

St. Peter's Abbey Newsletter



Vol. 31 No. 1 Winter and Spring 2009

James Gray, monk, priest, teacher, hermit, dies

By Abbot Peter Novecosky, and
Werner Renneberg, O.S.B.

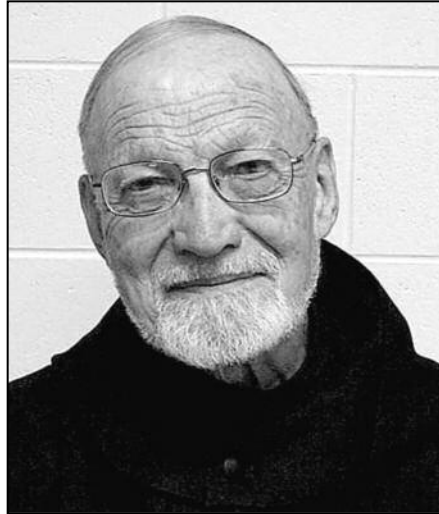
Fr. James Gray, O.S.B., was a man of culture and learning. He died Easter Monday, April 13, in the Humboldt District Hospital, eight days after he was hospitalized when the aorta in his heart suffered a tear on the afternoon of Passion Sunday.

Son of Mounted Police William Gray and Rosa Haengen, James William Gray was born on Feb. 6, 1927 and grew up in the environs of the Abbey in Muenster. He received his primary education at Ives rural school, his high school at St. Peter's College and his seminary training at St. John's Abbey and University, Collegeville, Minn. He made his profession of vows in 1947 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1953.

Fr. James' interests were wide ranging and eclectic. Through the high school and college English courses he taught, he influenced generations of students through his encouragement of independent thinking and critical evaluation of literary works and current trends in society.

Fr. James was editor of the *Prairie Messenger* from 1962 to 1972, and was a strong supporter of the renewal of the Second Vatican Council. Over more than four decades, he reviewed hundreds of books for the *Prairie Messenger*.

Fr. James chose to live a solitary life at "Marnatha," a hermitage on Abbey grounds, a lifestyle for 30 years. He joined the monastic community daily for the Eucharist and he made it his ministry to visit the elderly and sick at St. Mary's Villa in Humboldt every Thursday evening. He was also a faithful weatherman, making observations every morning and evening for 20 years



Fr. James Gray, O.S.B.

(1989-2009).

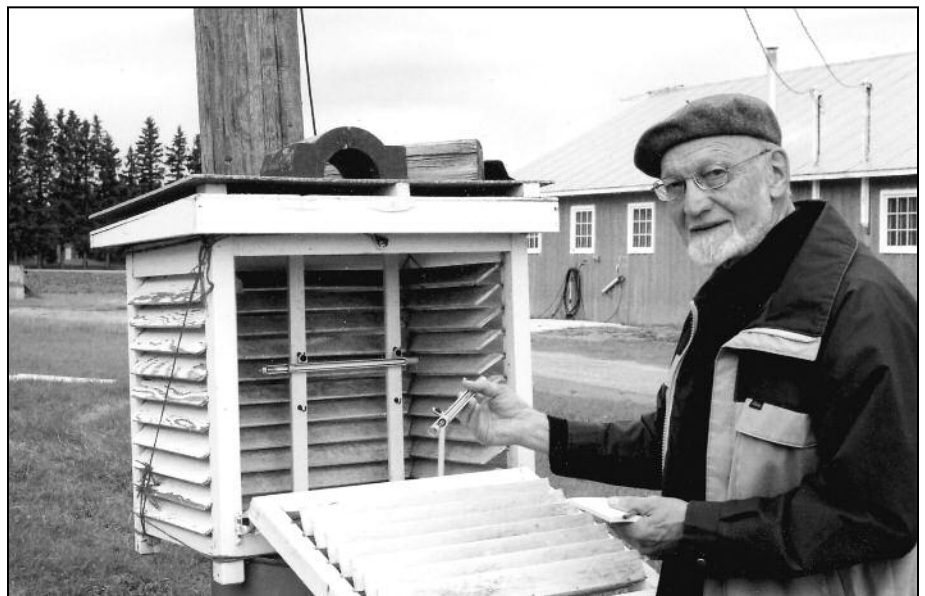
Fr. James served the Benedictine community as subprior from 1966-71 and as novice master from 2002-08. His visit to Brazil in 1970, and a meeting

with Archbishop Helder Camara in Recife, nourished a life-long interest in the abbacy mission there and a concern for the poor and powerless.

