebrated Mass for those attending the initiation, and enjoyed the banquet which followed.

On June 25 I travelled to Prince Albert to join in honoring the retired Bishop Laurent Morin who was celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. First there was a dinner, then a Mass of thanksgiving in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Archbishop Halpin of Regina ordained to the priesthood John Riffel, widower, father of 10 children and retired dentist. I had received an invitation for this unique event, and went to Holy Rosary Cathedral on June 30 and concelebrated at the Mass of ordination. Three of his sons had been students at our school.

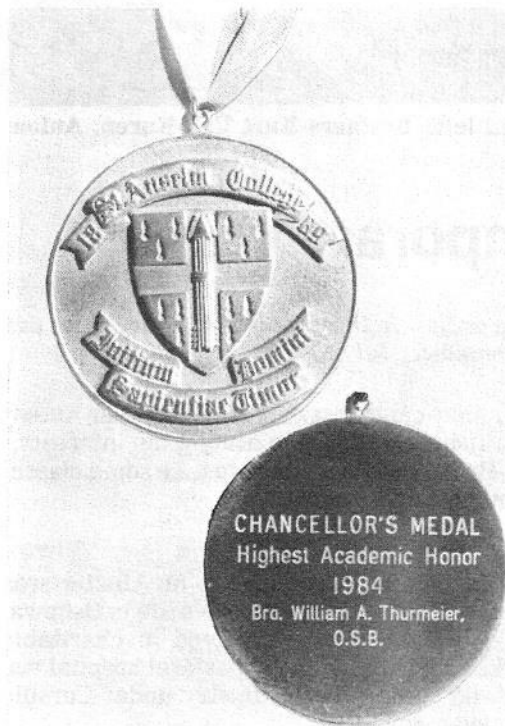
I travelled to Winnipeg to attend the funeral of Mrs. Helen Sterzer, my aunt, and sponsor at baptism. I concelebrated with her son, Father Albert Sterzer, CSSR, at the funeral Mass on July 31, at St. Alphonsus Church. Her husband, Larry, worked in our press in the middle 1920s.

# Brother William makes solemn profession

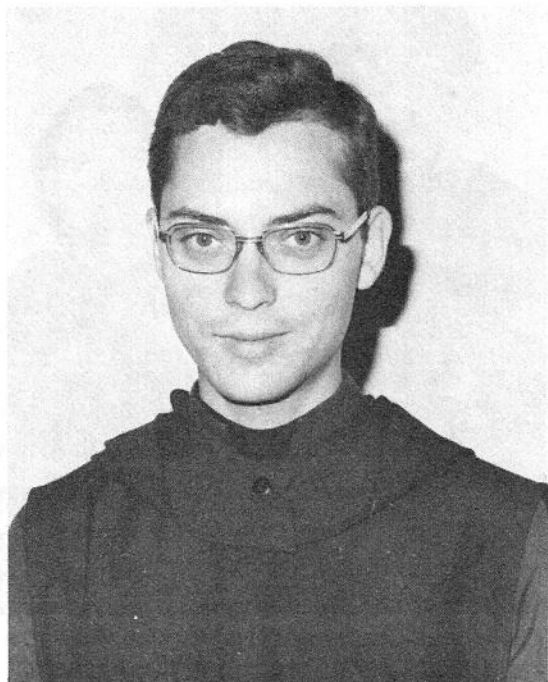
Brother William Alphonse Thurmeier made his solemn profession of vows as a Benedictine monk at St. Peter's Abbey on July 11.

Brother William was born in Saskatoon and lived there until 1971 when his family moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. He attended Technical College in Tucson and Albuquerque from 1973 to 1976. He took organ studies at the University of Arizona, 1975 and 1976. From 1977 to 1979 he continued organ studies and engineering at the University of New Mexico. He received organ studies from Sister Mary Francis, 1973-1975, and again from Sister Zita Meier, 1980 - 1981.

Brother William also worked as a pipe organ builder apprentice in Tucson, 1974 and 1975.



The chancellor's medal which Brother William Thurmeier received for achieving the highest academic standing in his graduating class of 300 students at St. Anselm's College, Manchester, New Hampshire.



Brother William Thurmeier

From 1976 - 1977 he worked as an electronics technician in Albuquerque. He served as church organist at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Tucson (1974 - 75); St. Cyril's Church, Tucson (1975); and our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, Albuquerque (1978 - 80).

Prior to joining St. Peter's Abbey in February 1980, Brother William built and installed a pipe organ in Christus Victor Lutheran Church.

Brother William took a year of philosophy at St. Peter's College and completed his BA in philosophy at St. Anselm's College, Manchester, New Hampshire, in May 1984.

Brother William is assistant organist at the abbey and is also assistant guestmaster. He also does most of the electronics repair work for the abbey.

Brother William will begin his theology studies this fall.



