

St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter



Vol. 27 No. 1 Spring and Summer 2005

Sign changes life: Where will you spend your eternity?

By Werner
Renneberg, OSB

Our grand old monk, Br. Gregory Brodner, OSB, died peacefully at the abbey July 13, 2005. He was 100 years and three months of age.

Gregory was born April 6, 1905, shortly before Saskatchewan became a province. He worked with his father and brothers on the family farm at Dysart, Sask., until the age of 25. There was a small bridge made of 2 X 10 inch planks across a creek near their home. On the railing someone put a poster with large letters, saying, "Where will you spend your eternity?" When he saw this, it made him think. His two younger brothers, George and Martin, were at St. Peter's for Grade 9. When they were home on vacation, he heard them speak about brothers at the abbey. His eager question was, "Who are those brothers anyway?" He accompanied George and Martin as they returned for Grade 10, to take a good look at the abbey. He saw the work brothers and priests did. In December of that year, 1930, he decided to take the train to Muenster. And that is where he remained.

Br. Gregory took his first vows June 30, 1932. He was especially adaptable to



Donna Harpauer, MLA for Humboldt provincial constituency, gives Br. Gregory Brodner, OSB, a 100-year medal and certificate. Both he and Saskatchewan are 100 years old in 2005. Two Humboldt Sisters of St. Elizabeth in the background are part of the cheering section.

whatever work needed to be done. For some 15 years he worked on the farm, caring for horses, cattle, machinery and whatever. In 1943 he was given charge of the powerhouse and boiler room. He supplied electricity and heat to the abbey-college complex for many years. He learned on the job how to run the big diesel engines supplying the power and the furnaces supplying the heat. At first the furnaces were being fed with wood, later with coal, then oil, and finally with natural gas.

A stable supply of good water was one of Br. Gregory's wishes. The several wells indeed had sufficient water, but it contained minerals that made it

unhealthy to drink and which also clogged the sewage pipes. It couldn't be used in the furnace flues. His dream came true with the construction of a large water reservoir to catch water in spring runoff.

Born a farmer, Br. Gregory was interested in the gardens and orchard. For years he was in charge of selling the abbey's bumper crops of corn. Genial, friendly and very helpful, Br. Gregory made many friends with those who came to the abbey on business or for a visit.

Always faithful in his monastic observances and mentally alert to the end, Br. Gregory was a model of cheerful goodwill and fraternal charity. His peaceful serenity made a memorable impression on all who saw him.

Br. Gregory received a pacemaker in 1982 and remained active despite some health problems until in his 90s, when he needed a walker and a motorized chair. This chair was his pride and joy. It gave him freedom. But as his eyes grew dim and his health became fragile, he had to settle for a wheel chair pushed by others.

Always alert and interested in new discoveries, Br. Gregory is surely finding heaven an exciting place to be.

