

ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

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Muenster, Sask.

Summer, 1985



Brothers Alex Mullie and David Gauthier completed their novitiate and professed temporary vows on July 11.

Abbot Jerome's activities

The annual convention of the Saskatchewan Knights of Columbus was held in Saskatoon, April 27 - 28. I attend these annual conventions to show my appreciation to the Knights for the work they do for the Church in our province. Each year the Brazil fund of the Abbacy benefits from their donation to the missions.

The Diocesan CWL convention was at Cudworth, May 1. I attended and offered the convention Mass, and enjoyed the banquet that followed. This year the provincial convention was at Swift Current June 3 and I went there also.

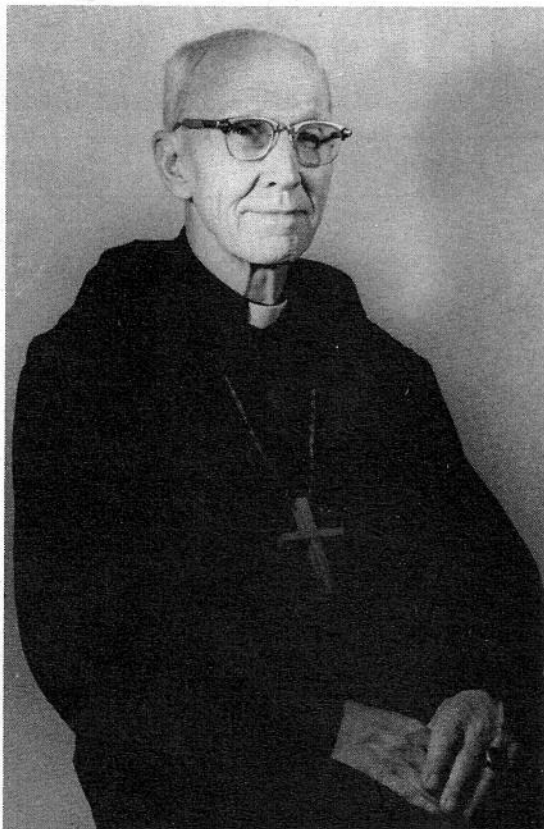
On June 5 the school children and staff of St. Augustine and St. Dominic schools in Humboldt and some parents of the children came to St. Augustine's Church to join in the eucharistic celebration to mark my 25th anniversary as abbot-ordinary. An outdoor lunch followed on the grounds of St. Augustine School. The staff and children enjoyed a free afternoon, courtesy of the Catholic Board of Education. I want to thank the organizers of the celebration and the children for their contribution to the education of a priesthood student, and for the personal gift I received.

On the evening of the same day as above, I was happy to offer Mass in St. Boniface Church, and afterwards to bless the cairn outside erected there to mark the site of the first church built in St. Peter's Colony. Thanks to St. Michael's Parish which maintains this church, and also the cemetery.

Father Jean Papen of Prince Albert celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination on June 15 in St. Michael's Church in Prince Albert. I was there to celebrate with him. He gave the community retreat here several years ago.

I was present for the farewell to two well-known teachers in Humboldt, Walter Germann, principal of St. Augustine School for many years, and Sister Colette Kaller, OSU, of St. Dominic School.

During "Celebrate Life week" I joined the walkers near Muenster, and pushed the carriage for several miles into the village, to the community centre, where delightful refresh-



Abbot Jerome Weber.

ments awaited us. Thanks to the many who dedicate so much energy to foster life!

The parish of St. George at Naicam celebrated its diamond jubilee on July 12. I offered the Mass of thanksgiving, and later enjoyed the dinner.

The area around the historic site of Batoche became part of Parks Canada on July 14. I was there for the ceremony during which the historic church, of St. Anthony of Padua, and the adjacent rectory were transferred to Canada to become part of its heritage. A new church dedicated to the same saint was built by the government of Canada for the members of the parish.



Received as novices on July 10 are Brothers Gerald Moran of Medicine Hat, Alta., Nicodemus (Frank) van Amelsvoort of Welland, Ont., and Ken Crawford of Prince George, B.C.