Fr. James loved gardening. Year after year he planted a row of sweet peas and another of sunflowers in the monastic garden. The latter seeds were intended to feed the birds that relied on his generosity for food. He also tended a small flower garden near the Abbey for many years.

A much-sought-after spiritual guide and confidant, Fr. James had a large number of friends with whom he kept in contact through letters and notes.

He was predeceased by his parents, William Gray and Rosa Haengen Gray; by his brothers John, Alex and Bob, and sisters Janet (George) Nenzel, Alice (Ted) Bergerman and Margaret (Joe) Hofmann. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Rose (Bob) Gray, and many nieces and nephews.



Fr. James records the daily temperature.

A message from Abbot Peter's desk

Dear friends of St. Peter's Abbey,

Life at the monastery is experiencing some significant changes. Chief among them has been the death of two longtime monks. The death of Abbot Jerome Weber was reported in last fall's newsletter. This issue records the passing of Fr. James Gray. Both men will be sorely missed by the community and by their friends.

Since our last newsletter, Fr. Andrew Britz had returned to the Abbey where he now gets around with the aid of a power chair. After spending a month in the Humboldt District Hospital, he returned to the Abbey Dec. 6 and is adjusting well. In December Fr. Roman Schneider also retired from pastoral work in Marysburg and Burr, once he could no longer drive. He continues a ministry of presence at the Abbey. Fr. Leo Hinz also retired to the Abbey this fall.

Other major changes are occurring at

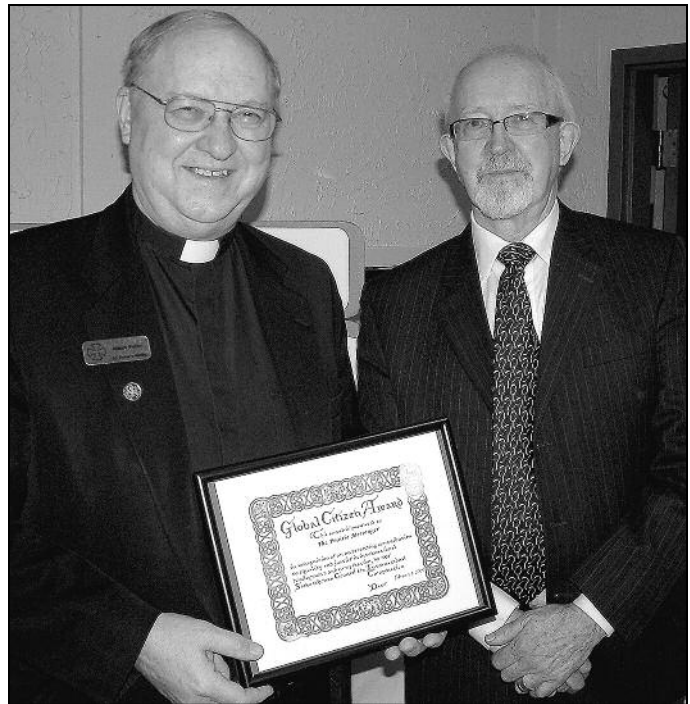
St. Peter's College. New programs are being implemented, bringing with them an increase of students. A demand for more residence spaces moved the community to renovate the lower level of Severin Hall Guestwing. Full bathrooms are being added to the rooms and the work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Some provincial government grants to upgrade our college building will see improvements being made to the sports complex and a new elevator added to Michael Hall.

The student body at the College has completed another successful year. We wish them

well in their future endeavours.

We are grateful for the guests who continue to come and enjoy quiet time and space at the Abbey. We also are grateful to the volunteers who pitch in and help us to maintain our grounds, our buildings and our monastic lifestyle.



Abbot Peter Novecosky accepts the Global Citizen Award on behalf of the Prairie Messenger at an evening celebration in Humboldt Feb. 1. Presenting the award was Michael Murphy, provincial animator for Development and Peace, which nominated the newspaper for the award presented annually by the Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation.

Scholarship in name of Fr. James

The memory of Fr. James Gray, a cultural and educational pioneer, will be preserved with an endowed scholarship at St. Peter's College.

The Fr. James Gray Academic Centre of Excellence Scholarship will reward St. Peter's College students who succeed academically in English, a discipline he taught for many years. Applicants will also need to demonstrate financial need.

"Fr. James was renowned as an English professor and a mentor," said colleague and friend Dr. Barbara Langhorst, humanities co-ordinator at the College. "He believed that the study of English literature is an integral key to the success of any discipline or degree."

