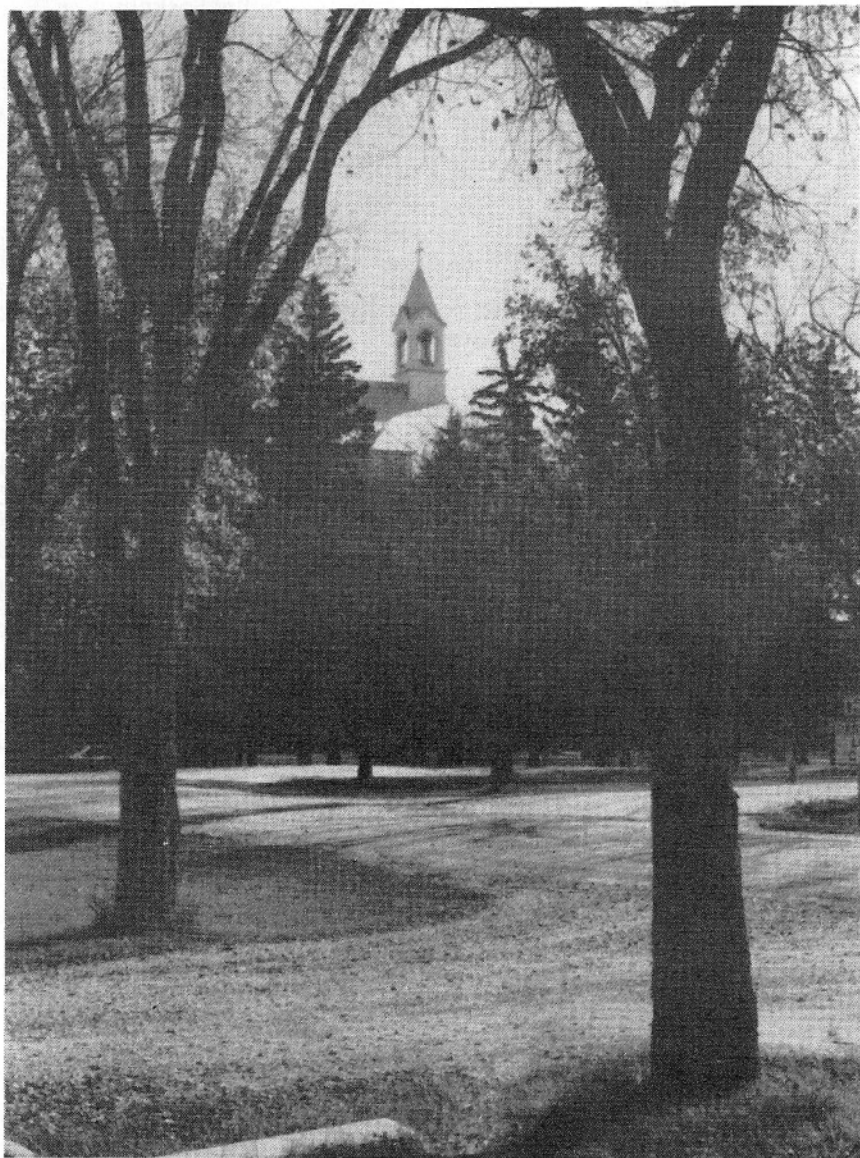


ST. PETER'S
ABBEY

newsletter



Vol. 11, No. 2 Autumn 1987



Abbot Jerome's activities

By Abbot Jerome Weber

The General Chapter of the American Cassinese Confederation (23 monasteries) met for a week at St. Martin's Abbey, Lacey, Washington, Aug. 3 - 7. Father Leo Hinz and I were there representing St. Peter's Abbey. The main item was to finalize a directory for our confederation in order to bring our regulations, customs and norms into line with the new Canon Law. This directory will then be sent to the Congregation of Religious in Rome for approval. En route to the meeting I spent a day in Calgary to visit my sister Bernadette and her family.

On Aug. 7 I joined a classmate of school days (1929-36), Ted Bergerman, and his wife Alice (a sister of Fr. James), in celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at a mass and banquet in Prince Albert.

The following Sunday, Aug. 9, I was at the Elizabethan Convent in Humboldt as several of their sisters celebrated 50th, 60th and one 70th anniversary of profession.

The next day, Aug. 9, Sister Louise Hinz, OSU, and I began our journey to Brazil. For a rather lengthy account of this visit I refer you to the *Prairie Messenger* of Oct. 26, 1987, in that part of it known as the Abbacy Forum. I was really pleased again to see the great esteem and the appreciation in which our priests and sisters are held in the various parishes they serve.

I returned to the Abbey on Sept. 2, but Sister Louise remained with the intention of joining the other sisters in their work.

I attended the annual meeting of the CCCB in Ottawa Sept. 14 - 17. We spoke about the work of the CCODP on its 20th anniversary and the good work it is doing in Third World countries — Asia, Africa, Latin America — mainly with the monies given by the people of Canada in "Share Lent" and the matching grants from the government. Much time was also given in preparing mate-

rial for the Synod of Bishops in Rome to be presented there by the five bishops from Canada.

After the meeting I visited my brother Peter and his family in Barrie, Ont., and officiated at the marriage of his granddaughter Rose Madigan.

The Roman Catholic bishops of Saskatchewan met at Saskatoon on Oct. 5. Much of the time was spent over a "Statement on Agriculture in Saskatchewan" which is to be made public at St. Peter's Abbey, on Nov. 15, 1987. We also met with representatives of the provincial pro-life movement and the provincial CCODP, as well as with some delegates from French societies.

I was happy to be part again of the ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the New Horizons in Humboldt on Oct. 13.

PM correspondents meet

Correspondents from five dioceses were here for our annual meeting Oct. 21 and 22. These are: Kathy Fahey, Regina; Art Babych, Saskatoon; Zita Maier, St. Peter's Abbey; Judy Wagner, Winnipeg; Marie-Rose Gauthier, Prince Albert.

The PM advisory board also met during those days, and Heather Meagher from Regina joined Peter Novacosky, Andrew Britz, Emily Greter and Marian Noll for the meetings. — MN

ST. PETER'S ABBEY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Benedictine community of St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Saskatchewan, S0K 2Y0, three times a year: February, June and October. Deadline: the 15th of the previous month.

