

# ***Benedictine hospitality offered at Muenster abbey***

**BY FR. DEMETRIUS WASYLYNIUK, OSB**

St. Benedict wrote about the importance of guests in his Rule for Monks. “All guests are to be treated as Christ.”

Until the early 1960’s, there was little provision at St. Peter’s Abbey in Muenster for guests. The community members and students lived in one building (Michael Building) – and one little room served for the guests.

In 1959, Severin Hall was built as residence for the high school and first-year arts students. In 1970, St. Peter’s High School closed. The residence was transformed into Severin Guest Wing. The update and renovation for the guest wing was completed in the early 1970’s, however, updates, and on-going renovation and maintenance continue to the present day.

The main floor of the guest wing has eight rooms featuring an *en suite* bath and two twin beds; two rooms with an *en suite* bath and double bed; and nine rooms with two twin beds and a common bath. The lower floor has seven rooms with four twin beds in each, as well as one room with two twin beds. The lower floor has common baths throughout.

A conference center with boardroom is also located on the lower level as is a kitchenette and a reading area. There is also a lounge and kitchenette.

The guest wing accommodates a wide variety of people who come to take part in the rhythm of the monastic day – the prayer, the meals and the work. Groups come for workshops, conferences and writing. Religious groups come for retreats, bringing their own facilitator or retreat director. Some monks are also available for spiritual direction and private retreats.



**The St. Peter’s Abbey guest team (l-r) Fr. Demetrius Wasylyniuk, Marilyn Tebbe and Ken Mansfield.**

*- Photo by Fr. Paul Paproski, OSB*

The Rule of Benedict makes hospitality truly a charism of a Benedictine House. We provide for the needs of the guests to the best of our ability. For the past 11 years I have served as guestmaster, and Ken Mansfield has been assistant guest master for several years. Marilyn Tebbe is housekeeper of the guest wing, a position she has had for the past 13 years. Together we are the guest team of Severin Guest Wing.

On a final note, our guest wing at St. Peter’s – as with many other aspects of the abbey – is one of the “best kept secrets” in Saskatchewan. Many do not know what facilities we have here for retreat, conferences, workshops or just time away. In the past 11 years, I have seen an increase in private retreats, time away during the week for people who seek rest, peace and tranquility.

One guest told me, “It is good to know there are still bastions of peace and tranquility left in our crazy-hectic world.” St. Peter’s is one of these bastions. Please come and visit our abbey, or our guest wing. For more information call St. Peter’s Abbey at 306-682-1777 or visit the web site at: [www.stpetersabbey.ca](http://www.stpetersabbey.ca)