Fr. James had a significant impact on students, especially those enrolled in Education, Arts and Science. He valued quiet reflection and contemplation and was often found helping students and mentoring others. After his retirement, the College's Academic Centre for Excellence was named for him to celebrate and continue his work.

To continue his positive influence, friends, family, colleagues and former students have expressed an interest in establishing a Fr. James' Scholarship. Organizers hope the annual award, which will be provided by the College in perpetuity, will be at least \$1,000. Using typical endowment disbursement policies, every \$10,000 raised will increase the award's value by \$500. Organizers plan to disburse the inaugural award at the College's scholarship ceremonies this fall.

Contributions to the Fr. James Gray Academic Centre for Excellence Scholarship can be mailed to the St. Peter's College Development Office, Box 40 Muenster, SK S0K 2Y0, by calling (306) 682-7853 or by e-mailing development@stpeters.sk.ca

Book of memoirs for Fr. James

Fr. James Gray, who died April 13, made a deep impression on many people. His influence was wide, despite the fact that he spent many years as a hermit.

We would like to commemorate the life of Fr. James by publishing a book of "memoirs" in his honour. We are calling for submissions from people who found him a significant influence in their lives — stories that describe how you met him and what his charisma was for you.

We would like to assemble a collection of 20 or so stories, varying in length from 1,000 to 5,000 words. Each story would form its own chapter.

Donald Ward, associate editor of the Prairie Messenger, has agreed to be the editor of the book, and we have assembled a team of readers to assess the submissions we receive.

If you are interested in submitting a story to this memorial publication, please send it by Aug. 31, 2009 to: Donald Ward, c/o Prairie Messenger, PO Box 190, Muenster, SK S0K 2Y0

People and events around the Abbey

By Werner Renneberg, O.S.B.

2008

We celebrated our annual "Family Day" Dec. 26. A number of family, relatives and friends came to the Abbey in the afternoon to skate, shoot basketballs in the gym, play cards or to sit and chat, while munching on the goodies the families brought.

In early October Br. Wolfgang Thiem, O.S.B., flew to Germany to visit his sister, knowing that later he would be hospitalized for surgery. On his return he had several inches of the large intestine removed surgically. Full recovery has been slow. In late November he was again hospitalized, to return to the Abbey Dec. 5. Br. Wolfgang is a skilled carpenter and stone mason, trades learned partially while serving in the German army during World War II.



Sept. 1 — Fr. Leo Hinz, O.S.B., who had multiple hip surgeries, returned to the Abbey from his parishes.

Oct. 14 - 15 — Fr. Martin Rath, O.S.B., from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., paid us a visit. He had

been visiting relatives in Cudworth.

Oct. 23 — Br. Michael Maher, CRSIRP, presented the "55 Alive Mature Driving" program to older members of the community along with a number of Ursuline Sisters. The program is intended to make people conscious of the effects of aging, allowing the elderly to drive cars safer and longer.

Oct. 25 — A fair number of Benedictine Oblates came to the Abbey for their regular Mass and meeting. Abbot Peter spoke on the recent meeting of abbots in Rome and showed pictures of the Rome meeting, and places connected with St. Benedict. Oblate Celine Wolsfeld reported on the Eucharistic Congress in Quebec city.

Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 — Some 30 Ukrainian Youth For Christ, along with Bishop Bryan Bayda from Saskatoon, came to

the Abbey for a short retreat. The bishop presided at the Ukrainian Catholic All Souls Sunday Mass for the Abbey.

Nov. 3 — Weather report this morning included freezing rain in much of southern Sask. Sure enough. The concrete walk to the car garage was a sheet of ice. Muenster streets were very slippery. Driving west on No. 5 highway was not bad because fairly heavy traffic had partially melted the ice. But on the west side of the highway bend, clearly, there had been little or no rain. Humboldt streets were dry. Traffic going east from Humboldt met a surprise at the road bend west of Muenster. A number of vehicles took the ditch. Wed., Nov. 12 weather report again stressed freezing rain in much of the south. This time both Muenster and Humboldt were not affected. However there were occasional snow flurries during the day. By evening we had some three inches of wet snow. Winter is here to stay for the next five or so months.



Mr. & Mrs. Ken Miller

Nov. 14 — Ken Miller, coach of the Saskatchewan Roughrider football team, and his wife, Maureen, were guests at the Abbey for a few days of relaxation after a hectic football season.



Fr. David Berezowski

Nov. 24 — Fr. David Berezowski, military chaplain stationed at 15 Wing, Moose Jaw, was a guest at the Abbey. He was born and raised in Toronto and ordained in 2004 by

the bishop of the Canadian Military Diocese. He is a member of Canada's military with the rank of Navy lieutenant. He served the military in Halifax for a time; then spent six months on a ship in the Persian Gulf before being transferred to Moose Jaw.