Editor: Gerald Moran, OSB

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Photo credits: Albert Ruetz; Gerald Moran; Thomas Ward; Dianne Turner, OSE.

Logo designed by Kurt Van Kuren, OSB.

Work for the Canadian Church

By Fr. Lawrence DeMong, OSB

Our new editor wanted to know "what the heck" I was doing in Ottawa a few weeks ago. So here's my story.

Back in 1969 I was asked to help in updating the Canadian Catechism. For a dozen years I helped with many projects working with teams that gathered in various parts of the country, sometimes here at the abbey or even in New York when the catechism was being prepared for both Canada and the U.S.

The Canadian Catechism proved to be an important tool to introduce new vision of Vatican II to ordinary Catholics. It caused a certain amount of conflict as it tried to move away from the heady memorized messages of the Baltimore Catechism.

From 1982 to 1985 I spent 3½ years

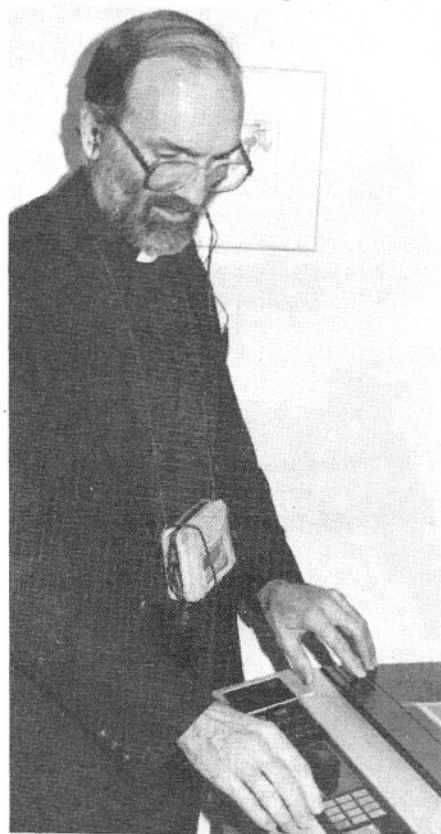
in Ottawa working full time for the Canadian bishops on these projects. Although the job of director of the national office was to encourage educational efforts at every level across the country, most of my sweat went into writing three new programs for young children from six to nine years old: the results were Year I, *We Belong to God*; Year II, *We Belong to the Lord Jesus*; and Year III, *In the Spirit We Belong*.

These three programs, each one including a separate edition for school, parish use and for doing the catechesis in the home, involved piloting a first draft, rewriting many times and occasionally some royal battles between bishops who questioned whether the doctrine was faithful and catechists who wanted to sow the seed of a living faith with delicacy and respect for the understanding of young children. The result, I believe, was only rarely a compromise, thank goodness, but rather carefully crafted programs which I'm convinced are of excellent quality.

After a year away from this work, I spent a few days this past May helping with a first draft of a new Year 4 program in Niagara Falls. This fall I was asked to help write a new program for the fifth year. Our clergy council agreed that we should again make this contribution to the Canadian Church.

So the week of Oct. 19 marked the first major effort, focused on outlining the new program. Four of us from various parts of the country, three members of the staff of the National Office of Religious Education, along with a theologian from St. Paul's University, worked as a team to construct a skeleton which will now be scrutinized by various experts as well as the bishops in charge of these developments. There will be several more such efforts, the next one being Nov. 23 - Dec. 4.

Children, age 9 - 11 years old, will be invited to look closely at the mys-



Father Lawrence DeMong and Sound Therapy.



Some of the 45 Oblates and observers who registered for the July Oblate Day.

Benedictine Oblates

By Fr. Albert Ruetz

Oblates involve themselves in the full life of the church, "sharing in the

Continued from previous page

tery of the church from three different angles: Year 4 (for nine-year-olds) focuses on the church's good news of Jesus in the New Testament. Year 5 looks at the church as it exists today as a community of believers, a communion of worship and mutual support. These three angles reflect the three key words in the Acts of the Apostles, *Kerygma* (good news), *Koinonia* (community), *Diakonia* (service).

As usual, the preparation of such a catechism is of more value to the adults, I suspect, than to the children — first in challenging us who write it and the teachers who try it out and improve it. Finally, it's the teachers and parents whom we hope will enter deeply into its spirit that we really write it for, for if the children are to gain anything it will be by entering a faith experience provided by "faith-full" adults.

priestly, prophetic and royal office of Christ . . . being witnesses to Christ and promoting the salvation of humankind. . . ." They seek to be true lay apostles according to their abilities and the circumstances of their lives, with a spirit of mission, a spirit of vocation from God through the Holy Spirit working in them, eager in proclaiming and spreading the Word of God to the ends of the earth. (Guidelines for Oblates of St. Benedict)

St. Peter's Abbey now has about 65 Oblates affiliated with the monastery. It might be interesting to show in a broad way where they are located. These are as follows: Alberta — eight Oblates in five locations; Saskatchewan — 53 Oblates in 12 locations. Those having more than two Oblates are as follows: Carmel (4), Cudworth (6), Humboldt (9), Muenster (8), Saskatoon (14); Manitoba — one Oblate; Ontario — three Oblates in two locations; Bahama Islands — one Oblate; Colombia, South America — one Oblate. At present there are eight married couples, 51 women and 14 men.

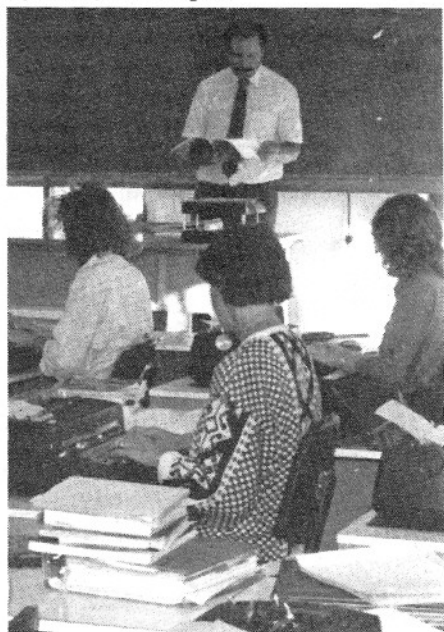
St. Peter's College report

By Fr. Maurice Weber, OSB, Principal

College classes began at St. Peter's on Sept. 10, 1987. There were 86 full-time students registered, making this the largest university group for one year in the history of our institution. About 85 evening class students were registered on a part-time basis as well. In fact this is the first year that we have had to split both the English and the psychology classes into two sections.

