

ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 3

Muenster, Sask.

Winter, 1985



Abbot Jerome Weber blessed the Abbacy Centre and Brother Wolfgang Theim cut the ribbon during the official opening, Nov. 8.



From left, Sisters Yvonne Billesberger, OSU, and Celine Graf, OSU, co-ordinators of religious education; John Kelly, abbacy pastoral services co-ordinator; Brother Wolfgang Theim, chief carpenter; Abbot Jerome Weber; and Walter Germann, DPC chairperson.

Abbacy Centre opens

Since the Abbacy Centre was officially opened on Nov. 8, 1984, it has been humming with activity. You might find a group of Grade 11 students from the Muenster High School pre-viewing some A.V. material for their ethics class or a group of Grade 1 students with their parents and teacher celebrating some theme from their religion course. Teachers and volunteer catechists find it a comfortable and inviting place to meet and discuss their religion programs.

On occasion, the pastors have also used this new facility to hold their presbyterate meetings. But meetings are only one of many happenings here at the centre. Books are ordered and distributed, memos to pastors, principals, and teachers are duplicated and mailed from this office as well as all the minutes of the DPC committees.

Numerous phone calls are received daily from teachers, parish workers and committee members requesting materials for their work.

It has been found to be an excellent space in which to hold evening and afternoon workshops such as the pastoral care course given before Christmas and the vocation workshop in October.

John Kelly, who is the Abbacy Pastoral Services co-ordinator, also works out of the Abbacy Centre twice a week: Mondays and Thursdays.

If you are visiting St. Peter's Abbey, drop in, meet the staff and share a good cup of coffee!

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Published by the Benedictine community of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask. four times a year: January, April, July and October.

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Regular contributors: Abbot Jerome Weber, OSB, Albert Ruetz, OSB, Peter Novacosky, OSB.

Photographer: Damian Yaskowich, OSB.



Working on the Year Eight catechism program with Father Lawrence DeMong, right, are, from left: Ken Merk, Henriette Mazenc, and Sister Maureena Fritz. The team was here Jan. 7-11.



Opening gifts on Christmas Day.

Abbot Jerome's activities

The meeting of the Episcopal Commission for the Liturgy (ECL) took me to St. Benedict's Priory, Winnipeg, Nov. 20 - 23, 1984. This Commission is set up by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) and has the final word in the publication of all official books for the Liturgy for the English Sector used in Canada, e.g. the Sacramentary and Lectionary used during Holy Mass, the books used in marriages, the anointing of the sick, for funerals, the Catholic Book of Worship II.

The day-to-day work is carried out by the National Office for the Liturgy in Ottawa. This office publishes the excellent National Bulletin on the Liturgy and leaflets, e.g. for Advent, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and many others.

There is also an advisory body, the National Council for Liturgy, of which Father Andrew Britz is currently a member, along with several

members of the laity, both men and women. This body also met at Winnipeg at the same time as the ECL.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan met at the Catholic Centre in Saskatoon on Dec. 7, to discuss many topics relative to the church in our province. The diocese of Regina is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Dec. 7 just happened to be the birthday of Bishop Mahoney who was our host at the birthday dinner.

At the Ursuline Centre in Bruno, Dec. 22 - 23, I joined about 60 young men and women in a SEARCH Weekend, in which youth minister to youth. It was a most interesting and encouraging time for me, as I saw firsthand so many capable and zealous youth strengthening each other in their faith and in their loyalty to the church of Christ.

Abbey chronicle

The Christian Faith Conference, scheduled for Nov. 2 and 3, was cancelled because of an unusually fierce blizzard. Father Ted Ross, SJ, the guest speaker, arrived ahead of the storm so spent the weekend at the abbey.

Father Andrew Britz and Zita Maier, OSU, conducted a workshop for lectors at St. Ann's Parish, Saskatoon, on Nov. 11.

Abbot Jerome Weber and Father Andrew Britz participated in the National Liturgical Meeting in Winnipeg, Nov. 19 - 23.

Brothers Michael McAllister and David Gauthier attended the Reflection Day for Singles conducted by Father Keith Heiberg of Wynyard held here on Nov. 24.

Father Maurice Weber attended a Vocations Awareness Night, Queen's House, Saskatoon on Nov. 27.

An Engaged Encounter Weekend was held here Nov. 16 - 18 with Father Leo Hinz as priest-leader.

Father Werner Renneberg attended a SIPCA (Saskatchewan Interfaith Pastoral Care Association) meeting in Saskatoon on Nov. 28. Father Werner is treasurer of SIPCA.

The lay staff hosted a Christmas party for the community on the feast of St. Nicholas, Dec. 6.

Brothers Basil Schaan, Francis Fortney and Dominic Distel attended the ordination of Father Frank Hegel at St. Augustine's Church, Saskatoon, Dec. 8.

The parent-student-faculty supper was held here on Dec. 14.

Brother William Thurmeier returned home from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN, for the Christmas holidays. He left on Jan. 31 on his way to Jerusalem where his theology class will be completing the second semester of their first year of studies.

Father Lawrence DeMong, director of the National Office of Religious Education, Ottawa, was home for the Christmas holidays and a workshop, Dec. 26 - Jan. 14.

