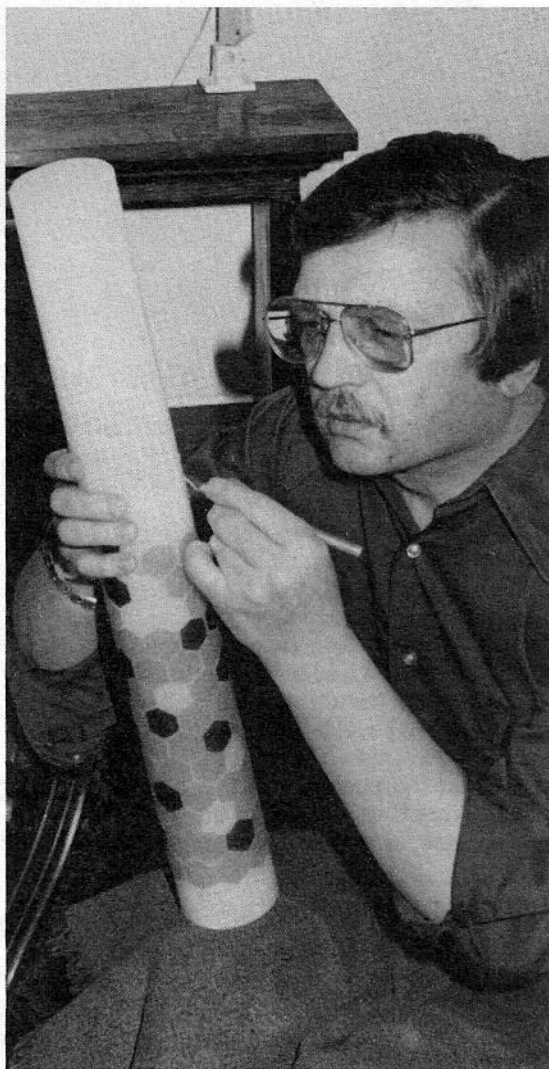
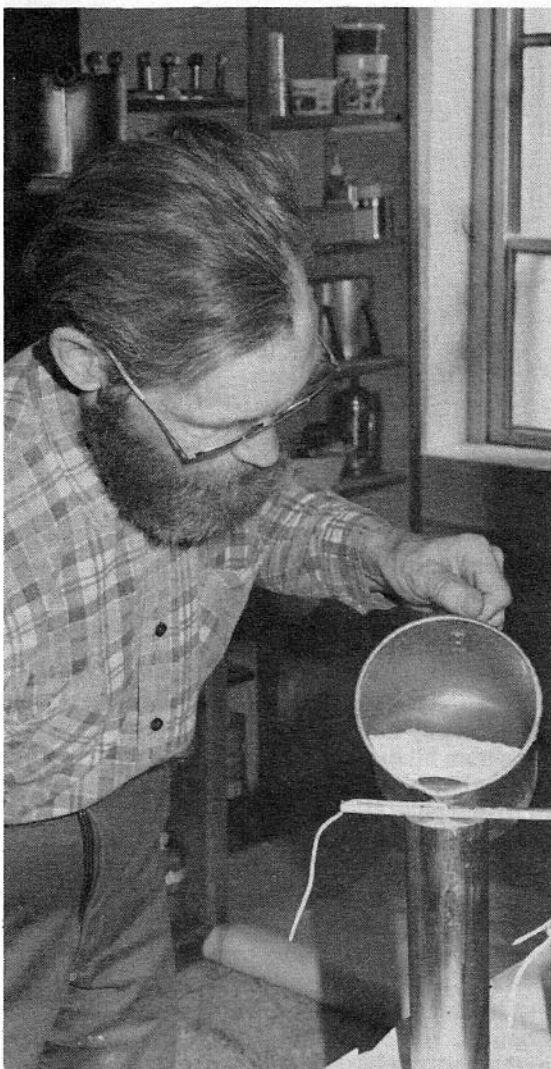


# ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

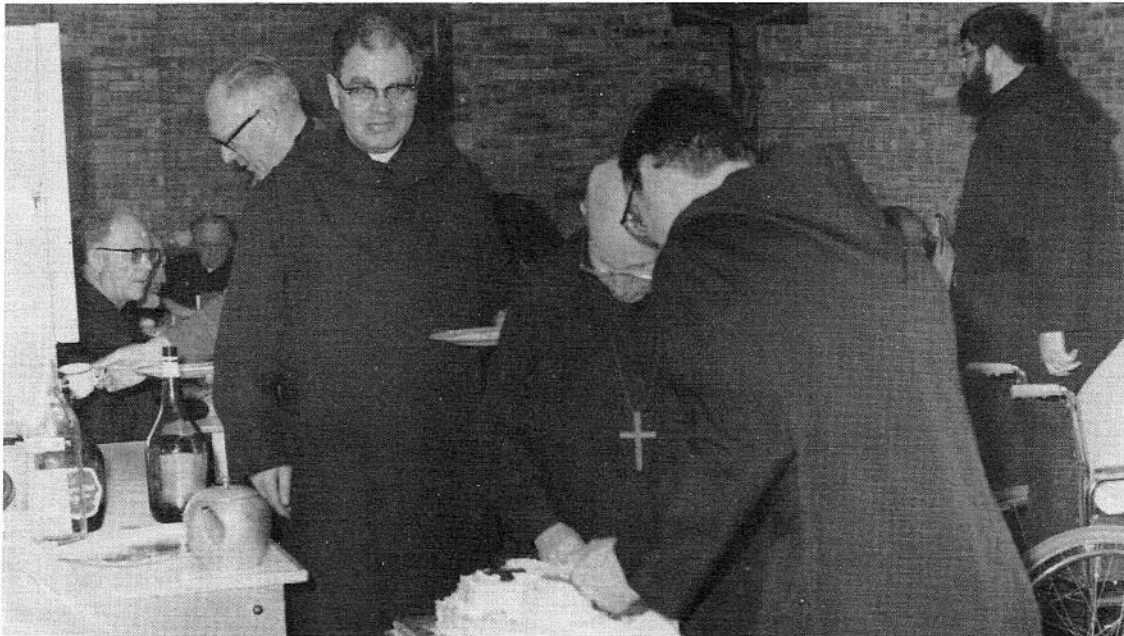
Vol. 8, No. 4

Muenster, Sask.

Spring, 1985



**Brother Michael McAllister, left, abbey candle maker, made our Easter candle which was decorated by Father Damian Yaskowich, right.**



Community members share the special St. Benedict feast day cake at a festive supper held to celebrate March 21.

## Abbot Jerome's activities

It was a good change to be able to stay at the abbey for the whole of January!

The meeting of the bishops of Western Canada, Feb. 9-10, took me to the Grey Nuns Centre in Edmonton (where Pope John Paul spent the night while in Edmonton). One of the topics for discussion was the follow-up of the visit of the pope. All the bishops were pleased with the reception he received and the impact he had on the people.

This meeting was followed, Feb. 11-14, by another one, of the major superiors of the West

(about 65 in all), at Providence Centre, also in Edmonton. We heard several very good lectures by teachers from Newman College on the topic developed at the last Synod in Rome, on Reconciliation.

The Roman Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan met at Prince Albert on March 27. On the next day there was a joint meeting with the Anglican bishops of this province. We were informed about, and invited to attend, the visit of Archbishop Runcie of Canterbury to Regina, in September 1985.

I was pleased to be at St. Peter's Cathedral for the services of the last days of Holy Week. Last year it was not possible because the whole interior was being redecorated.

On April 12 I joined the Knights of Columbus of the newly formed Abbot Bruno Doerfler Council, of Muenster, for a Mass at the cathedral, during which Bishop Mahoney gave the homily. There was also a delicious banquet later in the Muenster Community Centre.

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### ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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

*Editor: Damian Yaskowich, OSB.*

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

*Photographer: Damian Yaskowich, OSB.*

# A letter from Brother William

Brother William Thurmeier is completing his first year theology program from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn. Since Jan. 1 his class has been in the Holy Land where his second semester of studies has been taking place.

The following are some excerpts from a letter he wrote to the community on March 14 during a desert tour in the Sinai region:

"Yesterday we visited the monastery in the morning, and in the afternoon climbed to the top of the mountain called Sinai where we celebrated the Eucharist on the rocks. When I read about Moses ascending the mountain I have a better idea what that means. There is almost no living thing in the Sinai desert, except lizards, snakes, bugs and very rare seafare life. The plateau near the mountain, however, is full of water near the surface.