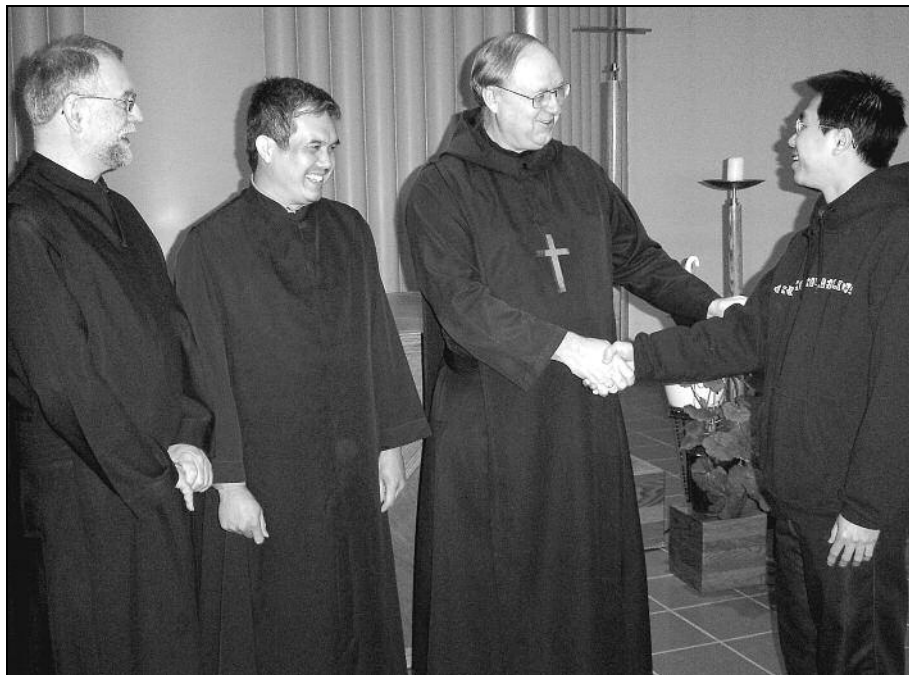
A message from Abbot Peter's desk

Dear friends of St. Peter's Abbey,

Much water has flowed under the bridge since our last newsletter. A lot of the details are written up in the rest of this newsletter. We lost a longtime member of our community. Br. Gregory Brodner died on July 13 after having logged more than 100 years on this side of the grass. He spent more than 70 of those years here at the abbey. Fr. Robert Gannon, who transferred from Big Sur, Calif., to St. Peter's Abbey in 1972 to live as a hermit, died on Jan. 27.

A number of people interested in monastic life have visited the past year. Three became novices this spring and another three were accepted as candidates on Aug. 24. As is common in all religious communities and seminaries, the age of candidates is higher than it was several decades ago. This means people come with a broader range of life experiences. This new life and interest in monastic life is always a sign of hope and renewal for the community. New members continue to challenge us to live true to our vocation. One of the novices has since left.

This year has been exceptional in Saskatchewan for a number of reasons. First, the weather has been exceptional. The abundant rain has produced a bumper crop. Harvesting has begun as



From left, novices Arvid-Peter Sprung, now Br. Pius, Peter Tien La, Br. Matthew, and Joseph Truong Nguyen, Br. Paulus with Abbot Peter.

we go to press with this newsletter and there is hope we avoid the devastating frost we had a year ago. The gardens are also producing well. This is the first year our farmland has been rented out, so that is one less worry for the community. Nevertheless, it seems we have been occupied this summer with a number of other projects of planting, weeding and renovations of buildings.

Another celebration that needs to be mentioned is the fact that 2005 is the centennial year for our province. One of the highlights was the homecoming celebrations every town in the area had. By all accounts, these turned out well, with lots of visitors and former residents returning to their roots. The parades were a highlight in each case, and the abbey took part in the parade in Muenster. The college had a float in both Humboldt and Muenster parades. Almost without exception, the weather co-operated beautifully.

We continue to have a number of vol-

unteers who help the abbey around the yard, gardens and elsewhere. Most are retired or semi-retired people who have time on their hands, live close to the abbey and are ready to pitch in when help is needed. To all our volunteers, we owe a debt of gratitude.

Keep the Heat Fund

In the last newsletter I made an appeal for financial help to replace windows in our abbey. People have been very generous and \$13,000 was donated to the Keep the Heat Fund on top of the original \$20,000. This will help us replace the windows in more than 35 rooms of the abbey this fall. This will make the rooms more comfortable, and will reduce the heating bill as well. We still have more windows to replace so I appeal for your continued help to reach our goal of \$50,000.

In addition to replacing windows in the abbey, we also hope to replace some windows in the guest house with donations that have been given there. To all our donors and supporters, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Abbot Peter and Fr. Daniel Muyres, who celebrated his 50th anniversary of profession July. 11.

"... that in all things God may be glorified."

— Benedictine Motto

\$50,000

\$33,000

People and events around the abbey

By Martin Brodner, OSB

Going back to 2004

September — Our last Newsletter ended with September and we sort of had to start picking up the pieces of the past summer. Our farm manager for 35 years, Br. Bernard Lange, had died in May; a killing frost seriously damaged our crops and gardens in mid-August. A damaging fire on the farm in a machine shed wiped out a couple of trucks, tractors and other implements.

In October we appointed an enlarged Farm Transition Committee which is spearheading the radical downsizing of our farm apostolate.

The frozen crops did not yield much harvest. We gave up our beef herd before Christmas. And since then our understanding neighbours undertook to rent about three-quarters of our farmland.

And now we continue with other events around the abbey.