Our community enjoyed a Christmas visit with the Elizabethan Sisters in Humboldt, Dec. 28.

Father Sylvester Vredegoor, a member of our mission team in Maceio, Brazil, visited the abbey Jan. 4 - 10. He had returned to Canada to attend his father's funeral, Dec. 17.

An Abbacy Marriage Encounter was held Jan. 11 - 13 with Father Martin Brodner in charge. Six couples made the encounter.

Father Andrew Britz gave a workshop for choirs and ushers at Bruno, Jan. 17.



Father Ted Ross, SJ, gave an informal talk to the community, Nov. 4. Father Ross visited the abbey as the intended main speaker for the CFC which had to be cancelled due to bad weather.



Starting the postulancy program at St. Peter's, Jan. 15, are from left: Bill Moschuk, Montreal; Erin Hickey, Sudbury; Gerald Moran, Medicine Hat; Ken Crawford, Prince George. Also joining the program in February will be Frank van Amelsvoort, Welland, Ont.

The guestmaster's report

The guest wing has seen moderate useage the past three to four months. This has helped give both the cleaning staff of Severin Hall, as well as the kitchen staff who serve the meals, a bit of a breather.

About 33 social workers from across the province came for three week-long workshops this fall. A group of agricultural students from Wascana Institute, Regina, stopped here for two nights in early October while touring agricultural points of interest in the area. The religious education teachers of the abbacy had an evening retreat here Oct. 22. And Gordon Domm of Regina and his wife visited at the end of the month for several days. They are working on an audiovisual presentation on religious life for the Regina schools.

The Christian Faith Conference cancelled out in early November because of bad weather; earlier the STM weekend had also been cancelled, because of a lack of enough interested students. However, they had a full quota of

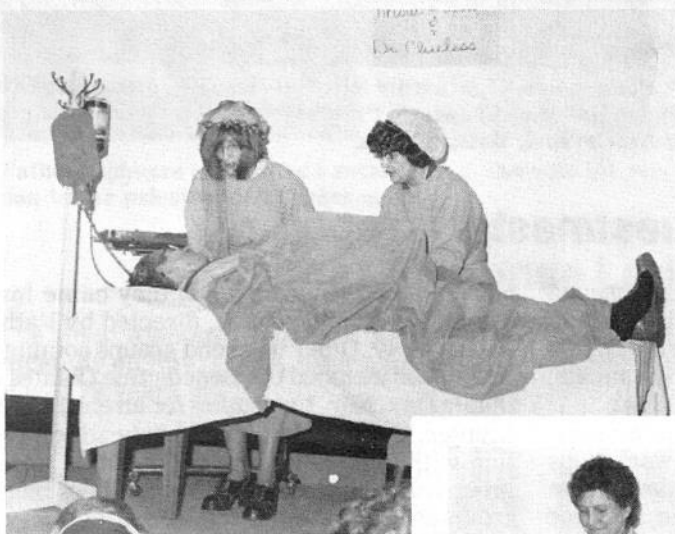
more than 30 students when they came for a January weekend retreat, directed by Father James Gray. Other weekend groups coming in November included the Benedictine Oblates on Oblate Day, Nov. 10; couples for an engaged encounter, Nov. 16 - 18 (in head-to-head competition with Grey Cup Sunday!); and a retreat group from Wynyard as well as a singles retreat group on the last weekend of the month.

Weekend groups in December included several members of the International Meditation Society from Saskatoon, a Bible study group from Star City and an Orthodox evangelical bishop and his group of priests from Saskatoon.

There were a number of individual retreatants and individuals during the fall, including Bill Moschuk, who returned in January as a candidate for St. Peter's Abbey. Also here for a month over the Christmas season was Thomas Kusz. In January, 1985, Father Lawrence DeMong combined a workshop on revising the Canadian Catechism with his Christmas holidays.

The feast of S

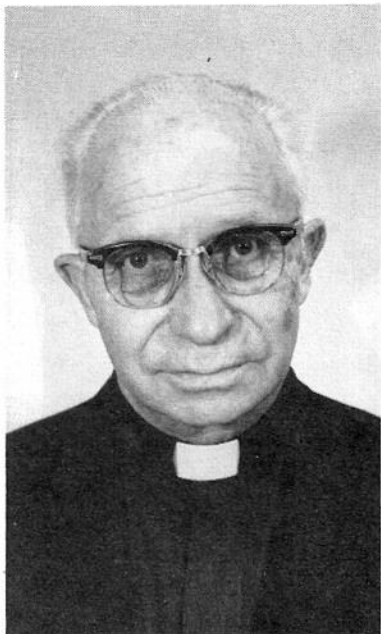
The staff and their families
to an evening celebration
humorous skits, comedy sk
followed by a festive lunch



St. Nicholas

...treated the community
on Dec. 6. A concert of
etches, and carols was
and socializing.





Father Alphonse Ludwig, in a recent photo, and with his parents and sister at the time of his ordination to the priesthood, 52 years ago.