"The first night of our desert tour was spent in an expansive Wadi in the Negeb in South Israel. That was the coldest night. It went below 30F. The next day . . . we trekked about four miles through the desert and along a narrow gorge to a Wadi oasis complete with palm trees and huts built by the Bedouins and used in the summer. We also passed by a rock with inscriptions made by caravans who stopped there on their way between Elat and Egypt.

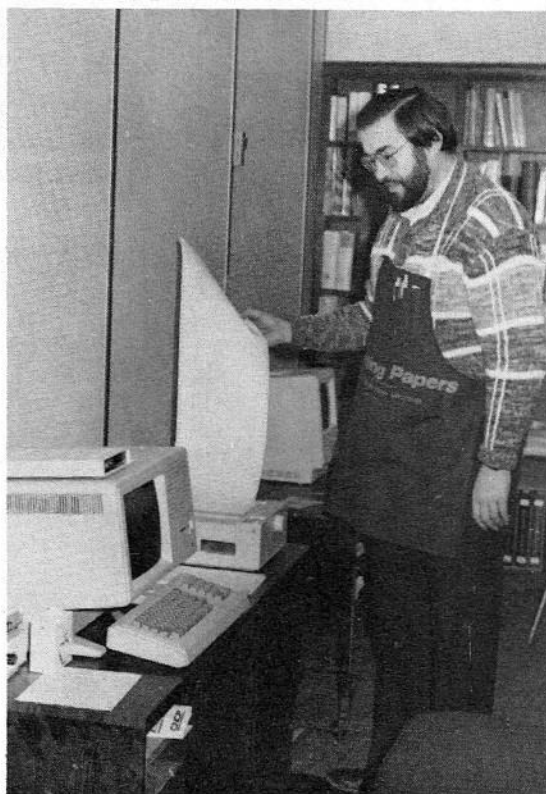
"We are in Egypt now . . . I went with Thomas, OSB, to the Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate today by taxi. The people do a lot of walking, the food is very cheap. You can get a big bowl of rice and lentils for 22 cents American. Today we saw the Egyptian museum, St. Sergius' Church where the holy family is said to have stayed for awhile, and a very big mosque built by Saloh ho Din in the 19th century. The day before we saw Memphis, Sucara temples and pyramids. There are 77 pyramids in Egypt. We will see only about 15 of them.



**Brother William**

"I have been in touch with Ashraf. Paul Friedmawn, OSB, and I will be staying with him at the seminary for a few days after the others return to Israel. I also talked briefly to Sister Darlene DeMong. Ashraf asked about everyone at St. Peter's and said he misses you all. He has one year of seminary left and is now the procurator."

Brother William will be completing his stay in Jerusalem toward the beginning of May and will be returning around the middle of the month.



Father Andrew Britz, editor of the *Prairie Messenger*, is seen receiving the printout of news which is now being sent direct from NC News, Washington via the wire-computer linkup. This wire service began March 14.



Religious in formation throughout Saskatchewan attended the Spring formation day held here on Feb. 23.

## The guestmaster's report

There have been a number of familiar faces in Severin Hall guest quarters this past spring. One is that of Mary Ann Seitz, a writer from Weyburn who has been at St. Peter's for several months working on a sequel to her book *Shelterbelt*. Some of the other faces belong to two groups of natives from across Saskatchewan who are taking part in a four-week course for band welfare administrators. They are here from March to June.

In early January seven couples were here for a weekend marriage encounter. Father Martin Brodner was part of the team presenting the weekend. In mid-January Father James Gray gave several talks to about 30 students from St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon, during their weekend retreat. Toward the end of the month, Terry Lang of Regina, a St. Peter's College alumnus, came for a mid-week workshop with a dozen people involved in correctional work in the province.

Father Roman Schneider, pastor of Bruno, brought a Katimavik group to the abbey for a

tour and supper on Feb. 6, and again on May 2. One of the larger groups here this spring, Serena, came the weekend of Feb. 15-17. Their enrolment of 100 people put our kitchen facilities to the test — and they came through with flying colors! Earlier in the week the kitchen staff had their hands full too when religion teachers from the area came for a supper-retreat. Other groups in February included a United Church group and seminarians (both men and women!) from the College of Emmanuel-St. Chad in Saskatoon.