September — brought our university students here in somewhat reduced numbers. They noticed the water cistern which was built during the summer and set up in our “Stanley Park” adjacent to the college building. It is there to supply water for the sprinkling system which had also been installed in the entire college and kitchen.

Oct. 27-29 — Abbot Primate Notker Wolf, Sant Anselmo, Rome, visited our abbey.



Abbot Notker Wolf, OSB, demonstrating his love for the flute and entertaining community members with some lively tunes.



Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI, and Fr. Andrew Britz, OSB

Nov. 10 — We had our annual fall lecture by Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI. Topic was: An Introduction to the Bible.

Nov. 17 — Career Day Fair in the gym for high school regional students. Various displays informed the students concerning opportunities for future occupations.

Nov. 19-21 — Our Benedictine Oblate retreat and meeting. James Schmeiser developed the theme: Pilgrimage. He had had the experience of making the pilgrimage to Compostello. Various Benedictine abbeys are situated along this route from France to Spain.

Nov. 23 — The Father James Gray Academic Centre for Excellence was officially opened. Trevor Harriot, great lover of birds and nature, was the main speaker. Barbara Langhorst is in charge of this new centre at the college.

Nov. 26 — Staff Appreciation Night. Recognized at this night were staff who served us well for several years: Dianne Martz — 15 years CRSE; Marilyn Tebbe — 10 years in the guest department; Maureen Weber — 10 years at the Prairie Messenger; Roger Berting — eight years on the farm.

Beginning in December 2004 — Fr. Lawrence DeMong will serve two northern missions every month: Cumberland House and La Ronge.

Dec. 21 — Colleen Fitzgerald, who served as president of the college for six years, resigned to accept the position as head of a department at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Glenn Kobussen will act as interim president.

2005

Feb. 6 — Fr. Jerome was hospitalized with a cracked left hip and is managing well. A week later a flu bug hit the abbey, affecting one-fourth of the monks. Fr. Martin was hit the hardest with pneumonia Feb. 19, and spent two weeks in the hospital, plus another month recuperating some of his energy.

Jan. 27 — Death of Fr. Robert Gannon, Oblate St. Benedict, 72.

Feb. 6 — Death of Sr. Aquinas Schulte, OSU, 99, Humboldt.

March 5 — Death of Sr. Adele Schell, OSE, Humboldt, 86, after a severe stroke.

March 2 — Fr. Paul Fachel, OMI, Saskatoon, gave another lecture to the public: Gospel Account of the Paschal Mystery.

March 9 — Fr. Daniel Muyres, OSB, was appointed Oblate Director, replacing Fr. Richard Meidl, OSB. Ken Mansfield is his assistant.

March 20 — Joseph Truong Nguyen, Calgary, was received as a candidate for the abbey. At the same time Arvid-Peter Sprung, Brandon, was received into the novitiate, receiving the name, Br. Pius, and Peter Tien La became Br. Matthew.

March 18-20 — the Quilting Guild drew over 50 participants to its workshop in our guest department.

Other group gatherings in our guest department in February-March were: STM Newman retreat; Winter Colony Sask. Writers; United Church Diaconate retreat; CWL executive; Unity Planning Committee; Eston Full Gospel Faculty; Engaged Encounter; Agriventure; World Wide Marriage Encounter; Vita Nova (Prince Albert).

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People and events around the abbey

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April 5 — St. Benedict's Day. Br. Pierre Rouillard, OSB, originally from Winnipeg, then a monk at Assumption Abbey, N.D., transferred his stability to our abbey, taking his vows at the 11:00 a.m. mass.



Br. Pierre Rouillard, OSB, and Abbot Peter.

April 6 — Br. Gregory Brodner, OSB, originally of Dysart, Sask., joined the abbey in 1930, and celebrated his 100th birthday on this day. He had the rare distinction of being born in Regina, N.W.T. He has been at the abbey for 75 years.

*His health had been declining lately and he died on July 13.

April 10 — Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope, following the death of Pope John Paul II on April 2. The new pope chose the name of Benedict XVI. He was born in Bavaria where several Benedictine monasteries surrounded his birthplace within 100 kms. Being a German, he is looking forward to World Youth Day 2005 at Cologne in August.