The reason for the increased enrolment may be due to the fact that the University of Saskatchewan put a quota on the number of students they were accepting in Arts and Science for first year. Thus, we received some of the overflow. However, the average marks for those coming out of Grade 12 appeared to be quite high with only about a dozen students falling below the 70 per cent level.

Father Albert Ruetz is back this year to assume the teaching of mathematics and he also acts as dean, while Bro. Stanley Vindevoghel is away at the University of Regina, working on his master's degree in social work. New teachers this year include Jane Kryzanowski in economics, John Hart in history, Jerome Konecsni in English, Ernie McCullough (Jr.) in philo-

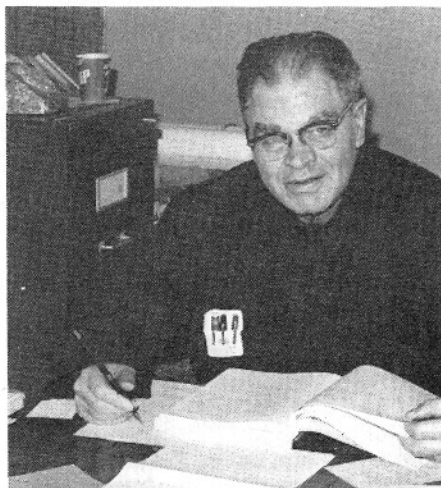


Laurie Schmit, secretarial instructor.

sophy, Tim Greenough in psychology, and Albert Lebastard in a methods course in teaching French. All the other teachers are the same as previous years. However, Esther Muggli and Louise Harvey are helping Father Lawrence DeMong in French, while Robert Tochor is assisting in economics.

This year we have seven people in residence, six of them students and one a teacher for Office Education, Laurie Schmit. Brother Gerald Moran, the guestmaster, makes sure that they have enough lunch supplies, and they appear to be a mature and responsible group.

In Office Education there are 20 female students. This course is still connected to the Saskatchewan Technical Institute and is run through Carlton Trail Community College in Humboldt. As for the pre-vocational program, the teachers are the same with Sister Miriam Spenrath back at the helm as principal, after a sabbatical period last year. There are some 30 students in-



Father Albert Ruetz.

volved in this program.

With the pleasant weather this fall there is ample opportunity for getting outside. Perhaps that is one of the reasons that indoor sports have not gone over so well. The students do find that they are very busy trying to keep up with their class assignments, and then with the October quarterly examinations they found themselves under more pressure. The spirit of the group seems to be good and we hope to have a successful year. If we can give these young adults a positive start in their post-secondary education we will feel that our teaching apostolate is worthwhile.



Sister Miriam Spenrath, OSU, back from a sabbatical.

Junior Formation Institute report

By Br. Gerald Moran

This past summer I attended the Junior Institute which was held at St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Summers in Oklahoma have a reputation of being hot and humid. But this summer was different, it seems. While the program was in progress from July 12 to August 8 the temperature climbed above 100 only once!

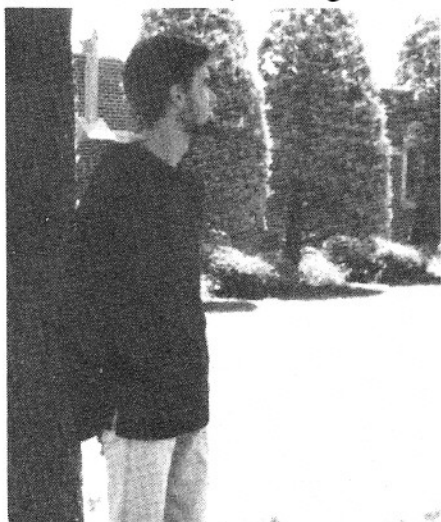
St. Gregory's is blessed with a juniorate of 11 members, all of whom attended the Institute, boosting the total

class to 23. Other monasteries besides St. Gregory's and St. Peter's represented were; St. Benedict's Abbey (Kansas), Belmont Abbey (N. Carolina), St. Andrew's Abbey (Ohio), St. Benedict's Priory (Virginia), St. Bernard's Abbey (Alabama), St. Procopius Abbey (Illinois), Assumption Abbey (N. Dakota), St. Martin's Abbey (Washington), and Holy Cross Abbey (Colorado).

St. Gregory's main apostolate is their two-year college program. Here at St. Peter's we are used to 100 students in the hallways, but St. Gregory's, the only Catholic College in Oklahoma, has a total enrolment of 300 men and women, 80 per cent of whom are Catholic.

The total number of monks attached to St. Gregory's is 60, according to the Ordo, and the last one listed is a Canadian born in the Calgary area. Bro. William Stewart's parents were in the oil industry at the time the bottom fell out of the economy. Having lived and worked in Calgary for 17 years, I had many pleasant moments reminiscing with Br. William.

The abbey has charge of a total of eight parishes in the State of Oklahoma, and one in California. As at St. Peter's Abbey, there is a large exodus from the abbey on weekends.



Canadian Br. William Stewart of St. Gregory's Abbey wearing his "travel" habit.

St. Gregory's has a large Aerobic Centre — at least it seemed large to me. It contains a swimming pool, exercise room, racketball courts, saunas, and two gyms — basketball is very big in Oklahoma. St. Gregory's is famous for its girls' basketball team victories. But my favorite spot in the Aerobic Centre was the indoor air-conditioned walk/running track. I was able to walk two miles every day in perfect comfort! The museum on the campus contains many works of art, and a very popular Egyptian mummy is on display. During the summer St. Gregory's hosts a basketball school and camps for disadvantaged children. Part of this camp is horse-back riding; it is called therapeutic riding and is operated by Fr. Denis and Br. William.

The morning classes, which lasted 45 minutes each, and their instructors were: Survey of Christian Spiritualities by Father Augustine Belisle, OSB, of Assumption Abbey; Patristics by Father Kurt Belsole, OSB, St. Vincent's Archabbey; and Monastic History by Father Eric Hollas, OSB, St. John's Abbey.