Monks making temporary vows on July 11 are from left: Brothers Kurt Van Kuren, Antony Etty, Michael McAllister and Basil Schaan.

## Monks make temporary vows

*Four monks completed their year of novitiate and professed three-year temporary vows during the eucharistic celebration on the feast of St. Benedict, July 11.*

**Brother Antony Peter Etty** was born in Liverpool, England. He came to Canada and settled in Toronto in 1957. He entered the Canadian Army Militia in 1965 and joined the regular army in 1967 where he trained as a cook. He was stationed in Chilliwack, B.C., until discharged in 1970. His early work includes cook, sales clerk and retail management. From 1978 - 1981 he lived in Shalom, Edmonton l'Arche community, and worked as house assistant and inventory manager. Prior to coming to St. Peter's in 1982 he worked for the Manitoba Home Care Association.

Brother Antony works with the computerized mailing system and does some bookkeeping for St. Peter's Press. He also is involved in

the abbey candlemaking craft. Brother Antony lists fishing and hiking among his interests.

Brother Antony plans to take some classes at our college this fall.

**Brother Michael Joseph McAllister** was born in Toronto but lived all his life in Oshawa. He has always been involved in charitable works, ministering as lay pastoral hospital visitor and doing prison ministry under Cursillo for seven years.

Brother Michael does general duties at St. Peter's Press, and is also involved in the abbey candlemaking craft.

Brother Michael is a self-taught ventrilo-



quist. He lists writing poetry as another of his interests.

**Brother Basil John Schaan** was born and raised in Young, Sask. While helping his father farm in 1968 he began working part-time with the Young Credit Union. At this time he was completing correspondence courses in basic studies in credit and in airline traffic control. In 1970 he started working full time with the Young Credit Union and the small town credit unions in Loreburn and Denzil.

Since 1976 Brother Basil has been involved with social justice activities such as CCODP, SCIC, CDF and other church-related organizations.

In January 1983 Brother Basil joined St. Peter's after a year of searching various religious orders and vocation possibilities.

He enjoys small group meetings, dancing and touring down old country roads.

Brother Basil does a lot of repair work and maintenance at the abbey and college. He is one of the abbey barbers.

**Brother Kurt Aquinas Van Kuren** was born at Windsor. He studied for a year at the University of Windsor doing pre-med. In 1978 he enrolled in the electronics technician program at St. Clair College, Windsor and in 1981 took a year of mechanical drafting at that same college.

He worked as a professional musician (guitarist) with progressive country and popular groups throughout Western Canada from 1974 - 82. He spent a year as a studio guitarist in Detroit in 1980.

Brother Kurt does some grounds maintenance, works for St. Peter's Press, and does some computer applications work around the abbey. He is also a cantor and one of the abbey barbers.

Brother Kurt plans to continue his university education working toward a bachelor of visual arts degree.



**The first of two Canadian Papal visit commemorative issues of the Prairie Messenger is ready for mailing. The ambitious three section, 44 page issue marks the first time the PM has used full-color printing.**

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## Plan ahead

Western Liturgical Conference, Oct. 1 - 4, will be held at St. Peter's Abbey. Speaker will be Rev. John Buscemi. Topic: "Theology of Assembly." Anyone interested in learning more about the principles and practical suggestions on using a worship space is encouraged to attend.

Father Bernard de Margerie will lead the summer study week, August 12 - 16, 1985. The topic will be the BEM (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry) document.



Received as novices on July 10 are Brothers Alex Mullie (left) of Saskatoon and David Gauthier of Lloydminster.

## Abbey chronicle

Postulants David Gauthier and Alex Mullie, and Father Maurice Weber attended a Vocations Awareness evening held at Queen's House, Saskatoon, May 3. Father Maurice presented a talk, "Death and Resurrection."

Father Albert Ruetz conducted a retreat for the Elizabethan Sisters, Humboldt, May 6 - 14.

Father Andrew Britz attended the Church Press Convention while in Toronto May 8 - 15. He also visited Father Lawrence DeMong in Ottawa.

The postulants, novices, and Father Peter Novocosky attended a Formation Day at Lumsden, May 12.

Father Maurice Weber, Brother Oswald King and Jacynthe de Margerie motored to

Manchester, New Hampshire, to attend the convocation of Brother William Thurmeier on May 20. Their trip, May 14 - 27, included a visit with Father Lawrence DeMong. Brother William returned home with them.

Father Andrew Britz attended the annual convention of the Association of Roman Catholic Communicators of Canada (ARCCC) in Calgary, June 1. Grant Maxwell, one of our Oblates of St. Benedict, was keynote speaker.