April 10 — Death of Sr. Fidelis Deibert, OSE, 89, Humboldt.

April 10 — Our abbey church pipe organ had been under the capable construction of Bill Thurmeier (Saskatoon) since 1985. The organ was blessed on this day. Its background history and recitals were supplied by Bill, Gregory Schulte and Zita Maier.

April 20 — The community had the rare treat of hearing the Brazilian woman "Zesus." She spoke on the "Rainbow of Hope," a special home in Brazil started with Canadian sponsorship. It is a home for homeless street children.

May 3 — Joseph Truong Nguyen, 32, was received into the novitiate, receiving the name of Br. Paulus.

May 3 — With warm spring weather moving in, work in the gardens begins. The early spring had again filled up our water reservoir to the brim. Major adjustments are taking place outside, as much of our land is rented out.

*Two major works were: landscaping the Stanley Park courtyard and steel sheeting the large roof on the former Abbacy Centre, which had been leaking after 60 years of use.

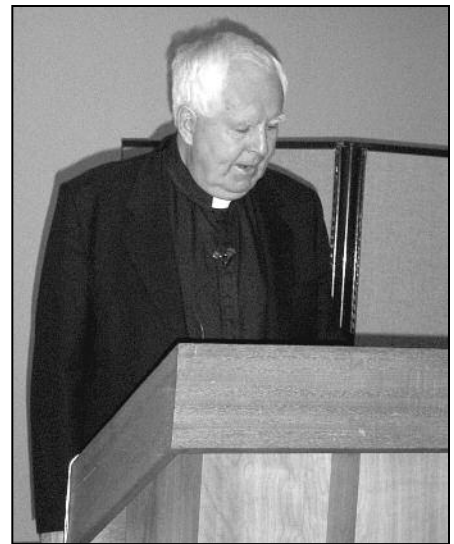
May 14 — Br. Gregory receives the provincial Centennial Medal and Certificate for reaching 100 years in this centennial year. These were presented by Donna Harpauer, Humboldt MLA.

May 17 — Br. Paul Paproski returned to the abbey from Pennsylvania and is ordained deacon on May 28.

May 27 — Sr. Elizabeth Sonntag, OSE, 87, Humboldt, dies.

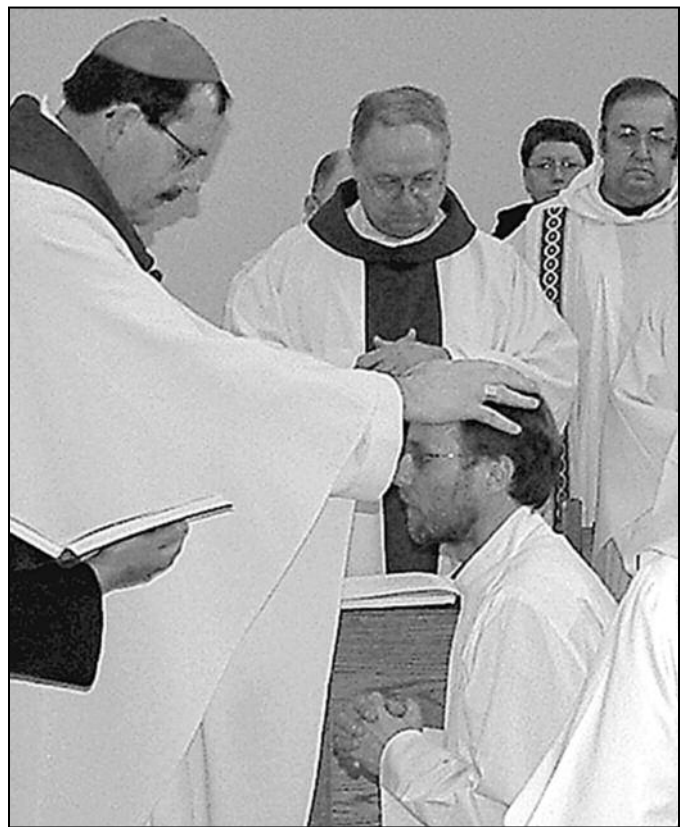
May 30 — Abbot Peter's work on updating our Divine Office booklets is completed. These booklets are now a delight to our visitors who can more easily join us in our community daily prayers.