The Monastic History class was very interesting and much more detailed than anything I had taken as a novice. The Patristics class instilled a sense of deep faith and love for the Church Fathers. The instructors' total openness and honesty made the Christian Spirituality class quite exciting; it was a joy to see the keen interest, concern and enthusiasm of all the instructors. (Father Augustine was to enter the Camaldolese Monastery (Hermitage) at Big Sur, California, this past August).

Of course, the main purpose of the Institute was the courses taught. However, I was keenly interested in other areas:

- 1) Monastic vocations and formation;
- 2) Liturgy — especially organ and choir;
- 3) Authentic monastic observance and spirit.

The classes fitted in or complemented the monastic observances very



Bros. Ignatius Isaac (St. Andrew Abbey), David Owen (St. Benedict's Priory) and Elias Harris (St. Gregory's Abbey) late for the group picture.

well, but I probably gained most from seeing how another monastic community interprets Benedict's Rule. I interviewed several young juniors and learned that most are interested in becoming good monks first, then good teachers and/or priests.

The junior master, a former Anglican priest, is highly respected by the community. Father Ian Riding is truly Benedictine and post-Vatican II. His weekly conferences to the juniorate was awaited with great expectation by this "old junior." Father Ian agreed to preach our community retreat when we invite him and when his health permits.

St. Gregory's resembles St. Peter's in many, many ways, mainly in its *spirit*; there is, however, one big exception — St. Gregory's has a *pipe organ*, a two-manual Wicks. the sub-prior and organist, Br. Damian Whalen, claims the organ requires an overhaul, but to this listener, it sounded beautiful. Their chant and hymns are sung much slower than we sing ours, and although they have their own Sacred Heart Abbey Hymnal, it seems that the Episcopal Hymnal of 1982 is the most popular.

The juniors and novice Jerome (there is only one this year) have the privilege of saying one extra office in common: Compline is recited at 9 p.m.

every night. Noonday Praise is omitted on Sundays, but Vespers is sung before the Blessed Sacrament exposed and a presider in cope, assisted by four servers. Holy water is in great demand; the finger I used for dipping into the water fount became infected, requiring treatment and medication, but I don't make any connections or draw any conclusions from the experience.

My only regret for the entire month-long program is that we were unable to visit other monasteries in nearby States after traveling such a long distance. Of course, St. Martin's is even further away from St. Gregory's;

but that is a suggestion I make to St. Peter's rather than to our host abbey in Oklahoma.

The Junior Institute on the whole resulted in a broadening of my knowledge, insight, and appreciation of monasticism. The bonds that such a course establishes within the congregation/federation, as well as the spiritual blessings that union also established, cannot go unmentioned. I am grateful to my community of St. Peter's for the opportunity to share in the resources of our Benedictine family and pray that the privilege will present itself again, next year.

Our student monks write home

Br. Richard Meidl, Aug. 22:

I sometimes thought being at Lauds by 6:20 a.m. was extremely early (at St. Peter's). Well, here (at St. Meinrad's) the morning starts with Vigils at 5:45 followed immediately by Lauds. All the rooms have air-conditioning. If it wasn't for the air-conditioning one would have a really difficult time sleeping . . . around and over 90 F plus the humidity is quite high. . . . The other monk taking the College Grade program arrived this morning. He is a Br. Stephanos from Prince of Peace in (Oceanside) California and this is the first time he has been out of California. . . . The area around here is made up of a lot of hills, forest with some farming — mainly corn.

Oct. 19

Thank you to everyone for the kind words, prayers and mass intentions in remembrance of my father. It has been a difficult time this past month but knowing I have all your prayerful support has made it much easier to cope with everything. My studies are not going too badly. It has been a bit difficult catching up on the two weeks I missed.

The Juniors (6 of us) spent the weekend at the camp they have about 20 miles from here. It is located near Troy, Indiana. It consists of a couple cabins out in the "wilderness." It was

good to be away from the studies for a couple of days to relax and have some time by ourselves in a quiet surrounding. Thanks to those who have taken the time to drop me a few lines. It is always nice to hear what is happening at home.

Br. Basil Schaan, Sept. 17:

My trip back to Mount Angel Abbey . . . took on a different flavor this year. Phil Relland, P.A. seminarian, (and I) drove down to Mount Angel. When Phil drives he drives; we only stopped at the border, and three times to fill gas in the whole trip.

My classes this semester: two philosophy classes, philosophy of the human person and philosophy of Thomas Aquinas; one theology class — the Eucharist which so far has been real interesting. It focuses on the Eucharist of our daily lives — dying for others as Christ died for us. I am enrolled in the apostolic ministry program of helping out at a delinquent boys' school in Woodburn eight miles away for Monday afternoons; this amounts to about two hours a week.

The abbey here makes their vows at this time of year. On Sept. 8 two people became novices, three became junior monks and two monks made solemn profession. Nice feeling of being

retouched by the Lord as their solemn profession took place (on) my second month anniversary.

Br. Kurt van Kuren, Oct. 25

September was mostly a heavy grind — switching over from philosophy to psychology and also training for the marathon. When we were given our statistics mid-term grades on Oct. 22, I stood fifth in the class with an A (out of 35 students).

The Twin Cities Marathon was an utter thrill. I finished, but I ran very slow. I had to walk miles 22 and 23 (of 26.2) because of leg cramps, but after that I ran until the end. The weather was perfect, the people were wonderful. My time was a dismal 4:49 — an 80-year-old gentleman ran the course in 3:30! No room for pride out there! Best wishes, as always.

Rest in peace

In your prayers please remember our deceased confreres and relatives:

Father Otto Weber, 53, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Father Nicholas Collins, 78, St. Mary's Abbey, Morristown, New Jersey.

Abbot Ignatius Hunkler, 68, Abbot of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota, retired 1966.

Father Terence Carroll, 86, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minnesota.

Brother Alec Lazur, 53, St. Andrew Abbey, Cleveland, Ohio.

Brother Francis Pease, 69, St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois.

Father Bartholomew Stovik, 76, Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota.

Father Andrew Snyder, 58, St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois.

Frederick Medernach, Cudworth, Saskatchewan, oblate of St. Benedict, died on August 28.

Gilbert Mansbridge, 80, Regina, oblate of St. Benedict, died on Sept. 30.

Norbert Meidl, father of our Brother Richard, 74, Dauphin, Manitoba, died on Sept. 13.