Nov. 28 — We held our annual chapter meeting.

Nov. 29 — The Saskatchewan State Board and program directors of the Knights of Columbus, along with some of their wives, were at the Abbey for a regular meeting and Advent retreat. Abbot Peter is chaplain of the Saskatchewan State Board. 25 men and women were registered by the guest department.

Dec. 1 — David and Gracie Milligan were accepted as candidates for St. Peter's Abbey Oblates. The couple are live-in caretakers of Queen's House in Saskatoon.



Fr. Rudolph Novecosky, O.S.B., paraplegic as a result of a hunting accident, seated in his wheelchair at his office desk, returned to the Abbey from his parish July 2, 2008.

Dec. 4 — Fr. Rudolph was officially installed and blessed as Novice/Candidate Master during evening Vespers. Now, what we need are novices. May the gracious Lord provide these and help us introduce them into true Benedictinism!

People and events around the Abbey

Dec. 8 - 11 — Fr. Vasyl Kravchuk, C.Ss.R., serving at St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church, Saskatoon, spent several days here. He was born in the Ukraine, joined the Redemptorists in 1997; was ordained in Lviv, Ukraine, May 3, 2005; came to Canada June 2007. He knew no English before coming to Canada.



Fr. Vasyl Kravchuk, C.Ss.R.



Br. Pierre taking Fr. Roman's blood pressure.

Dec. 12 — For a routine examination by his doctor in the Humboldt clinic, Fr. Roman was diagnosed with dangerously high blood pressure and admitted to the Humboldt hospital. He has since been at the Abbey and has retired from pastoring his two parishes, St. Scholastica, Burr, and Assumption, Marysburg.

Dec. 25 — The weather has been rather cold for the past while. We had a fair bit of fluffy snow which mostly lay where it fell because we had little wind. As customary, we had our Midnight Mass at midnight. A number of visitors joined our community in celebrating the birthday of Jesus. Abbot Peter presided at the Mass.

Dec. 31 — The old year closed with a violent blizzard. No new snow was falling,

but there was an abundance of the fluffy white just waiting for a strong wind. And it did move, piling up wherever the wind allowed. Fr. Daniel, our snow plow operator, cleared our roads and yards Jan. 1. He said all worked very well because the sky was clear, a bright sun shining, and very little wind, so he could blow the snow in whatever direction he chose.

2009

Jan. 1 — Again, as customary, we saw the old year out and the new year in at midnight. It was a beautiful ceremony, with Abbot Peter presiding. It was called "Passage to the New Year," and made up of "Proclamation of the Light" sung by Br. Kurt. Proclamation of "The Word of God" (Isaiah 11:1-10) was read by Br. Pius. The gospel (Luke 12:35-48) was proclaimed by Abbot Peter. This was followed by the "Proclamation of the date of Easter" beautifully sung by Br. Kurt. This also contained a number of other dates, such as big feast days, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Advent. The ceremony concluded with all singing "Joy to the World." And so we bade goodbye to the old and welcomed the new year with faith, love and trust.

"Proclamation of Thanksgiving" at which community members as well as guests could publicly express their thanks for happenings in the past year concluded our Vespers service earlier.

Jan. 4 — Lee Evoy, LaRonge, was here as a live-in for a number of days. He became a candidate in February.



Lee Evoy

Jan. 7 - 8 — Abbot Peter preached a retreat at the Abbey for the Prince Albert Catholic School Division administrators on the theme, "Go Where Jesus Would Go."

Jan. 11 - 17 — Fr. Lawrence attended the Worldwide Marriage Encounter international meeting in Vancouver.

Jan. 16 — The prolonged cold weather finally relented. The temperature this



Abbey "semis" — Fr. Andrew, in his power chair, pulls Fr. Rudolph, seated in his wheelchair, along Abbey corridors.

afternoon reached a high of one-half degree below 0 C. The beautiful weather continued for a few days, gradually getting colder with heavy fog, some snow flurries and gorgeous hoar frost on the trees Jan. 22. Forecast is for colder temperatures.

Feb. 1 & 6 — The Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation presented a Global Citizens award to the Prairie Messenger. Editor Abbot Peter attended suppers in Humboldt, Feb. 1 and in Regina, Feb. 6.

Feb. 5 — The cold weather broke at the end of January, but the temperature seldom exceeded 0 degrees, to the joy of natural hockey and curling rinks, and those involved in scheduling games. There is a fair covering of snow. We've had no freezing rain so far.