June 4 - 9 — Retired Archbishop



Archbishop Joseph MacNeil

op Joseph MacNeil, Edmonton, conducted our monastic retreat this year. Since it was 40 years since Vatican II, he centred it firmly on Christ, based on documents of Vatican II and major papal Christ-centred documents since then.

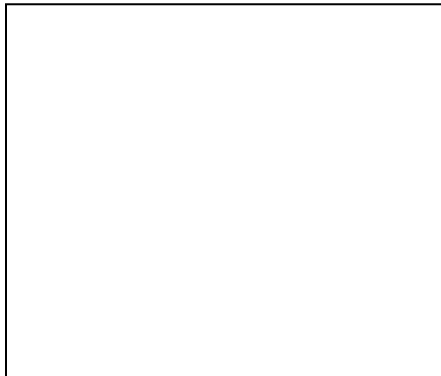


Br. Paul Paproski, OSB, is ordained to the diaconate in the Benedictine community of St. Peter's Abbey by Saskatoon Bishop Albert LeGat.

June 17 - 19 — The Heifer International Workshop, which drew a crowd of 80, was held here at the abbey. Participants included some from beyond the province.

June 21 — For the record. Archbishop Daniel Bohan was installed as archbishop of Regina, following retired Archbishop Mallon. Abbot Peter attended.

June 21 — Oblate meeting. Three new Oblate candidates were received: Caroline Dauk, George Perron and Eric Pizzy.



New Benedictine Oblate candidates, from left, front: Eric Pizzy, Caroline Dauk and George Perron, along with Fr. Daniel Muires and Ken Mansfield, Oblate directors, and Abbot Peter Novecosky.

July 2 — To enter into the spirit of Sask. Centennial, three abbey organ recitals will be offered to the public:

*July 2 — by Renee Moissac, St. Benedict



Gregory Schulte displayed his skill at an organ recital Aug. 7.

*Aug. 7 — Gregory Schulte

*Oct. 23 — Glenn Goodman

July 2 - 16 — Two choir camps for youngsters came to the abbey: Teen camp, 12 - 16 years, 87 participants; Junior camp 8 - 12 years, 40 students.

July 13 — As noted above, Br. Gregory Brodner died peacefully on this day at the abbey.

July 18 — The new president of St. Peter's College was selected on June 10. Robert Harasymchuk assumes his duties on this day.

Aug. 18 — Br. Paul Paproski, our deacon, returned to St. Vincent's Archabbey for his last year of theological studies before his ordination to the priesthood Aug. 12.

Aug. 20 — One year ago the killer-frost wiped out most of the garden and



Abbey visitators were Fr. Kevin Sheeran, OSB, St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Ill., and Abbot Timothy Kelly, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Collegetown, Minn.

crops. This year, after very warm days in July and frequent rains, all is ripening and in full swing. The early raspberries set the pace. Thus we end our chronicle with most grateful hearts.



Tree planters planted 40 acres of abbey land with three varieties of hybrid poplar — Green Giant, Walker and North West. Approximately 33,000 trees were planted. A joint venture between St. Peter's Abbey and Earthcare Connections.



Repairing the roof on the former college gym, St. Peter's Press and Abbacy Centre building, now partially used for Earthcare Connections offices, cutter bee larvae and storage.



St. Peter's Abbey had a float in the Muenster parade on Aug. 6. On the float were, from left, Fr. Jerome Weber, Abbot Peter Novecosky, Br. Paulus Truong Nguyen and Fr. James Gray.

Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk tells his life story

By Werner Renneberg, OSB

“I was born Feb. 13, 1958, in Regina, to Joe and Elsa Wasylyniuk. Our family residence was at Watrous, Sask. I was born, one of twin boys, being five minutes junior to my brother, Alex. Our father was Ukrainian Catholic and mother was Missouri Synod Lutheran. Baptism was a problem for my parents. As a compromise my parents had me baptized in the United Church and later I was re-baptized in the Ukrainian Catholic Church. While serving at Maple Creek, Gravelbourg diocese, I joined the Roman Catholic Church.

“We lived in the town of Watrous during the winter and on the farm during the summer. I attended grade and high school in Watrous. Once out of high school I decided to go off on my own. My father and brother would have liked me to train as a teacher and also be involved with them on the farm. I decided to train for a mortician and enter the funeral business.