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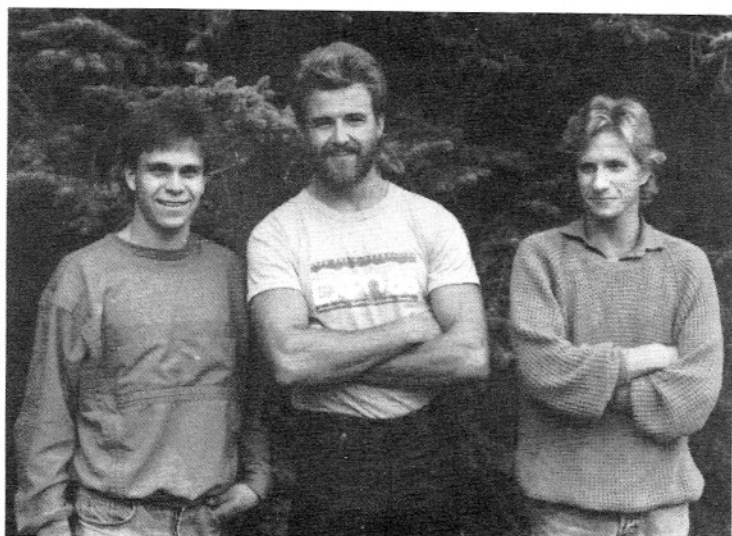
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Emmanuel and St. Chad College, Saskatoon

Guest photo album



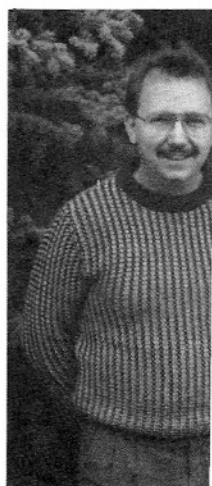
Ken Thorson, Dennis Mercer and Rob Fahlman from Prince Albert Diocese.



**Ron An
Gravelbo**



**David T
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Jeffries, OMI, an**



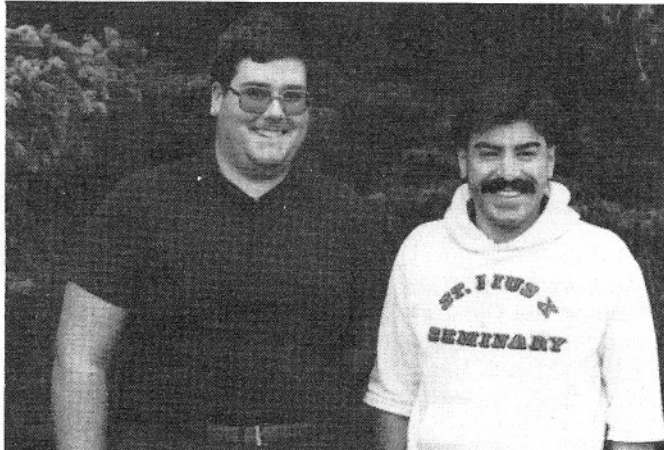
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Michael Wollbaum, Rob Hoey, Michael Osbourne, Clinton Sahulka,
John Nguyen, and Dean McKinley from Winnipeg Archdiocese.



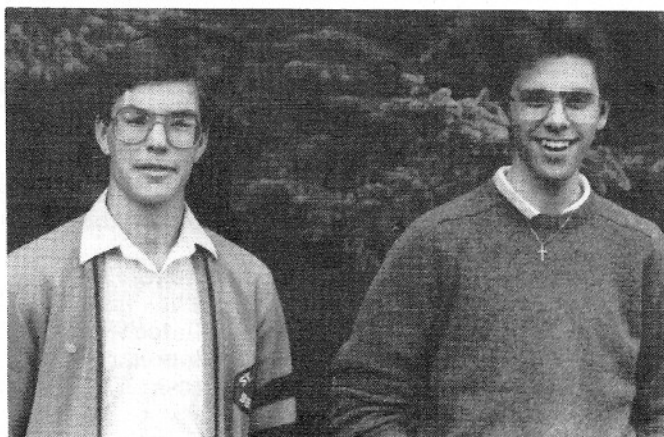
...umback and Br. Gerald
...e Saskatoon Diocese.



Jim McHugh, St. Paul Diocese (Alberta), and Joe Cabral
from Edmonton Archdiocese.



...directors: Fathers Doug
...Leo Mann, OMI.



Patrick Fulton and Luke Peeren from the Nelson Diocese.

Fr. Norbert's Abbey Chronicle

Edited by Br. Gerald

The Abbey Chronicle is a diary of events or conditions pertaining to the Abbey, College, Farm and Abbacy. It has been kept for about six years, at the request of the Abbot. This issue begins with July 30.

July 30:

Father Matthew Michel had an interview with a Humboldt Journal staff representative regarding his "Babe Ruth" baseball. This New York Yankee baseball was autographed by the Yankee team, including Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth.

July 31:

Father Albert, Oblate Director, and Brother Francis Fortney attended the funeral of Fred Medernach, an Oblate in Cudworth. Kathleen Sharp of Camrose also attended the funeral.

August 4:

Abbot Jerome and Father Leo Hinz are attending the General Chapter of the American Casinese Congregation at St. Martin's Abbey, Lacy, Wash.

August 9:

Novice Beverley Trach of the Ursuline Sisters in Bruno made her temporary profession during the Eucharistic



Sister Beverley Trach, OSU (left), and Sister Dianne Turner, OSE, made religious profession on August 9 and 13 respectively.



Father Norbert, abbey chronicler.

Liturgy celebrated by Father Lawrence DeMong. While a novice, Sister Bev helped Father Ed in physiotherapy. Brother Gerald returned from St. Gregory's Abbey where he attended the month-long Junior Institute (See related story on page 6.)

August 10:

Father Abbot Jerome leaves for a visit to the mission in Brazil.

August 13:

Father Peter, prior, presided at the temporary vows of Novice Dianne Turner at St. Elizabeth's Convent, Humboldt.

August 16:

A video tape presentation on the Allen Digital computer organ was given tonite. Through the courtesy of Les Klippenstein, we have an Allen demonstrator organ in the chapel in anticipation of the future needs of our proposed Abbey Church.

August 18:

The juniors and novices visited Batoche (Sask.) and its Louis Riel museum along with Prior Peter Novecosky. They also visited the Marian Shrine at St. Laurent and returned through Duck Lake, a very familiar name to all St. Peter's monks.