Father Leo Hinz helped out with both an engaged encounter at the beginning of March as well as the marriage preparation course later in the month. At the end of the month Wildwood Mennonite Church from Saskatoon came for a marriage enrichment weekend.

Graduating students from Aldersgate Bible College, Moose Jaw, came to the abbey for Holy Week, and attended some of the services at the cathedral. They find this annual event one of the highlights of their year. Grovner Park Unit-



ed Church came for a weekend after Easter for a retreat.

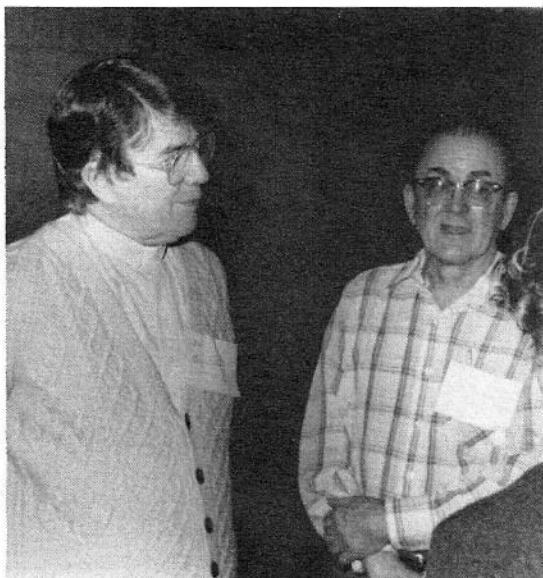
There were also a number of individual visitors and live-ins who came for a day or a week. Some of them included Rose Brown, who came to visit her brother Father Augustine Nenzel after Easter; Michael Hoveling of Alberta, who came to spend a few days with the monks before going to Weston Priory to begin his novitiate; Kathleen Sharp of Camrose, Alta., an Oblate, who spent a week with us; and Sister Lina Gaudette of Edmonton, who came here Feb. 18 - 22 to do psychological testing for the novices and juniors.

## 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).



**Father Len Sullivan, Regina, conducted a day-long workshop on Liturgy, Feb. 23 for St. Peter's Abbey. Seen with Father Len is Father Philip Loehr.**



**Our Sisters of St. Elizabeth, Sisters Ottilia Saretsky and Valerie Scheiber (centre of photo) hosted a come-and-go tea for monks and friends on the feast of St. Scholastica, Feb. 10.**



**Abundant snow this winter yielded plenty of water this spring as can be seen by the fullness of our large dugout.**

## **Abbey chronicle**

**Father Maurice Weber and postulants Erin Hickey and Bill Moschuk attended the monthly vocation awareness evening, Queen's House, Saskatoon on Jan. 28.**

**Father Maurice Weber spent Feb. 1 - 4 in Calgary attending the Western Charismatic Conference.**

**Abbot Jerome Weber and Father Damian Yaskowich attended the official opening of the artist-in-residence program in St. Denis on Feb. 4. Jacynthe de Margerie, former artist with St. Peter's Press, has been selected as the artist for this year-long program.**

**Father Andrew Britz spent the week of Feb. 3 - 8 at the Catholic Bible College, Canmore, Alberta, assisting with the development of their program. The college, under the directorship of Louis Stoeckle began classes Jan. 7 but plans to introduce its full program in the fall.**

**Father Maurice Weber, principal, and Brother Stanley Vindevogel, dean, conducted the an-**

**nual school visits to promote St. Peter's College Jan. 28 - Feb. 12. Open house was held here on Feb. 12.**

**A retreat for religion teachers in the Abbacy was held here Feb. 12. Father Glenn Zimmer, OMI, conducted the retreat.**

**Father Peter Novecosky, postulant Erin Hickey, Brothers Antony Etty, Kurt Van Kuren, Basil Schaan and Michael McAllister attended a reflection day in Bruno conducted by Sister Leonne Valois, SNJM. Theme was, "Personal and spiritual growth and maturity."**

**Sister Lina Gaudette of Edmonton spent Feb. 18 - 22 here interviewing and administering tests to our junior monks and novices.**

**Father Werner Renneberg attended the workshop on care of the sick and elderly, Saskatoon, March 4 - 8. The workshop was sponsored by the Catholic Hospital Association.**

**Brother Basil Schaan attended the funeral of**

his godmother, Lucy Schaan in Saskatoon March 5.