Feb. 12 - 16 — Abbot Peter attended the annual Benedictine abbots' conference at St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, Alabama, on the topic, "Dealing with difficult people."

Feb. 17 - 20 — Abbot Peter attended the annual meeting of the bishops of Western Canada in Edmonton. He is secretary for the group.

Feb. 18 — The weather has been consistently cold, the lows being around the minus 20's. A little snow fell, but there were only a few days with medium to strong wind. It was quite foggy today and the trees looked beautiful in the sunlight.

Feb. 24 — The Men in Black sponsored the annual Medieval feast on Shrove Tuesday.



Joshua Mansfield

Feb. 25 — Joshua Mansfield, son of resident Ken Mansfield, was here for a 10-day live-in.

Rev. David Lauch, C.Ss.R., St. Mary's Parish, Saskatoon, was here for a few days.

March 2 — A Lenten series of talks on St. Paul by Eugene La Verdere was held in the Abbey every Monday night during Lent.

March 3 - 6 — The Provincial House of Bishops, Anglican province of Rupert Land, were here for a retreat.

March 5 — The weather remained cold as February went into March. While much of the Atlantic seaboard from mid-southern U.S. states down to the Canadian Maritimes, had heavy snow or rain, we had little snowfall. This morning we had heavy fog and at noon the temperature was 0 C.

The new lift down to the basement floor and refectory is being installed. The old lift served for many years. It no longer passed safety inspection.

March 12 — Scott Dunbar, professor of religious studies in St. Peter's College, gave an interesting talk on Humor in Religion. He pointed out that all religions have their humor. Humor is an essential element in well being.



Scott Dunbar

March 13 — The cold weather finally broke with the thermometer hovering mostly a little below 0 C. Reports are that this year's March was the coldest on record.

March 15 — Members of the community and some 40 other interested people gathered at St. Peter's College to listen to Andrew Nikiforuk speaking on "The

Great Tar Sands Debate" as well as other environmentally dangerous, expensive and short term investments some politicians and others are promoting.

March 25 — Freezing rain at night, followed by about two inches of wet snow on the night of March 23-24 made for treacherous driving conditions. Low temperature and fairly strong winds prevented the highway crew from clearing the road of ice and snow packs. Bright sunlight later in the week melted the snow and ice on the roads.

The religious superiors of Saskatchewan met at the Abbey for business, leisure and supper.



Basement of Severin Hall is being remodeled into individual boarding rooms, mainly for foreign university students.

March 31 — Renovations begin in lower Severin Hall Guestwing, to make suitable accommodations for college students.

April 5 — In the afternoon today, Passion Sunday, Fr. James Gray, O.S.B., suffered a ruptured aortic aneurysm. Then, shortly, one leg after the other went numb. He was taken to Humboldt by ambulance and from there taken to Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Since nothing could be done for Fr. James, he was returned to the Humboldt hospital where he died peacefully at 10:10 on Easter Monday, April 13.

April 6 — The cold March air turned milder during the last few days of the month, and has persisted in being around 0 C. during the day and colder at night. The big thaw is yet to come.

April 15 — The weather had been pleasant since the end of March, The snow



Fr. James giving a "handout" to hungry birds near his bush hermitage.

gradually disappeared, with much of it soaking into the ground. By Holy Saturday our water reservoir was filled and the Wolverine Creek was slowly flowing. It has been a rather slow thaw. But today we had light rain showers followed by snow flurries. The snow melted as quickly as it fell.

April 16 — We woke up with 12 cm. (nearly 5 inches) of wet and heavy snow this morning. Light snow kept falling in the forenoon, bringing the total to about 6 inches.

April 19 — Jorge da Costa, Portuguese, decided to leave the Abbey, after spending several months here as a candidate.



Jorge da Costa

April 22 — The snow is nearly gone and we are blessed with abundant moisture in the fields, gardens and prairie. We are hoping and praying for a bountiful crop year.



Five monks, each with their own infirmities: Frs. Werner, Rudolph, Roman, Leo and Andrew.

Oblate Day celebrated

By Werner Renneberg, O.S.B.

St. Peter's Abbey Oblate day, March 28, began with Mass celebrated by Abbot Peter. At the Mass two Oblates were invested: Luke Coupal and Carl McNally, and three, Neil Adam, Dorothy and Michel Fortier, made their final oblation.

In the afternoon Msgr. Don Bolen of Regina, an Oblate of St. Peter's himself, who had completed seven years serving in Rome, involved with ecumenical talks with the Anglicans and Methodists, presented a talk on his experience, not only in Rome, but in several other countries where high level ecumenical talks were held.