Formation director Peter Novocosky with juniors and novices on a tour of Batoche.

Aug. 19:

A farewell program was held for those monks departing for study and those who have new parish assignments. Students this coming semester are: Brothers Stanley, William, Basil, Kurt, David and Richard. Brother Thomas will be taking classes at St. Peter's College. Pastors moving to reside in a parish rectory are Father Damian to Carmel and Father Rudolph to Annaheim. Father Leo Hinz reported on the General Chapter held at St. Martin's Abbey, Washington State, and Brother Gerald Moran answered questions on the Junior Formation program in St. Gregory's Abbey, Oklahoma.

Aug. 20:

Long-time associates of St. Peter's and Benedictine Oblates Grant and Vivian Maxwell visited the abbey and press. The first student-monk to depart was Brother Richard Meidl who will be studying at St. Meinrad's Archabbey in Indiana.

Aug. 21:

Fathers Peter Novocosky, Martin Brodner and Daniel Muyres left for Winnipeg to attend the 75th anniversary celebration of the Benedictine Sisters foundation near that city.

Aug. 23:

A delegation of monks accompanied Saskatoon organ dealer Les Klippenstein to Regina to hear other models of the Allen Digital organ. Father Norbert with Brothers Wolfgang, William and Gerald, heard the 10-year-old Allen organ in Blessed Sacrament Church where Harold Gallagher is organist. Mr. Gallagher joined them at St. Luke's Anglican Church to hear a very recent installation of the same organ. Before returning home, Harold arranged for us to meet and hear Douglas Chase, organist of Holy Rosary Cathedral in Regina. That organ is a Casavant Brothers' pipe-organ.

Aug. 27:

Brother Basil Schaan and Phil Relland of Prince Albert diocese left by car for Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary, Oregon. A long-term guest of the abbey, Terry Kraychuk, was accepted into first year studies at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, B.C.

Aug. 28:

Father Peter and Brothers Nicodemus, Thomas, Rene and Randy, along with four Ursuline nuns left for Edmonton for a weekend workshop sponsored by the Institute for Religious Living and

held at the Grey Nuns Regional Centre. The residents of Emmaus House, Saskatoon, arrived for two days of "sharing" sessions. Emmaus House is sponsored by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, St. Mary's Province.

Aug. 30:

Father Roman Schneider stopped over one night at the abbey on his way to visit his brother-in-law, Norbert Meidl, who is gravely ill in Dauphin, Man. Mr. Meidl is the father of Brother Richard Meidl.

Aug. 31:

Today marks the beginning of the annual retreat for the students of St. Pius X Seminary in Saskatoon. Fifteen second-, third- and fourth-year students arrived along with two directors of the retreat, both Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Fathers Leo Mann and Doug Jeffries.

Sept. 1:

Brother John Brodner, who had part of his colon removed is reported recuperating very quickly. Brother John has the start of a cancer growth and is in St. Elizabeth's hospital where the operation is reported to have been very

successful. A long-anticipated letter from Brother Richard Meidl was read at table. He reported that studies are going well. A direct line into his room makes it possible to call him long distance easily. But don't call "collect."

Sept. 2:

Father Abbot arrived back from his Brazil journey; it did not take him long to get outside to cut the lawn. One of the hottest days for this time of the year, 34 C.

Sept. 3:

The annual fall Chapter meeting was held today. Along with elections for Council and other items, Brother William gave a complete report on recent inquiries into the Allen digital computer organ. The community decided to wait until the future of the proposed abbey church is more certain before purchasing an organ.

Sept. 5:

The seminarians took time out from their retreat to help pick potatoes in the morning. There were fewer casualties this year. Brother Stanley Vindevoghel left for Regina to attend the Universi-



Elizabethan Sisters Martina, Clothilde, Valerie and Genevieve (l to r) celebrating St. Francis Day, October 4.

ty of Regina. He will be staying with the Oblates at St. Mary's Rectory.

Sept. 6:

Organist/vocalist David Tumback played for Sunday mass which was celebrated by Father Leo Mann, OMI. The annual Family Day for our lay staff included games, visiting and fried chicken. Vespers preceded the buffet supper.

Sept. 8:

Brother William Thurmeier was ordained to the diaconate today by Bishop James P. Mahoney of Saskatoon. Frank and Catharine Thurmeier, parents of Brother William, and their pastor, Father Len Cyr, also attended the ordination ceremonies.

Sept. 9:

Registration day for university day classes in the College. There are almost 90 students this year for day classes alone, an increase of about 10. The six resident students in Severin Hall arrived today. In Brother Stanley's absence, the secretarial school instructor, Laurie Schmit, will be in

charge of residence. Brother David Gauthier left for St. Pius X seminary, Saskatoon, where he is staying while attending the University of Saskatchewan.

Sept. 12:

Long-awaited word was received from Canmore, Alberta, that the Catholic Bible College will be using Severin Hall for the entire month of February as a residence during the Winter Olympic Games in Calgary. Prior Peter Novecosky and Brother Patrick Genois attended the funeral of Abbot Ignatius Hunkler at Assumption Abbey in North Dakota.

Sept. 13:

The nice weather free from frost, and the rain of the past few days have kept the lawns an "emerald" green. Brother Richard's father, Norbert Meidl, who had been ill with cancer passed away today.

Sept. 14:

The novices and juniors began the Journey Bible course with Father James Gray as instructor. This year's



Keen interest in the staff vs monks softball game on Sept. 6 when our staff were honored by the community.

program includes the Old Testament.

Sept. 17:

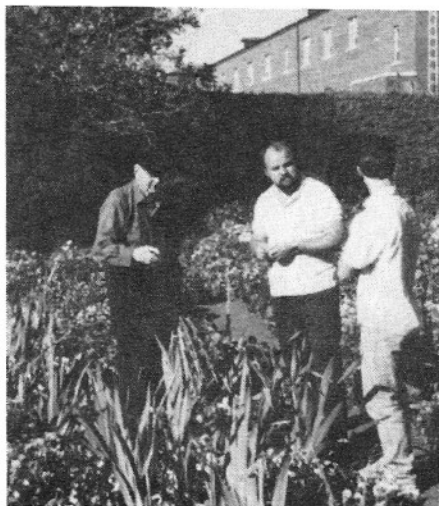
A planning meeting (preliminary) of the Liturgy Committee was called with Father Peter, Brothers Patrick and Gerald present. Consultant Father Andrew was not present. A very lengthy discussion on our music, both singing and organ, ensued.