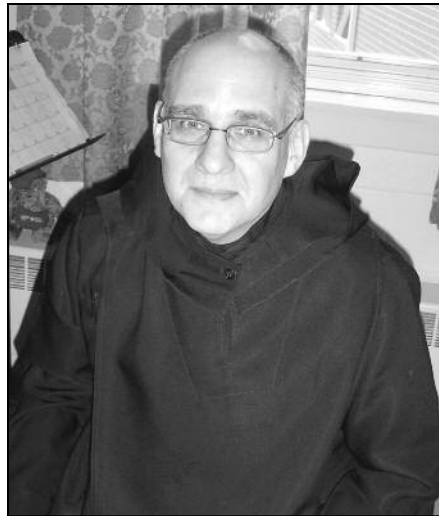
“I received the Bachelor of Mortician Science degree in 1975, having studied at Saskatchewan Funeral Services and the University of Saskatchewan. My practicum as a mortician was spent in Humboldt with Scharf’s Funeral Services in 1975 - 76.

“I worked on my own in the funeral industry services in Maple Creek in 1976 and remained in the business until 1982. From 1983 - 86, I worked with the Kindersley Community Funeral Services, a co-operative, until 1986.

“However, an accident occurred on Aug. 25, 1978, in which I was severely injured. The safety strap tore on a cemetery monument we were placing on site and it fell on me. The next 11 months were spent in Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon.

“This experience was a touchstone or turning point in my life, though I didn’t realize it until 1986. I began walking again in 1979 and as soon as I was able, returned to Maple Creek to resume full work.

“During my convalescence I embarked on a journey of “centring prayer” (Jesus prayer). Among other things, it kept me from excessive use of medication to handle pain. It served as a medi-



Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, OSB

um to take a good look at my life.

“In January 1983, I embarked on a journey to Ukraine and Russia in order to find my roots. I remained there for about nine months.

“While working in Humboldt I became aware of St. Peter’s Abbey at Muenster. I had met Fathers Maurice, Martin and Florian. After leaving Maple Creek in 1983, I kept in contact with St. Peter’s Abbey especially through Fathers Florian and Maurice. The idea of a monastic vocation was slowly surfacing.

“It was a very difficult decision to leave my profession and the attributes that accompanied it. However, in the fall of 1986, I took first year Arts at St. Peter’s College and under the suggestion of Fr. Maurice, applied for candidacy for becoming a monk. That year there were six candidates, then three entered novitiate. My first vows were made in 1989. Of the six, I was the only one to persevere.

“As I was a candidate for the priesthood, I was sent to Mt. Angel Abbey in Oregon, U.S.A., for my seminary studies. I was ordained to the priesthood in St. Peter’s Cathedral at Muenster on June 29, 1996, by Bishop Blaise Morand of Prince Albert.

“Ordination as a R.C. priest was a bit of a problem. Having been baptized in the Ukrainian Catholic Church meant I belonged to that rite. However, the first baptism in the United Church was a valid baptism, even though it had not been rec-

ognized as such by the Ukrainian Catholic priest at the time. The difficulties were soon cleared, and the ordination went ahead.

“Things happened very quickly after I was ordained. I was soon appointed Guest Master and Director of Student Services for St. Peter’s College. Since 1997 to the present I have been serving on the College Board of Governors. Fr. Xavier, of happy memory, taught me the art of bee keeping.”

Fr. Demetrius first detected cancer in 1997. It has been an ongoing problem with many trips and a variety of treatments at Royal University Hospital, Saskatoon. Ever since the accident his life has been precarious. This has not proven to be an obstacle to his vocation, to physical and intellectual work. Indeed, in summertime one can see him busy with guests, fixing or rearranging rooms, and a few minutes later hurriedly walking to the shed for the old Minneapolis Moline tractor, and then shortly seeing him speed along with a two-wheel trailer behind the tractor to do whatever work he has planned.

His long association with RUH (Royal University Hospital) has resulted in Fr. Demetrius having long-standing relationships and friendships with many professionals involved in health care. All his past experiences make him a prime candidate to substitute for pastors unable to take funeral services in their parishes, or for families of deceased who have been impressed with Fr. Demetrius and ask him to preside at the funeral and share the grief.