Earlier this year Father Philip Loehr was invited by Bishop Remi De Roo, chairman of the Social Affairs Commission of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, to contribute ideas for the next bishops' statement on the economy. The statement will be a follow-up of their "Ethical Reflections on the Economy"

which was issued Jan. 1, 1983, and is still making waves. The follow-up will deal in large part with primary producers such as farmers and fishermen. Father Philip was in Ottawa in early June conferring with the people who will be preparing the document.

**Father Maurice Weber** attended the Western Canadian Catholic Charismatic Leaders Conference, June 30 - July 2, in Edmonton.

**Father Peter Novecosky, Brothers Antony Etty, Michael McAllister, John Schaan, Kurt Van Kuren, David Gauthier and Alex Mullie** attended a workshop for men and women religious in formation, St. Benedict's Educational Centre, Winnipeg, July 15 - 19. The theme of the workshop conducted by Sister Gertrude Wernhoff was, "Emotional and Spiritual Development in Religious Training."



**Father Bud Pare, CSB**, superior general of the Basilian Fathers, Toronto, preached the annual community retreat, June 25 - 29.



About 45 volunteer catechists from St. Peter's Abbey gathered at the abbey for the final get-together of the year, June 26. Sister Loretta Konlup, OSU, is seen addressing the group.



**Oblates of St. Benedict gathered at St. Peter's for Oblate Day, July 14.**

## Oblate Day



**Eric Wolfe signs his document after making his final oblation as an Oblate of St. Benedict. Seen with Eric is oblate director, Father Albert Ruetz.**

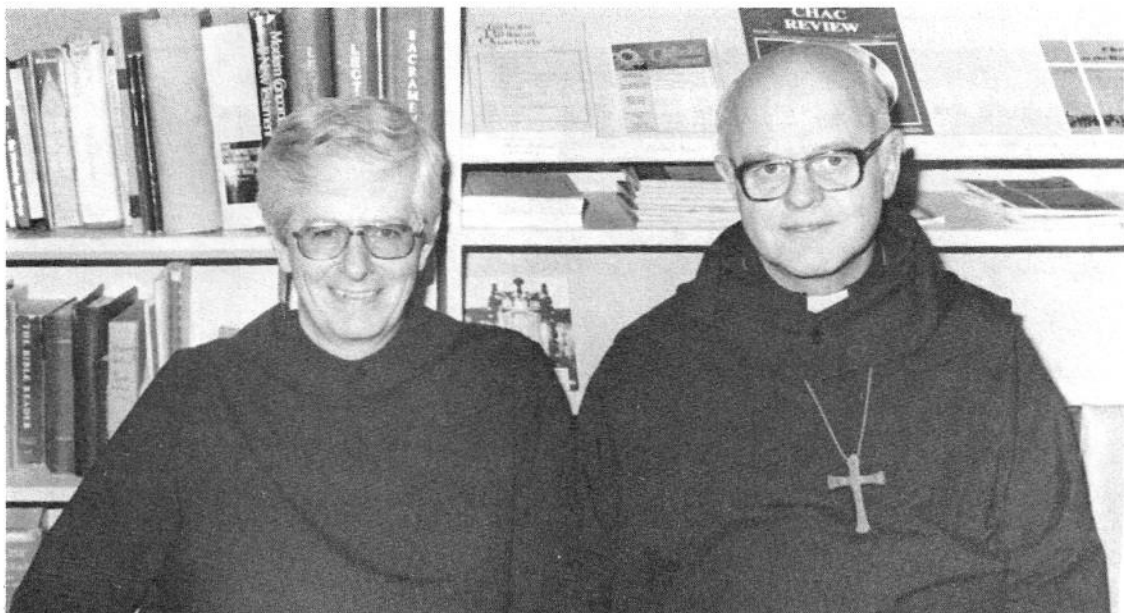
About 25 Oblates and observers attended the July 14, 1984, Oblate Day at St. Peter's Abbey. Father Abbot Jerome gave the homily at the 11:00 Eucharist attended by monks and Oblates. In the afternoon the video tape "Work and Worship" prepared by the NBC in 1980 to celebrate the 1500th anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict was viewed along with two short videos on the abbey. Father Albert, Oblate director, addressed the Oblates on "Prayer and Work — Ora et labora" concentrating on the work aspect since several previous talks had dealt with prayer.

Following Vespers with the community, Eric Wolfe of Saskatoon made his final oblation as an Oblate and the other Oblates renewed their oblation and received the papal blessing. An outdoor supper was then shared by the Oblates, the monks and other guests. Many remained to join the community in the Saturday Vigils before departing.

Observers who wish to learn more about Oblates are welcome at these Oblate Days or they can obtain further information by contacting the Oblate Director, St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask. S0K 2Y0.

Upcoming Oblate Days will be held on Nov. 10, March 23 and July 13.





Conducting the abbey visitation, July 29 - August 3 are Father Timothy Kelly of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN and Abbot Lawrence Wagner of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, ND.

## Deceased brethren

Father Columban Bomkamp, 69, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died April 17.