Sept. 18:

Father Peter Novecosky, Brother Thomas Ward and Elizabeth Saretsky from our business office and a friend of the Meidl family, left at 4:30 a.m. to drive to Dauphin, Man., to attend the funeral of Norbert Meidl. Mr. Meidl, aged 74, is the father of Brother Richard who came up from Saint Meinrad's Archabbey in Indiana for the funeral. Dr. James Fleming, a biblical scholar and archeologist living in Jerusalem, gave a two-hour lecture and slide presentation on the times of St. Peter.

Sept. 19:

Father Norbert and Brother Francis Fortney motored to Regina, leaving at 5:30 a.m. to attend an archives seminar. Aldersgate Bible College (Free



Father Xavier in his flower garden with Aldersgate College church history professor David Howick and student Brad.

Methodist) of Moose Jaw, with over 30 students, were guests for one full day and night. This group of pleasant and enthusiastic young people (aged 17 and over) attended all our chapel prayers and mass at St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday morning, where Father Martin gave them a brief tour. Father Rudolph invited the junior monks to Anaheim for a social visit with him and Sister Rita Anne, OSU, who is acting housekeeper.

Sept. 21:

Father Matthew, almost 91, was not feeling well enough to join the community for his namesday celebration. He still gets outside for his daily strolls around the buildings, through the gardens and out to the cemetery.



August Toennies hauling wheat on St. Peter's farm.

Sept. 22:

The combining of wheat and barley was completed today. All that remains is the baling job. Temperature reached 29 C. Leo Torborg removed most of the tar from the College entrance — an eyesore since the back porch was torn down. Brother Wolfgang helped in the final stages of the tar removal.

Sept. 25:

Father Maurice Weber and Brother Gerald enjoyed an evening supper pre-

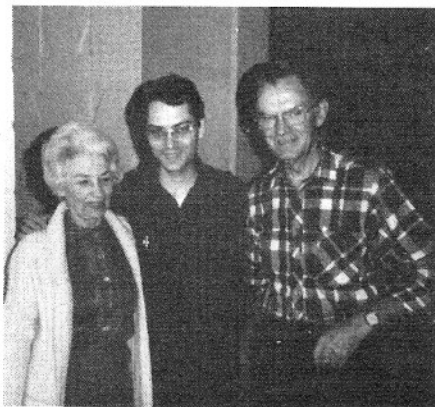
pared by our frequent guest, Jonathan Bonato, who is an Anglican seminarian at Emmanuel-St. Chad College, Saskatoon. The occasion of the visit marked the beginning of the Sask-Vocations Conference held at St. Patricks Parish Hall, Saskatoon. Several of the Abbey Vocations commiteee attended this workshop given by Father Charles Weckend, OMI, and Susan Campbell, both of Newman Theological College in Edmonton. Before the workshop Abbot Jerome asked Brother Gerald to be the Abbey Vocation Director.

Sept. 26:

Father Damian Yaskowich, former editor of the Abbey Newsletter and now resident pastor in Mt. Carmel, invited the juniors to a steak barbeque.

Sept. 27:

Brother William Thurmeier, OSB, the last student-monk to leave the abbey, was met by his parents, Catharine and Frank. Later this week, Brother William and parents will travel on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, where the Blessed Virgin is alleged to appear to several young people. From Belgrade, Brother William will continue on to Rome for his final year at Sant' Anselmo.



Rev. Br. William Thurmeier and parents Catharine and Frank — before leaving for Belgrade and Rome.

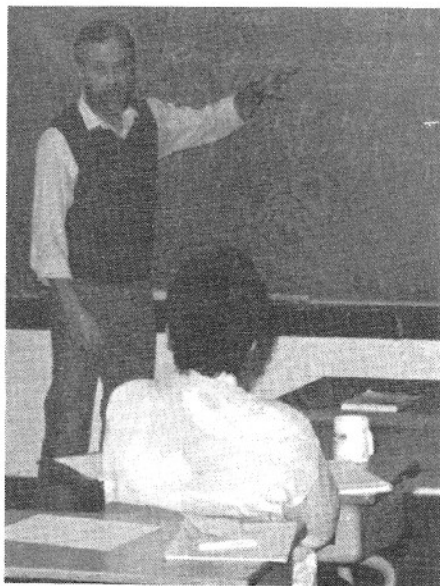
Oct. 2:

A notice on the abbey bulletin board informed us to the death this week of Gilbert Mansbridge, a faithful, long-

time Oblate, who was present for the last Oblate day, July 13 (see photo).

Oct. 3:

Ed Dyck, a university English professor presently residing in our hermitage, began a series of public reading classes for novices, juniors and all interested monks. Brother Basil's letter from Mt. Angel was read at table.



Ed Dyck, a popular English tutor.

Oct. 4:

Father Maurice Weber left for Canmore, Alberta, and the Catholic Bible College there for a one-week instruction on Prayer and Work. Brother Nicodemus is busy gathering help to prepare the hens for a move to their new location before they start laying eggs. In a few weeks there will be plenty of eggs for everyone. Father Rudolph left for Rochester, Minnesota, and the Mayo Clinic for surgery.

Oct. 5

John Kelly, our diocesan pastoral care director, was back in the Abbey Centre today after several weeks' absence. He suffered a heart attack while visiting a daughter in Winnipeg. Ed Dyck and novices helped Brother Francis with the annual removal of grass and

weeds from the large reservoir; now ready for spring.

Oct. 9:

Four students from St. Pius X Seminary accepted an invitation to spend Thanksgiving weekend at the abbey. Patrick Fulton and Chris Riley from the Nelson Diocese, Joe Cabral from Edmonton Archdiocese, and Clinton Sahulka from Winnipeg Archdiocese spent a relaxing three days in Severin Hall. Brother David Gauthier, who resides at the seminary, was also home for the weekend. Brother Stanley Vindevoghel, studying at the University of Regina, was hardly back in his room for the weekend when the phone started to ring.

Oct. 12: Thanksgiving

Abbot Jerome was the chief celebrant at today's Conventual Mass. Brother David and the four seminarians returned to the U. of S. after the Thanksgiving meal.