In answer to the question about how matters are at present, Fr. Demetrius replied:

“I try to be gentle and hospitable to all comers. I try to be forthright and frank in my dealings with people. As with all monks, I try to see the face of Christ in my brothers, despite my own infirmities and those of my brother monks.

“From my time in Ukraine and Russia in 1983, this story from Ukrainian Folklore depicts the plight of the Ukrainian peasants under both the rule of Czar and Communism — the wolf is the same for both forms of government.”

Continued on next page

Abbey marks 100 years of weather service

For more than 100 years St. Peter's Abbey in Muenster, Sask., has been recording temperature readings and weather observations for Environment Canada's Meteorological Service of Canada.

It is rare to have one family or organization involved in climatological observations from one site for as long as 100 years. This is truly a milestone to receive a 100-year award in a province that is celebrating its 100th birthday in the same year. This award was presented on behalf of the Government of Canada as a token of appreciation for the length of service provided by St. Peter's Abbey and also for the recognition of the quality and accuracy of their data.

Father James Gray, OSB, has been observing the weather since August 1989. The award was given to him on behalf of St. Peter's Abbey.

The first temperature reading at St. Peter's Abbey was taken on Jan. 1, 1904, by Br. Maurus Schwaiger, OSB. The minimum temperature on that day was -9 F (-23 C) and the maximum temperature was +1 degree F (-17 C).

Since that time more than 20 members of the community of St. Peter's Abbey have been involved in weather observations. Br. Bruno Koneceni recorded weather observations for the longest period, 25 years, from 1941 to 1966.

In Canada, there is a network of more



Fr. James Gray, OSB, noting the day's weather.

than 1,000 climatological observers who make daily observations and record temperature extremes, amounts of precipitation and general remarks concerning the weather in their location. The long-term data records like those collected by St. Peter's Abbey, provide a basis from which scientists can begin to define in a more knowledgeable position and make recommendations concerning the effects of

weather in agriculture, forestry, energy, water management and climate change. Congratulations, St. Peter's Abbey!

Since the above picture was taken Environment Canada supplied the abbey with a new free-standing observation station, very like the old. The old stood on a 25-gal. gasoline barrel and was tied to a power post to prevent the wind from upsetting it.

Fr. Demetrius relates Ukrainian folktale about life

Continued from previous page

The Hungry Wolf

An old man and woman lived in a hut with their young daughter, their son, a dog and fifteen lambs. The Hungry Wolf came along one day and began to sing:

"In a little straw hut that somebody made

Are living together, so cool in the shade,
An old man and woman, a lad and a girl,

A dog and fifteen lambs."

The old man was afraid of the Hungry Wolf, and said to his son, "Boy! Boy! Give the Hungry Wolf a lamb!"

The boy gave the Hungry Wolf a lamb. The Hungry Wolf ate the lamb in one mouthful and began to sing again:

"In a little straw hut. . ."

The old man said, "Boy! Boy! Give the Hungry Wolf another lamb!"

The boy gave the Wolf another lamb. The Hungry Wolf ate the lamb in one mouthful and began to sing again: "In a little straw hut. . ."

They gave him another lamb and he ate it, continuing until he had eaten all the lambs. Then the Hungry Wolf began to sing his song once more:

"In a little straw hut that somebody made

Are living together, so cool in the shade,

And old man and woman, a lad and a girl,

And a dog."

The old man said, "Boy! Boy! Give

the Hungry Wolf the dog!" The boy gave the Hungry Wolf the dog.

Next the girl, the boy and the old woman were given to the Hungry Wolf, who gulped them down in one mouthful for each. Again the Hungry Wolf began to sing. The old man said, "Now the Hungry Wolf wants to eat me!" As frightened as he was, the old man took his club and hit the Hungry Wolf over the head so hard that he was split wide open. Immediately, everybody jumped out — the old woman, the young boy and girl, the dog and fifteen lambs.

The conclusion of this story is Ukraine becoming a country of its own. The Wolf is the oppressive regime of the first Czar and then Communism. The day has come. The Wolf is split open.