Monks make temporary vows

Two 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 David Noel Gauthier was born in Peace River, Alta., and lived there until his family moved to Calgary in 1968. He graduated from St. Francis High School, Calgary, in 1974 and received a diploma in chemical engineer-

ing technology from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in 1978.

After high school Brother David worked for Canada Safeway as a stock clerk. Following his graduation from SAIT he worked for Procor Ltd., sulfur services division, and later for Dome Petroleum Ltd. as a petroleum technologist.

Brother David is presently work co-ordinator, works in the abbey gardens, and helps with repair and maintenance of windows in the Michael Building.

He lists weightlifting and drawing as his hobbies. This fall Brother David plans to take a year of University classes at St. Peter's College.

Brother Alexander Roland (Alex) Mullie was born and raised at Arborfield. Following his graduation from Arborfield High School, he attended the University of Saskatchewan,

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Photographer: Damian Yaskowich, OSB.

Saskatoon for two years, studying in fine art and French.

Brother Alex has a broad field of work experience. He worked as laborer at the U. of S. physical plant, has done gardening, tar roofing, sorting tomatoes, janitor and dishwashing at Friendship Inn, Saskatoon. He was involved in volunteer programs for the Saskatchewan Mental Health Assoc. in Saskatoon prior to joining St. Peter's.

Brother Alex enjoys manual labor, works in the abbey garden, and plans to do janitor work for the college. This summer he has helped reshingle roofs, and worked with the concrete crew during parking lot renovations.

Brother Alex lists his hobbies as cycling, and woodcut print making. He is a great nature lover and enjoys studying and identifying plants and birds which he sees on his regular walks.



Sister Maria Doecker, OSU, on sabbatical from our mission team in Maceio since last fall, filled in at the Abbacy Centre assisting Sister Celine Graf, OSU, while Sister Yvonne Billesberger, OSU, visited Europe and the Holy Land.



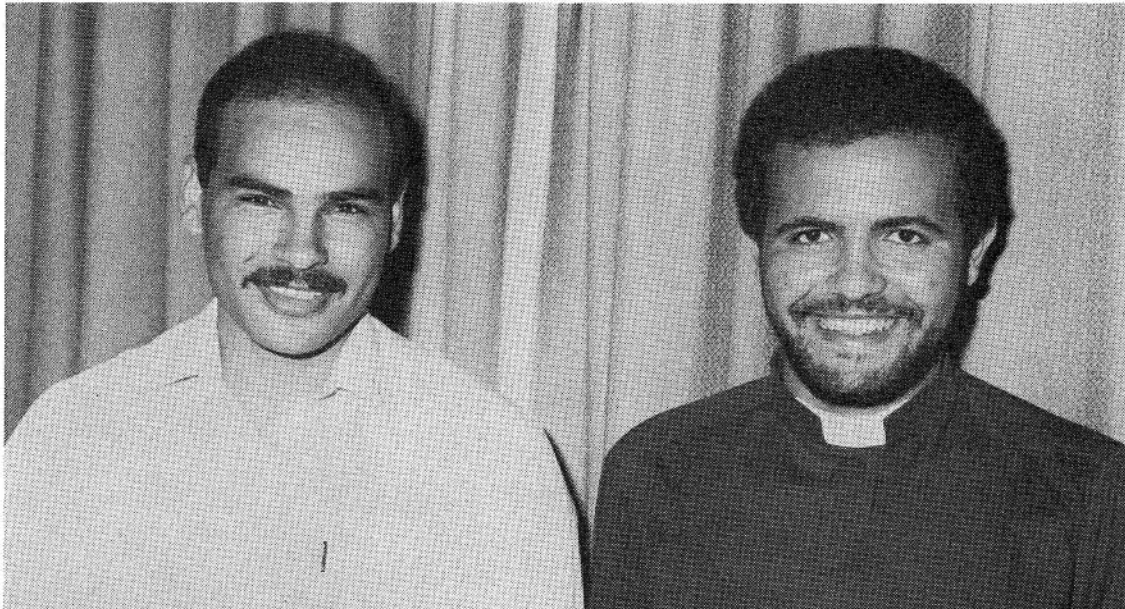
Our summer guest, Father Paul Facht, OMI, Edmonton, is seen trimming the hedge which encloses our flower garden.