Bolen emphasized the importance of listening to one another and witnessing how grace and the Spirit of God is at work in the various religions. There have been serious hurts in the past and it will take time to heal the wounds. But great things are happening since Vatican Council II, he said.

In the Prairie Messenger, March 18, 2009, Bolen quoted a Reformed pastor in France, who said "We used to kill each other. Then we called each other terrible names. Then we started to talk to each other. Now we pray together, we cooperate in all sorts of ways. We are peacefully separated."

In the second session, Fr. Rudolph, Oblate Director, began a series of talks on Sacred Scripture on a practical level. He had a question and answer period on the beatitudes and on chapter 11, verses 33-37 from St. Paul's letter to the Romans.

The afternoon ended with a mediative reading on the meaning of fasting.



Msgr. Don Bolen



Ken Mansfield, Abbot Peter, Fr. Rudolph, Luke Coupal and Carl McNally.



Ken Mansfield, Neil Adam, Abbot Peter, Dorothy and Michel Fortier, Fr. Rudolph.

Charitable Giving * The Value of your Gift * RRSP or Charitable Donation, or Both?

For about the last 8-9 years the number of Canadians who donate money, insurance policies, property or other articles to the charitable Institute of their choice has grown phenomenally. Why? Is it considered a duty? Is it considered spiritual? Or is it for other reasons? When asked, the contributors agree it is all of the preceding and also includes a very important financial consideration. It helps to reduce their taxes and allows them to direct funds to organizations (churches, hospitals, animal shelters, missionary endeavours, etc.) that they feel a close association or bonding with.

Now, I know how much everyone likes to read an article loaded with 'very important numbers and percentages' and how calming those articles can be when you are having trouble sleeping at night. In fact, when I've asked some people, to whom these articles were mailed, they said, "We really enjoyed your article and, in fact, we had the best sleep in ages while reading it."

So, trying to be the ever accommodating, and inspiring writer, I am going to avoid any complicated math demos or very intriguing government regulatory rules and talk about the 'value' of Charitable Giving by asking you some questions.

1. Were you aware that a contribution to a 'Charitable Organization' can be more financially rewarding than contributing to your RRSP?

2. Did you know, because of recent market volatility, some people have 'gone to cash' and have (or will) trigger capital gains within their portfolios and contributing to a 'Charitable Organization' can offset the taxes on those gains?

3. Did you know that you can contribute to both an RRSP and also a 'Charitable Organization' and, sometimes the 'Charitable Donation' can be for a larger amount than your RRSP limits allow?

4. Did you know that your 'Charitable Contribution' can continue to be of value to you and your family after you pass away?

I could go on but the most important thing about 'Charitable Donations' is this (in my opinion).

"I can choose, by making a Charitable Donation, to give with a 'Warm Hand' or a 'Cold Hand' and my contribution will be considered to be a legacy to that which my family and I believe in, and care most strongly about."

Here is what you should do if you are considering the choices between investing in your RRSP or Investing in your Family Values and Legacy.

Always check with your accountant or financial advisor before implementing any financial strategy that you have read about or heard about. They can do a 'projection of benefits' for you that will enable you to make an 'informed decision.' In addition, make sure the organization you choose for your donation meets the requirements of Canada Revenue Agency to be able to issue you a receipt for your donation. And lastly, the Value of making a 'Charitable Donation' is determined by the heart, not just the balance sheet.

Peter Goddard, CFP, EPC, on behalf of St. Peter's Abbey

Fr. Bernard Stauber enjoys electronics hobby

By Werner Renneberg, O.S.B.

Pastor and electronics handyman is an apt description of Fr. Bernard Stauber, O.S.B.

Archie Stauber, now Fr. Bernard, is the second of four children born to Frank Stauber and his wife, the former Annie Schwingenschloegl. He was born in Pilger, Sask., Nov. 29, 1939. His brothers and sister are: Gerald, David and Colleen.

Already in grade school, Archie was interested in electronics and had his own crystal set, a primitive device to pick up radio signals.

Following high school, Archie was employed for a time in the Bank of Commerce in Humboldt and Canora, Sask. He next decided to become a chartered accountant and studied at the E.J. Dudley Institute. For a time he was employed in Regina, Estevan and Wynyard.