**Engaged Encounter** was held here March 8 - 10 with 17 couples participating. **Father Leo Hinz** directed the encounter and **Father Joseph Ackerman** attended as an observer.

**Postulant Bill Moschuk** and **Ursuline** candidate **Bev Trach** spoke at a vocations day at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Carmel on Sunday, March 10.

The Saskatchewan Culture and Recreation Volunteer Recognition Award was presented to **Father Rudolph Novecosky** in recognition of his contributions and valued service. The certificate and pin were presented in Humboldt on March 16.

**Father Xavier Benning** spent almost a month at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Humboldt recovering from a bout with pneumonia, March 21 - April 16. Slowly he is regaining his strength, and was able to return to his parish, St. Gertrude's, for the first time on Sunday, April 21.

**Brother Antony Etty** decided to discontinue religious life and left our community March 24.

**Postulant Ken Crawford** spent March 28 - April 12 in Ottawa. He attended his father's funeral on March 29.

**Father Andrew Britz** was in Qu'Appelle April 12 - 14 to conduct a workshop for the archdiocesan Level II Ministries program. His theme was Paschal Mystery.

**Father Peter Novecosky** attended the workshop for formation directors held at Mt. Angel Abbey, Oregon, April 9 - 15.

**Father Lawrence DeMong**, national director of religious education, Ottawa, was home briefly April 12. He is out west assisting at some catechetics workshops.

**Fathers Maurice Weber** and **Lawrence DeMong**, and **Brothers Basil Schaan** and **Kurt Van Kuren** participated in an Explore weekend at Bruno, April 12 - 14.



Visiting students were very interested in the office education computer equipment as they toured the college on Open House, March 12.

# New member for mission team

Sister Germaine Gorsalitz, OSU, arrived in Maceio, Brazil on Feb. 25 to join the abbacy mission team there since 1963.

Sister Germaine taught for several years at St. Ursula's Academy, Bruno and for three years at their school in British Columbia. She received her degree in physical education in 1976.

For the past two years Sister Germaine has been taking the personal growth program in St. Paul, Minn.

Prior to her leaving for Brazil, Sister Germaine has been studying Portuguese on her own and with some assistance from Sister Bernadine Fetter, OSU, who has also served with the abbacy mission team.

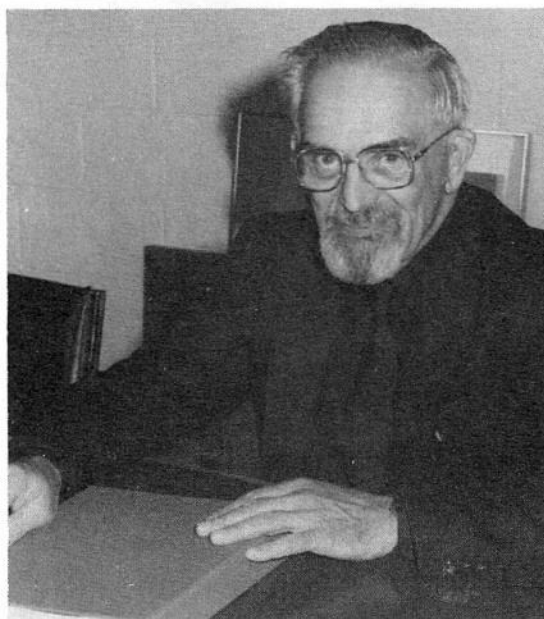
Sister Germaine has a one-year visa for Brazil which is renewable after one year. She will be joining the two other Ursuline sisters who are part of the mission team. Sister Imelda Doecker, currently home on sabbatical until this fall, has been with the team in Brazil since



**Sister Germaine Gorsalitz, OSU**

January 1968, and Sister Clare Novecosky, joined the team in January 1973.

Sister Germaine is presently enrolled in the culture and language program in Brasilia since March 1. She expects to be back in Maceio with the team June 21.



**Frank van Amelsvoort of Welland, Ont. joined the postulancy program on Mar. 7.**

## 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





Enrolled as oblate candidates on March 23 are from left, Leo Collin, Theresa Varga, Mary Ann Seitz and Ursula Fogan.

## Oblate day

Despite inclement weather and poor road conditions, 16 oblates gathered for the Oblate meeting here on March 23.