Father Alphonse Ludwig dies

Father Alphonse (Hubert) Ludwig died peacefully on Nov. 1, 1984, after a long illness. He was 79 years old.

Father Alphonse was born on May 24, 1905, at Fulda, Sask. (then still Northwest Territories). He moved with his family to Bruno in 1915 and took his elementary schooling there from the pioneer Ursuline Sisters Mother Antonia and Mother Agatha. After school hours he worked as printer's apprentice on the Bruno Leader. After graduating from St. Peter's College, he declined an offer from a Minneapolis baseball team, and entered the novitiate at St. Peter's Abbey on July 8, 1925.

After his ordination to the priesthood in 1932 Father Alphonse continued to teach at St. Peter's College until 1938. He was prefect of students and sports director for two years (1932 - 1934), coaching outstanding hockey teams. From 1934 - 1938 he was business man-

ager of St. Peter's Press, during a time of expansion in both circulation and equipment.

While still residing at St. Peter's Abbey he filled a number of parochial assignments: assistant at Fulda (1935) and Humboldt (1936); pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Peterson (1935 - 1939); first pastor of Holy Martyr's Parish, Middle Lake (1935 - 1939).

From 1939 to the time of his death he was resident pastor of the following parishes: Carmel and Immaculate Conception (1939 - 1948); St. Benedict (1948 - 1960); Englefeld and Leroy (1960 - 1970); Naicam (1970 - 1982). At the time of his death he resided at the rectory of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carmel, Sask.

During the years of his pastoral ministry Father Alphonse supervised an extraordinary number of construction projects: the church hall (used as the first church) at Middle Lake,

1936; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 1947; St. Benedict Church, 1958; Englefeld rectory, 1961; Leroy, remodeling and extension of the church, 1964; Naicam, remodeling and extension of the church, 1971 - 1972. During the building program at St. Peter's in the '60s he served on the building board and acted as assistant foreman.

Friends, former students and former parishioners will fondly remember Father Alphonse as a generous and loving teacher and pastor, and an avid sportsman who enjoyed baseball, fishing and hunting.

Upcoming anniversaries

Father Francis Lohmer, 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood (August 2, 1925).

Father Norbert Schwinghammer, 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood (June 10, 1935).

Father Andrew Britz, 25th anniversary of religious profession (July 11, 1960).



The chapel creche, made by the novices, featured paper mache figures mounted on a panel of weathered lumber.



At the Oblate meeting on Nov. 10, from left, Kathleen Sharp, Camrose, Alta. made her final oblation as an Oblate. Mrs. Caroline Germaine, and Mildred and Roland Engele, all of Carmel, were enrolled as Oblate candidates. Also seen is Oblate director, Father Albert Ruetz. In the afternoon talk, Father Martin Brodner showed how our relationships, if properly oriented, can lead us closer to God and to each other.



On Dec. 10, Martin and Loretta Leuschen, Bruno, made their final oblation as Oblates in the abbey chapel. Father Albert Ruetz, Oblate director (centre), received their oblation in the absence of Abbot Jerome Weber.



Father Sylvester Vredegoor, with our mission team in Maceio, Brasil, returned to Canada, Dec. 14 to attend the funeral of his father, Anthony Vredegoor, at Picture Butte, Alta, Dec. 17. He visited the abbey Jan. 4-10.

Addresses

Fathers Sylvester Vredegoor and Bernard Stauber:
C. P. 161,
57,000 Maceio, Alagoas,
Brasil

Father Lawrence DeMong:
Prebytere St. Elizabeth,
Saint Elizabeth Rd.,
Cantley, Quebec,
J0X 1L0

Dates to circle

Celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the blessing of Abbot Jerome Weber as abbot and abbot-ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey and Abbacy Nullius, Monday, Aug. 5, 1985.

Summer study week, 1985. Conducted by Father Bernard de Margerie Aug. 12 - 16, 1985. Topic will be the BEM (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry) document.

Deceased confreres, relatives

Brother Francisco Moreno, 28, Monasterio San Antonio Abad, Humacao, Puerto Rico, died on Oct. 18.

Father Meinrad John Gaul, 77, St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, died on Oct. 27.

Father Roland Franz Behrendt, 83, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on Oct. 30.

Father Joseph Charles Schmerbach, 77, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on Nov. 2.

Brother Anthony Fertelmes, 77, St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio, died on Nov. 23.

Father David Yochim, 80, St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died on Dec. 2.

Brother Francis Rotkopf, 79, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, died on Dec. 3.

Father Claude Roberts, 72, Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, Colorado, died on Dec. 8.

Father Bernard O'Rourke, 35, St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, died on Dec. 18.

Father Constantine Notker Thelen, 87, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on Dec. 24.

Anthony G. T. Vredegoor, 78, Picture Butte, Alberta, father of Father Sylvester Vredegoor, died on Dec. 13.

Mrs. Ida Renneberg, 99, Cudworth, mother of Fathers Florian and Werner Renneberg, died on Dec. 25.

Elzear Lohmer, 86, Stillwater, Minnesota, brother of Father Francis Lohmer, died on Dec. 25.

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**FIRST PREMIÈRE
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No. 4
MUENSTER, SASK.