Feeling the call for a change in life, Archie came to St. Peter's College, Muenster, for First Year Arts. Entering novitiate as a Benedictine novice at St. Peter's Abbey in 1963, Archie changed his name to Bernard. He made his novitiate at Muenster along with Wilfred Novecosky, now Abbot Peter, the late Fr. Damian Yaskowich and David Wingerter. The four made their profession as Benedictine monks in 1964 and then went on to complete their studies of philosophy and theology at St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn. They were ordained in 1970. Wingerter dropped out after philosophy. Fr. Damian died in a single vehicle accident, May 11, 1989.

Following ordination, Fr. Bernard served for a time as assistant weekend priest in St. Augustine Parish, Humboldt. At the Abbey he was employed in the press and the Abbey's business office.

Soon the call to be a missionary priest in Brazil came to Fr. Bernard. The abba-

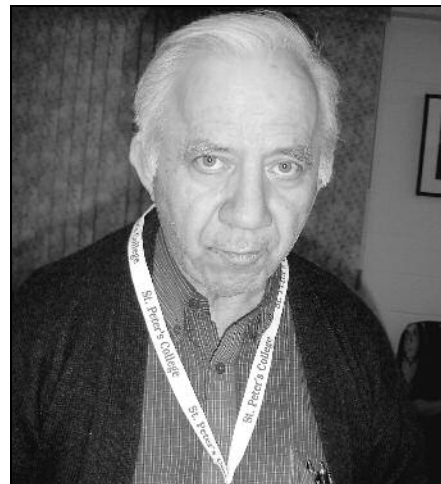
cy already had established a mission in the Maceió area of Brazil with two Benedictine priests along with two Sisters of St. Ursula and two Sisters of St. Elizabeth from Humboldt.

Fr. Bernard entered Brazil in 1973, serving in various places, especially rural areas of Maceió (2 years) and Colonia Leopoldina as rural pastor, traveling by jeep. He was seriously injured in a vehicle accident that hospitalized him for a time and caused him to spend much of two years, 1980 - 82, recuperating, back home at the Muenster Abbey. Returning to Brazil, he served mainly with the Saskatoon mission team in the União dos Palmares area until March, 1997, when he returned to the Abbey at Muenster.

Back at the Abbey, Fr. Bernard served as interim pastor for a short time in Pilger and Marysburg. He was then given charge of the St. Gregor and LeRoy parishes. From there he was appointed pastor of the Pilger and Middle Lake parishes, his present duties. In addition, he was chaplain to the Sisters of St. Elizabeth at Humboldt. He is assisted in his duties by Nancy Gordon of Humboldt, who has taken several courses in theology and pastoral work. Fr. Bernard resides at St. Peter's Abbey, doing his assigned tasks from here.

Being "Mr. Fix-It," Fr. Bernard has gathered a large number of computers, radios, recorders and CDs of various kinds. Most of his CDs are in the Abbey's recreation room for any member of the community to use. During our annual retreats Fr. Bernard can be seen arranging audio equipment and sitting in the audio room, wearing headphones and recording the retreat master's talks. With the aid of various manuals he has taught himself to dismantle and repair computers. It gives him special joy to make things work and to be able to use them with satisfaction.

Fr. Bernard has

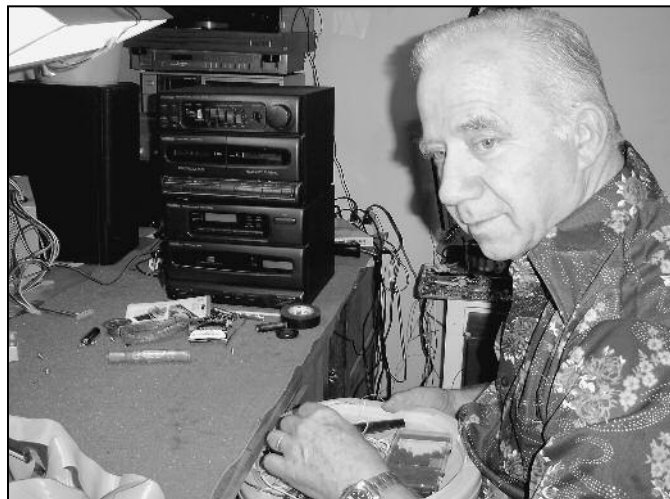


Fr. Bernard Stauber, O.S.B.

installed an automatic bell system calling the community to prayers at various times during the day. He has also installed a speaker system in the church and the adjacent Jerome Assembly room. The system can be operated separately or combined.

The speaker system in the Abbey refectory, used by the table readers at the noon meal, is also the work of Fr. Bernard.

Mixing regular prayers, along with pastoral work and his electronic hobby, Fr. Bernard is frequently asked to help other members of the community when something is amiss. He has a pleasant disposition, wide interests and a wry sense of humor that accompanies his deep understanding of theology, liturgy, local and world news, especially when it comes to the meaning of words and unusual events.