Mass, dinner with the community, and a talk in the afternoon made up the accustomed schedule.

Following noon praise with the community, Theresa Varga and Leo Collin of Muenster, Ursula Fogan of Humboldt, and Mary Ann Seitz of Weyburn were enrolled as Oblate candidates. After a year these candidates will be able to make their final Oblation as Oblates of St. Benedict.

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## Community retreat

The community retreat for this year is scheduled from Monday, June 10, to Friday, June 14. It will be conducted by Abbot Marion Balsavich of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Illinois.



Postulants Gerald Moran and Bill Moschuk prepare pizza for a community get-together to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 19.



**Participating in a Focus on Brazil evening at Humboldt on April 22 are from left, Sister Maria Doepker, Louis Pomedli, Father Peter Novacosky, Ted Schurman, Sister Dolores Jansen and Veronica Schurman. Sister Maria is with the team, and Sister Dolores had been a member. The others have all visited Brazil and shared their experiences and reactions to our mission project.**

## Focus on Brazil

Father Peter Novacosky, who visited our mission team in Maceio last August for three weeks, was one of the participants in a Focus on Brazil night April 22 in Humboldt. The evening was designed to acquaint people of the abbacy with the work of our mission team.

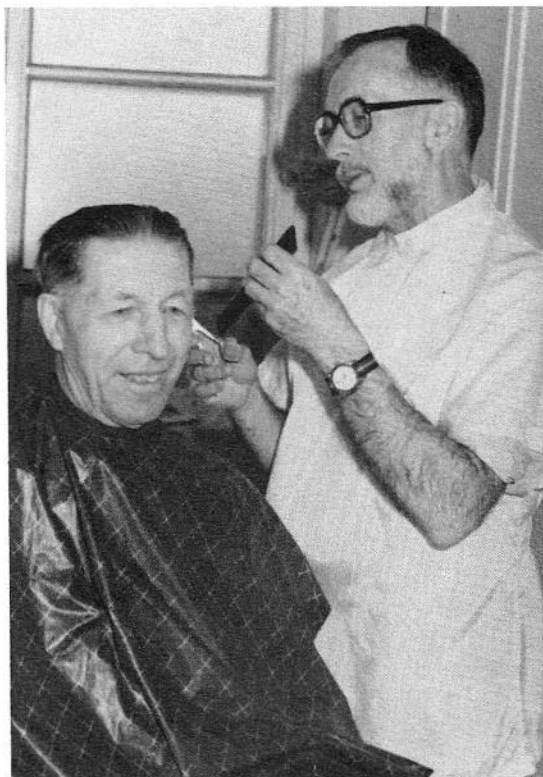
Sister Maria Doepker, OSU, who is still with the mission team, and Sister Dolores Jansen, OSE, who spent many years with the team before a health problem caused her to return to Canada, led the discussion. Sister Maria also showed slides of their mission activities.

Veronica Schurman, Muenster, spoke of the different feelings she experienced when she

visited Maceio as an interested observer in 1980 and a tourist in 1985. She and her husband, Ted, were part of the tour group which Father Bob Ogle, former Saskatoon team member, conducted this past January.

Louis Pomedli, Humboldt, who also took this tour gave many vital and interesting statistics about Brazil. He showed particular interest in the farm project which Father Sylvester is involved with.

Displays of photographs taken by Veronica and Father Peter further showed mission life as they experienced it.



**Brother John Brodner, long-time abbey barber who retired from barbering a few years ago due to failing eyesight, receives a haircut from postulant Gerald Moran, who as a student 43 years ago had his hair cut by Brother John.**