Deaths: remember the faithful departed

Since the last newsletter the following have passed into eternity:

Sept. 7 — Fr. Eugene Dehner, OSB, St. Benedict's Abbey, Kan.
Oct. 4 — Fr. Kenneth Mayer, OSB, St. Mary's Abbey, NJ.
Oct. 6 — Fr. Cronin Tyms, OSB, St. Mary's Abbey, NJ.
Sept. 25 — Fr. Philip Ghys, OSB, St. Vincent's Archabbey, Penn.
Oct. 25 — Fr. Clement Heid, OSB, St. Vincent's Archabbey, Penn.
Nov. 1 — Br. Placid Cremonese, OSB, St. Vincent's Archabbey, Penn.
Nov. 2 — Fr. Neal Lawrence, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
Nov. 8 — Fr. Alexander Minchich, OSB, Holy Trinity Monastery, Butler, Penn.
Nov. 19 — Fr. Benedict LaRocque, OSB, St. Benedict's Abbey, Kan.
Nov. 26 — Br. Dennis McCarthy, OSB, St. Leo Abbey, Fla.
Nov. 29 — Fr. Finbar O'Mahoney, OSB, St. Anselm Abbey, NH.

Dec. 1 — Fr. Gunther Rolfson, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
Jan. 2 — Fr. Burkard Arnheiter, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
Jan. 27 — Fr. Robert Gannon, OSB, St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sk.
Jan. 9 — Br. Patrick Sullivan, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
March 2 — Fr. Jose Mascareno, OSB, St. Bernard Abbey, Ala.
April 1 — Fr. Henry Anderl, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
April 10 — Fr. Melchior Freund, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
April 28 — Fr. Theodore Seneschal, OSB, St. Gregory's Abbey, Okla.
May 6 — Fr. Placid Hatfield, OSB, St. Bede's Abbey, Ill.
June 22 — Br. Obl. Donald LaPlante, OSB, St. Andrew's Abbey, Ohio
July 8 — Br. Mark Zavatsky, OSB, Holy Trinity Monastery, Penn.
July 8 — Fr. Silvan Bromenshenkel, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Minn.
July 13 — Br. Gregory Brodner, OSB, St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sk.
July 31 — Fr. William Maat, OSB, St. Martin's Abbey, Wash.



Candidates for St. Peter's Abbey were received Sept. 3: Carl McNally, Kevin Yakimoski and Fr. Jean LaBerge, along with Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB, vocations director.

In your last will and testament
 please remember St. Peter's Abbey.

Our legal title is:
ORDER OF ST. BENEDICT
 Muenster, SK S0K 2Y0

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Editor: Werner Renneberg, OSB

Regular contributors: Abbot Peter Novecosky, OSB; Martin Brodner, OSB

Logo by Kurt Van Kuren, OSB

St. Peter's Bote

Translated by Werner Renneberg, OSB

Seven volumes, each covering one year, from February 1904, are now completed. Cost per volume is \$20 plus postage, with Vols. 2 and 4 @\$21.

Items of pertinent interest to people homesteading in St. Peter's Colony have been translated. It was a very different world 100 years ago. Feelings of mutual animosity, misunderstandings and suspicions between Catholics and Protestants ran high and are reflected in the writings. Catholic bishops, priests and many lay people's greatest fear was "indifferentism": the thinking that all that mattered is that people were Christian. Denominations were not important, and no denomination should teach its own creed in schools. We, of course, have our own version of that when Christmas songs and decorations are said to be discriminatory against non-Christians.

Along with the above, there was also a very powerful movement to completely do away with religion. Did not the religious wars in Europe show that religion only divides people, and does so with violent killings and destruction?

Catholics and Protestants alike saw the ravages of the French Revolution where the attempt was made to completely secularize France. The German "Kulturkampf" (cultural war) tried to do the same. However, German Catholics rallied and prevented it.

German Catholics in Western Canada also wanted to unite in a similar fashion. St. Peter's Colony's abbot and priests were in the forefront, organizing and holding "Katholkentage" (Catholic days of meetings). They organized the "Volksverein" (people's organization) intended to withstand attempts to secularize society.

This was shortly before World War I. Not without reason did the Canadian government look suspiciously at the Germans. It will be like reading a mystery novel to see what happened in the two World Wars, and how the German Catholics proved themselves to be loyal Canadians.