Fr. Bernard busy at his electronics hobby.

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

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

Tapestries from Thakurs find a home at Abbey

By Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, O.S.B.

The tapestries in Severin Guestwing are a gift from the family of Dr. Kripa Shanker Thakur. Dr. K, as he was known, died



From left to right: Dr. Sonia Thakur, mother, Dr. Aruna Thakur, Dr. Smiley (Sarvish) Thakur. Above, one of the beautiful intricate tapestries in Severin Guestwing.

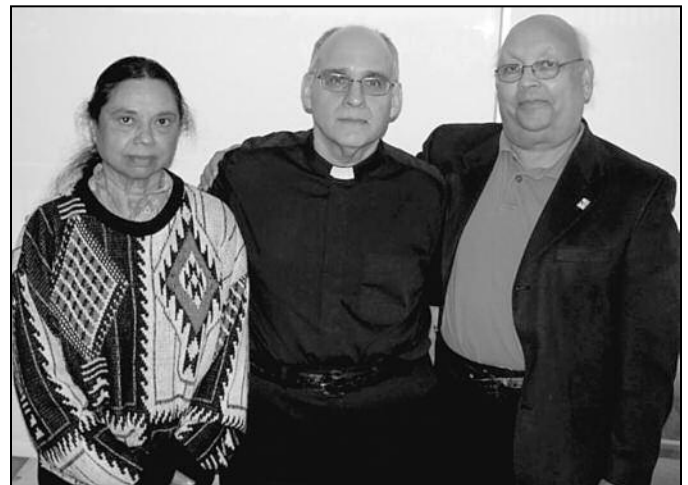
in December of 2007. Dr. Kripa and his wife Dr. Aruna, had been in contact with me regarding the tapestries before Dr. K's passing.

The Thakurs wished to give the tapestries a home in which they would be displayed.

After the passing of Dr. K, his wife, Dr. Aruna, their daughter, Dr. Sonia Thakur Kondal, and their son, Dr. Sarvish Thakur, asked that the tapestries be given in remembrance of Dr. K.

The tapestries depict the medieval period. Each tapestry was authorized by the International Arthurian Society. Loomed of fine wool and cotton they were made by skilled artisans in the tradition of old world tapestry makers and hand adjusted to a heavy cotton lining.

The tapestries were officially received by the Abbey on June 29, 2008. The Thakurs were present for a blessing of the tapestries in their new home, the Severin Guestwing, on that date.



Dr. Aruna Thakur, Fr. Demetrius, Dr. Kripa Thakur

Deaths: remember the faithful departed

Since the last newsletter the following have passed into eternity:

May 29 — Fr. Ignatius Kane, O.S.B., St. Bernard's Abbey
Aug. 23 — Fr. Thomas O'Connor, O.S.B., St. Bernard's Abbey
Sept. 30 — Fr. William, Matyas, O.S.B., St. Andrew's Abbey
Oct. 8 — Br. Kenneth Malloy, O.S.B., St. Martin's Abbey
Oct. 10 — Fr. Louis Sedlacko, O.S.B., St. Vincent Archabbey
Nov. 4 — Fr. Regis Probstfield, O.S.B., Conception Abbey

Nov. 5 — Fr. Joseph Bronder, O.S.B., St. Vincent Archabbey
Nov. 13 — Fr. Frederic Beller, O.S.B., St. Procopius Abbey
Dec. 1 — Fr. Lawrence Sevcik, O.S.B., St. Andrew Abbey
Dec. 5 — Agnes Rauw, Humboldt, Oblate, St. Peter's Abbey
Dec. 12 — Fr. Donald Scales, O.S.B., Mary, Mother of the Church Abbey
Dec. 29 — Br. Dietrich Reinhart, O.S.B., St. John's Abbey
Jan. 21 — Fr. Thomas Laur, O.S.B., St. Anselm Abbey
Feb. 4 — Fr. Bruce Wollmering, O.S.B. St. John's Abbey
Feb. 8 — Fr. Paulinus Selle, O.S.B., St. Vincent Archabbey
Feb. 23 — Fr. Simon Bischof, O.S.B. St. John's Abbey
Feb. 25 — Fr. Dunstan Morrissey, O.S.B., St. Bede's Abbey
March 28 — Fr. Kevin Sheeran, O.S.B., St. Procopius Abbey
April 12 — Annie Bunz, Humboldt, Oblate, St. Peter's Abbey
April 13 — Fr. James Gray, O.S.B., St. Peter's Abbey

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