## **Deceased confreres, relatives**

**Father Maurus Kennedy, 88, St. Benedict's Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, died on Jan. 10.**

**Father Raymond Balko, 89, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died on Feb. 25.**

**Father Harold Joseph Fuchs, 80, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on Feb. 25.**

**Father Egbert Rudolph Goeb, 82, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on Feb. 27.**

**Father Ansgar Roy Hallen, 82, Saint Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, died on March 6.**

**Father Andrew Skvarla, 85, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, died on March 11.**

**Father Gerard Frank Nathe, 71, St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma, died on March 30.**

**Father Patrick George Okada, 62, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on April 2.**

**Brother Martin Joseph Ference, 76, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania, died on April 7.**

**Father Gordian Burkardt, 59, Saint Vincent Archabbey, Labrobe, Pennsylvania, died on April 15.**

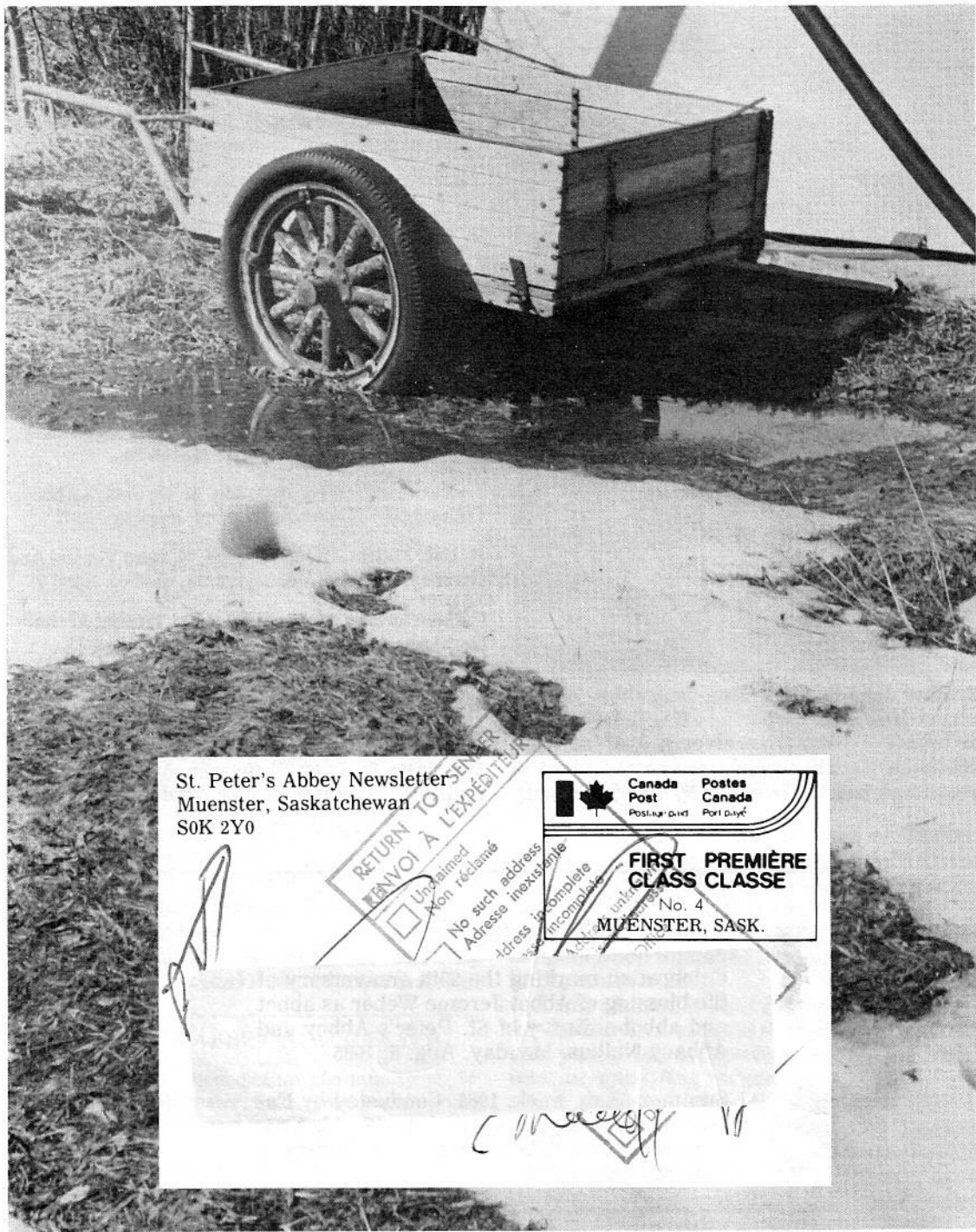
**James Austin Crawford, 71, Ottawa, Ontario, father of postulant Ken Crawford, died on March 27.**

**Mrs. Rosa Sand, 69, Shaunavon, adopted sister of Father Albert Ruetz, died on April 28.**

## **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.



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