25th anniversary

Abbot Jerome Weber will be honored on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his blessing as abbot and abbot-ordinary of St. Peter's Abbey and Abbacy Nullius, Monday, Aug. 5.

A eucharistic celebration of thanksgiving is planned for 2:30 p.m. at St. Peter's College Gymnasium, Muenster. Everyone is invited to attend this Eucharist.

At 5:30 p.m. a banquet will be held at the Humboldt Uniplex, Humboldt. Banquet tickets have been made available to special invited guests, and representatives from all parishes in the abbacy.



Staying at the abbey from July 2 - Sept. 10 are two Coptic Catholic seminarians from Cairo, Egypt, Nadi Gayed and Talaat Ayaad. Nadi has completed five years of study and Talaat has completed three.

The guestmaster's report

Since my last report, the guest quarters has experienced its usual round of activities. We have hosted a variety of groups as well as individuals.

At the end of April, a Women in Education group held a supper and evening workshop on stress here. The next weekend a group of youth from Yorkton came for a weekend conference and retreat.

The Catholic deaf community held their second annual retreat the first weekend of May. Sister Doreen Smith of Saskatoon co-ordinated the weekend. The next week the community colleges from across the province had personnel here for a counselling workshop. The native welfare administrators had more sessions during May and June.

The Unitarian Fellowship of Saskatoon used our facilities for a retreat the second weekend of June. Their director was Rev. Conrad Dippel. The following week the rooms were used by our own monks who came home for the

annual monastic retreat. When the monks left, the rooms were available for people from across the province who attended Humboldt's annual Roundup held over the Father's Day weekend. An Evangelical Orthodox Church group from Saskatoon used our facilities the following week for a weekend retreat.

During July the hallways are noisy with the sound of typewriters as the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild moved in July 13 for a three-week stay. This year we had one of the largest groups ever, with 13 people booked in the first week. There were fewer the following two weeks. The group also included some artists and photographers.

A variety of individuals have also come for retreats, live-ins, a day of rest or for a visit. We've also had to accommodate three wedding (overflow) guests the past two months. Among the individuals here for a longer stay is Gilbert Fast of Waterloo, Ont., who is working in the library for a month.



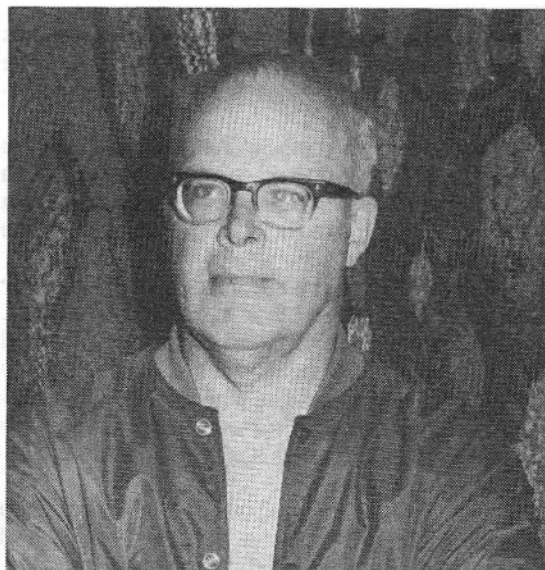
Frank and Catherine Thurmeier, Saskatoon, were enroled as oblate candidates and Elizabeth Saretsky, Humboldt, made her final oblation at the Oblate Day, July 13. With these oblates is Father Albert Ruetz, oblate director.

Oblate day

Oblate Day on July 13 began with a celebrated mass with Abbot Jerome Weber as principal concelebrant and homilist. Midday prayer followed, then the oblates joined the community for dinner. Oblates were then free to tour the grounds, enjoy each other's company, read or rest.