Oct. 13:

Brother Bernard Lange went to the University Hospital in Saskatoon for tests; he has a heart condition. The clergy of the diocese met in Lake Lenore for a presbyterate meeting hosted by St. Anthony's Parish and pastor, Father Joseph Ackerman. One of the topics discussed was the future of our mission in Brazil.

Oct. 15:

Father Rudolph, recuperating in Minnesota, phoned to inform us that the operation has been quite successful so far. Brother John Brodner began his second three-day course of anti-cancer medication. The side-effects from the medication are minimal, affecting only his appetite.

Oct. 16:

Emmanuel and St. Chad College students arrived for their annual retreat. Many happy and familiar faces from last year. Father Peter Novecosky attended the 75th anniversary of the Legislative Building in Regina as a guest of his nephew. The "Regina" of

England was present, Elizabeth II.

Oct. 17:

Prior Peter's parents, Martin and Elizabeth Novecosky, are celebrating their 80th birthdays today — although today is not the actual day for either; they have been married for 55 years. The Anglican compline service tonight, which was shared by the guestmaster, is identical to the one used by the juniors at St. Gregory's Abbey in Oklahoma; it is celebrated every night at 9.

Oct. 18:

Brother Bernard returned from the U. of S. Hospital, having completed tests for his heart condition. Claude John Harel of the CBC French network in Regina is living as a monk in preparation for film interviews on Oct. 19. Based on his performance to date, Claude would make an excellent monk.

Oct. 19:

The French network of the CBC-TV arrived about 9:30 a.m. and filmed the press, farm, gardens, college, abbey and St. Peter's Cathedral. The only English part of the program will be the interview with Abbot Jerome. Novice Rene Boulanger of Montreal guided the camera crew for most of the day and was himself interviewed. The actual program will be a seven-minute feature on a November newscast. The producer of the program was impressed by the co-operation they received from the monks in doing their work. Father Rudolph returned to his parish in Anaheim after a very successful operation in Minnesota. While the TV cameras were turning, the piano movers reclaimed the demonstration Allen organ. The organists had become accustomed to the new, pipe-organ-like sound of the instrument and it will be missed.

Oct. 21:

Brother Gerald Moran was officially named Newsletter Editor for the abbey. He has had experience preparing two other newsletters: *Musicalendar* for the City of Calgary and *Footnotes* for the Blackfoot Motor Inn in Calgary.

Unfortunately, he is not an experienced photographer. The newsletter will publish three times per year.

Oct. 22:

A 27-year-old West German student staying with us for the past three days has put his many talents to use while our guest. Eckard Jung repaired the water fountain pump motor and a mini tape recorder.

Oct. 22:

Father Andrew Britz, editor of the *Prairie Messenger*, hosted a meeting of all the diocesan correspondents. A new, longer culvert was installed in Wolverine Creek in preparation for the raising of the road through that waterway. Brothers Francis Fortney, Michael McAllister and Helen Britz (Severn Hall housekeeper) spent the day attending a janitor's seminar sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Oct. 23:

Denis Fortin arrived for the weekend and confirmed that he will apply to enter the monastery in January. Providing all are accepted by Council, we have a total of six candidates. St. Andrew's College (United Church) students arrive for a weekend retreat. St. Andrew's is located at the University of Saskatchewan and prepares people for the United Church ministry.

Oct. 26:

The community was honored by a visit, at dinner and during the noon recreation period, of Abbot David Geraets of Pecos Monastery, New Mexico. Abbot David spoke about the Benedictine foundation, mentioning its "charismatic" character and that it is a mixed community (of men and women). The abbot, who was blessed on May 3, 1973, answered many questions from our community members. He came to preach a retreat in St. Augustine's Church, Humboldt, where Father Leo Hinz is pastor. Brothers Francis Fortney and novice Randy Senecal erected Father Augustine Nenzel's headstone. Father Augustine passed away on June

15 of this year. Brother Thomas Ward and novice Rene Boulanger attended a V.O.N. workshop on the Care of the Sick in Humboldt.

Oct. 27:

After finishing the book "North/South Calling" by Father Bob Ogle, we are hearing a number of articles from the *Canadian Catholic Review* on the life and work of Catherine Doherty, founder of Combermere's Madonna House.

Oct. 28:

There is a big-little change in the Main Entrance: Senior council suggested moving the planters to the centre of the long stairway. This is to encourage everyone to use the two existing handrails. It works!! The annual crop report of Farm Manager Brother Bernard Lange contains the following information: about 30,000 bushels of wheat was harvested, plus 19,000 bushels of barley. There were about 56,000 cobs of corn sold and the potatoe crop was less popular this year. Only a thousand bales of hay were brought in; however, there were 4,500 bales of barley straw and 4,000 of wheat straw. There were 43 new calves from the pasture and the cows fared well after being fed the left-over corn.

Oct. 29:

Abbot Jerome left for Victoria, Vancouver and Mt. Angel, Oregon. He will attend the celebrations for Bishop Remi DeRoo's anniversary and visit student-monk Brother Basil Schaan who is in pre-theology at Mt. Angel Abbey and Seminary.

Oct. 31:

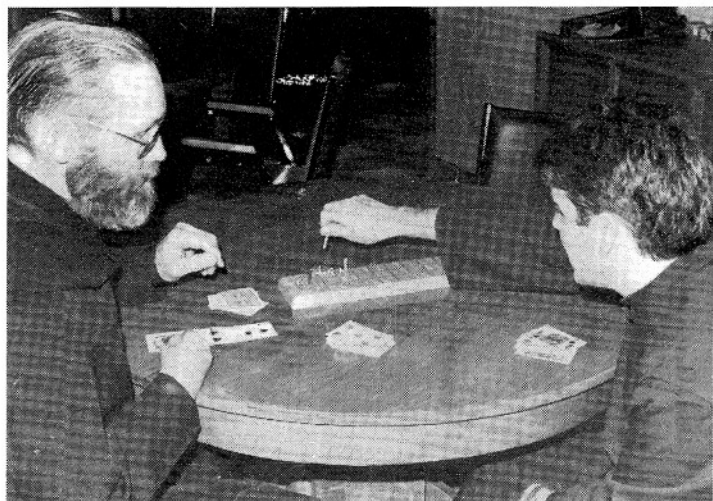
No reports of unusual looking habits lurking around the property this Halloween. Our next *Abbey Chronicle* will begin with November 1.

That in all things God may be glorified.

— Rule of Benedict

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