Brother Bernard Lutgen, 65, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died April 18.

Father Alcuin Lawrence, 77, Saint Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, died May 1.

Father Bernard August Peters, 85, Newark Abbey, Newark, New Jersey, died May 4.

Father Claude Leo Sons, 79, St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, died May 6.

Father Michael Hlavcak, 92, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died May 22.

Father Lawrence George Schmidt, 84, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died June 1.

Father David R. Kinish, 82, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, died June 3.

Father Lydon Lee, 73, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died June 7.

Father Bede Eugene Michel, 75, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died June 16.

Retired Abbot Bonaventure Bandi, 70, Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, Colorado, died June 16.

Father Luke Ouska, 78, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, died July 8.

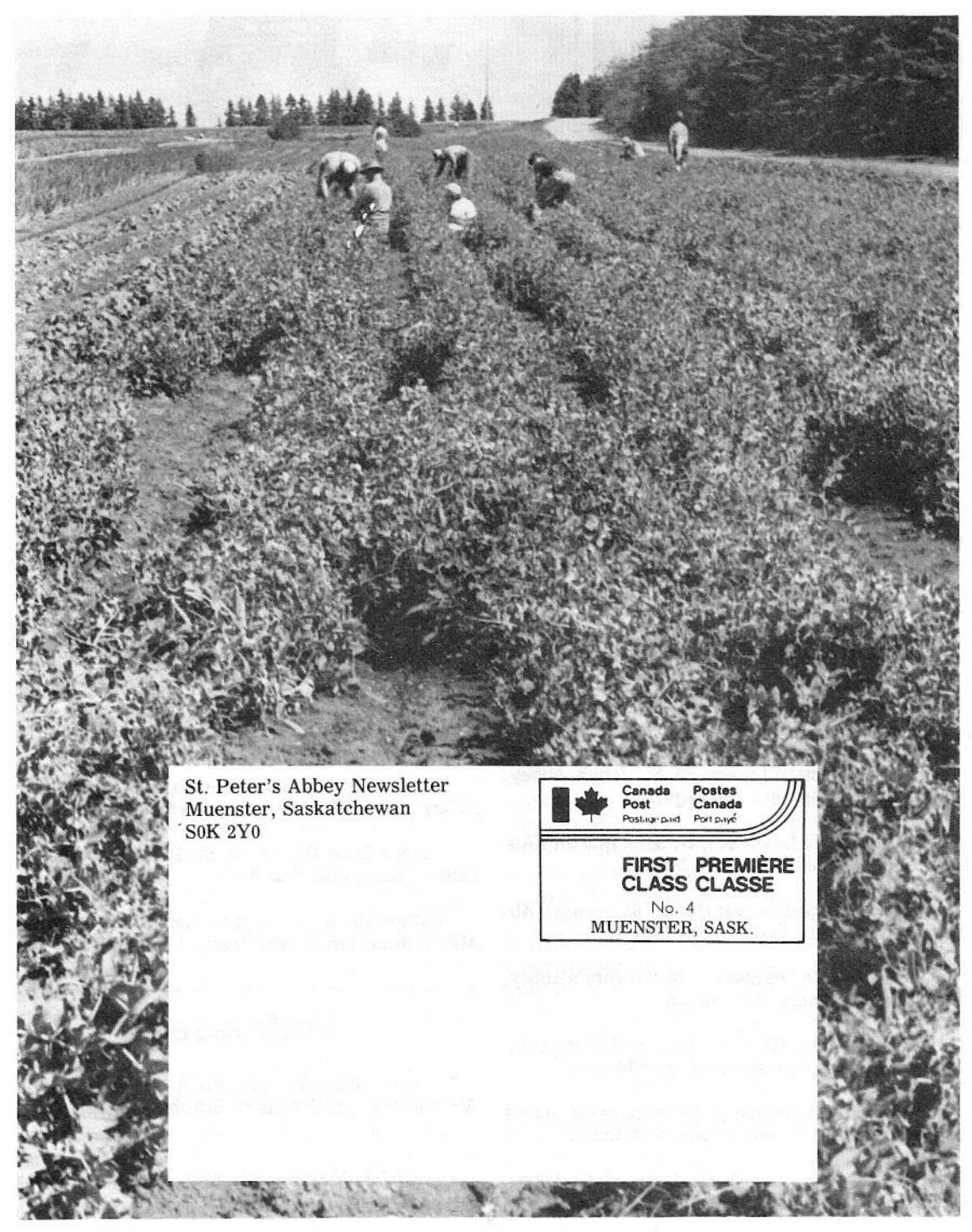
Father George Oscar Jacobson, 86, St. Anselm's Abbey, Manchester, New Hampshire, died July 12.

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## Addresses

The address of Fathers Sylvester Vredegoor and Bernard Stauber is:

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



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