At 3:00 o'clock Father Albert Ruetz gave a paper on "Praying the Psalms" with discussion following on individual experiences with the psalms. Following a coffee break, the discussion centered on the first section of the Oblate Guidelines: "Oblates strive to be loyal and active members of Christ and his church."

After praying Vespers with the community, all the Oblates renewed their oblation. The spirit of the outdoor supper which followed was somewhat dampened by a cool breeze and a threatening rain. Many Oblates still remained to share Vigil Prayers with the monks at 7:30.



Gerry O'Hara, Edmonton, made his final oblation as an oblate at St. Peter's Abbey on June 25.



Over 90 lay people and religious attended two workshops given to train lay presiders for the abbacy, June 5 and 19. Here Father Leo Hinz leads one of the sessions.

Abbey chronicle

On May 12, Brothers Conrad Abs, Francis Fortney and Basil Schaan attended the Riel Rebellion Centenary celebrations at Batoche.

650 baby chicks arrived in early May and were placed under the care of postulant Frank van Amelsvoort. The chicks are housed in the former dairy barn which has been vacant since our dairy herd was sold in 1983. It has been a few years since the abbey raised its own eating chickens although we have always maintained a laying flock of hens.

Our first outdoor supper of this season was held on May 19.

Father Maurice Weber attended the May vocation awareness day at Queen's House, Saskatoon on May 21.

Father Albert Ruetz spent the weekend of May 18 in Edmonton attending the Western

Conference of Spiritual Directors held at Providence Centre.

Father Andrew Britz attended the annual Canadian Church Press convention in Toronto, May 28 - June 4.

Brother William Thurmeier returned from his year of studies on June 2. He plans to continue his studies in theology this fall at San' Anselmo, the international Benedictine College in Rome.

Brother Basil Schaan attended the first mass of Ted Bezaire at St. Joseph's Church, Saskatoon, on June 15. Ted was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop James Mahoney at St. Paul's Cathedral the previous day.

Father Norbert Schwinghammer spent June 17 - 23 at Bruno looking after the parish while Father Roman Schneider was away.

On June 19, Brother Stanley Vindevogel was notified by Catholic Family Service, Saskatoon, that he had been awarded the Sister Ann O'Brien scholarship of \$1000. Brother Stanley plans to work on his masters degree in Social Work at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, this fall.

The first day of summer, June 21, will be remembered as the day we received a severe frost which killed many of our tomatoes, beans, and other garden plants.

Father Bernard Stauber, with our mission team in Brazil, returned home for a three-month visit, on June 27.

Brother Basil Schaan attended the ordination to the priesthood of Ted Jerome on June 29 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Prince Albert by Bishop Blaise Morand.

Father Rudolph Novecosky helped his sister, Sister Rita Ann Novecosky, OSU, celebrate the 25th anniversary of her religious profession in Bruno, June 30.

Father Werner Renneberg returned to the abbey July 9 - 17 to make an eight-day directed retreat.

Brother Basil Schaan left for St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Ill. to attend the Summer Monastic Institute for Junior Monks.

Father Rudolph Novecosky continues to work on the abbey stamp collection. He welcomes stamps, especially the Canadian commemorative stamps: 32¢, 37¢, 64¢, and the new postal rate stamps, 34¢, 39¢, and 68¢.

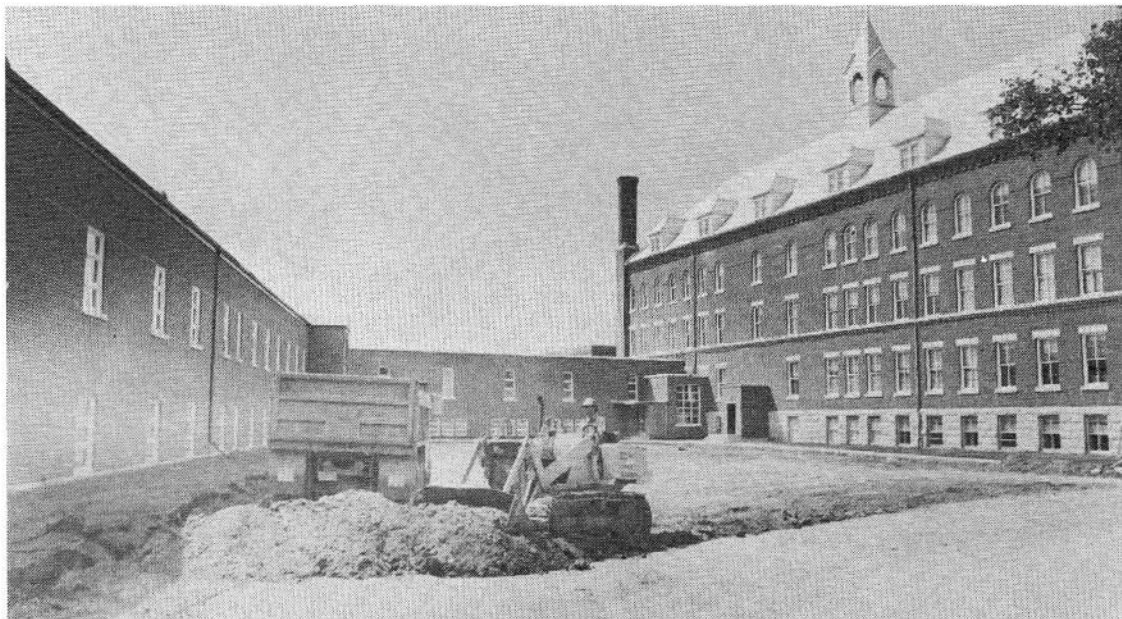
BEM workshop

Our summer theology study week will be held from Monday, Aug. 12 - Friday, Aug. 16.

The week will be conducted by Father Bernard de Margerie, director of the Ecumenical Centre, Saskatoon. It will feature a thorough study of the BEM (Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry) document.



An outdoor supper on July 1 honored Father Bernard Stauber (center) who returned from Brazil for a three-month visit on June 27.



Rennovations are presently underway to convert the square between the Michael building and Severin Hall from a parking lot to a rest area landscaped with lawn, trees and park benches.

Anniversaries

During the summer theology study week, Aug. 12 - 16, three anniversaries will be celebrated: Father Francis Lohmer, 60th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood; Father Norbert Schwinghammer, 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood; Father Andrew Britz, 25th anniversary of religious profession.

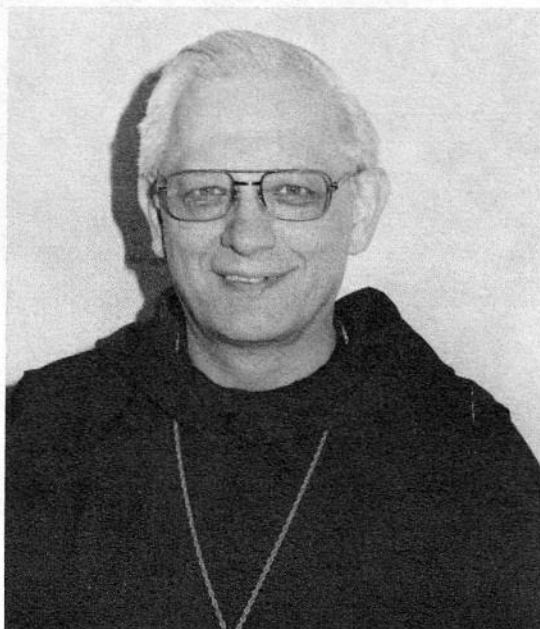
Deceased confreres

Father Dominic Patrick Eagan, 71, Saint Mary's Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey, died on April 5.

Father Anthony Cahill, 72, Belmont Abbey, Belmont, North Carolina, died on May 9.

Father Jeremy James Murphy, 77, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on June 8.

Father Gerald Joseph Patnode, 49, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota, died on June 18.



Abbot Marion Balsavich of St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois, conducted the community retreat, June 10 - 14.

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