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his large correspondence attests. He taught English Grammar with a special gusto for picking out common mistakes, French and Socials with an accent on graphic presentations, Religion with particular enthusiasm. Any student washing dishes with him knew that he expected high standards of cleanliness. He retired from teaching in 2016.

In 1965 he attained his Associateship in piano with the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto and in 1970 became an Associate of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. He did two years of study in Rome at Sant’ Anselmo’s Pontifical Liturgical Institute (1977-1979), also serving as choir master while there. His family also stayed in step with his musical formation: in 1960 his Father donated the first pipe organ to the Abbey, a Casavant Frères opus from Saint-Hyacinthe, QC.

Fittingly, Father’s greatest and most lasting contribution lay in adapting the Latin Gregorian chants to the vernacular for our Divine Office and for the Mass. This process began in 1968 and continued over the next 50 years as he skillfully adapted hundreds of hymns and antiphons into English. Furthermore, the delicate accompaniment of Gregorian chant during the Office was an art that Father Basil shared with many a priest, layman and seminarian.

In the monastic community, Father served 62 years as organist and 60 years as a priest offering the Holy Sacrifice and daily sacrifices on the altar of his heart. His contribution to musical occasions in the life of the community was always greatly appreciated.

The last sounds Father heard when fully conscious were his monastic brothers chanting Vespers and Vigils by his bedside in hospital. Music began in the home, continued in the monastery, and is alive and well!

When asked the secret of his particular skill in this area, he would reply, “tin pan alley!” His talent to adapt the chant to English came by osmosis from listening to operettas (i.e., the music of Gilbert and Sullivan). In the process, he also developed eight Gregorian Psalm tones uniquely suited to the rhythm of psalmody in the English language. Furthermore, the delicate accompaniment of Gregorian chant during the Office was an art that Father Basil shared with many a priest, layman and seminarian.

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Ordination in 1959

Solemn Professions

“Narrow is the path that leads into life.” A new composition by Father Caesarius, sung in the monks’ refectory on September 1st, 2019, exemplified the maternal bond between Brother Paschasius Roca and Frater Athanasius Capko as they walked together into new life in the monastic community of Westminster Abbey. The Lord had been instrumental in forging a path for them from temporary vows to solemn vows, providing what was necessary for revitalization and renewal. The narrow path may be arduous at times, but with the joint companionship of Christ and each other, a new vitality emerges when entering into the next phase in their monastic journey.

Both Brother Paschasius and Frater Athanasius exuded joy as they consecrated themselves to Christ during the profession ceremony. They were all smiles during the kiss of peace with each other, a new vitality emerges when entering into the next phase in their monastic journey.

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an unfortunate creature could only survive through its immersion in the waters of God’s abounding love.

As a parting reflection, Frater Athanasius reminisced on how in the seminary he initially viewed the Benedictine life as boring and bland, like merely gazing at the surface of a body of water. As his formation progressed, though, it eventually dawned on him that the transfiguring quality of this form of life can only be ascertained through diving into the water, both body and soul, and exploring the colorful and dynamic coral reef within. The narrow way becomes expansive when looked at through the eyes of faith.

Simple Professions

There seems to be a divine sense of humour in the timing of candidates’ arrivals in the monastery. It is not uncommon for novice mates to be far apart in age, yet working side by side on the same tasks. Such was the case with Brs. Isidore (38) and John (20) who entered the monastery on August 14, 2017. This time, there was a further irony. Br. John, as the youngest in his family, spent much of his childhood trying to keep in step with his adventurous older brothers. But in their monastic formation of the last two years, Br. Isidore has found himself trying to keep in step with Br. John, at least in the variety of manual tasks by which the pliability of postulants and novices is put to the test. Nevertheless, he has proven himself to be a dogged contender and now enjoys the peaceful fruit of many accomplishments. Br. Isidore’s journey to the monastery was dotted with gentle reminders of God’s accompanying presence. After seven years of university studies, he had settled for an unassuming job as accounts clerk in a hotel. But then, on one of his travels, he stepped into Galway Cathedral in Ireland (the was by now no longer practising his faith) and was profoundly moved by its beauty. It was the memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, a favourite in his family, and also his father’s birthday. Back in Canada, Br. Isidore was led by a series of connections to join the local parish, St. Anthony of Padua, another family favourite, then came to a major seminary live-in, and then inquired into the monastic life, all in a matter of a few months. The Lord brooks no delays!

The name of the newly professed raised a few quizzical eyebrows among his confreres on the morning of September 7. Who is St. Isidore? “The last scholar of the ancient world”, the 19th century French historian Montalembert called him. As archbishop of Seville for some thirty years until his death in 636, he had a great hand in the conversion of the Visigothic people to the Catholic faith. But what interests our Br. Isidore more: he was an encyclopedist, preserving for posterity in his Etymologies summaries of many Greek and Roman works that have now been lost. Br. Isidore’s comment, when reminded recently that it was the day to change our clocks to standard time, answered, “Great! An extra hour to do some reading?”

In the early hours of September 7th, 2019, Thomas Bruneau made his temporary profession, beginning a new phase in his Benedictine journey. His professed name is John, taken from the somewhat obscure 7th century hermit, John Climacus. This saint spent the entirety of his life living near Mt. Sinai and wrote the edifying Ladder of Divine Ascent, a treatise outlining the ascent of the soul from the renunciation of the world to the upper echelon of faith, hope, and charity. The practical nature of this work is especially appealing to Brother John.

The youngest child of Denis and Liane Bruneau, he spent much of his younger years making forays into the British Columbia wilderness through hiking and other outdoor activities. He was also active in outreach and missionary activities, such as working at Madonna House in Ontario and Telegraph Creek in northern B.C. He entered the Seminary of Christ the King in Grade 8, and his vocation to Westminster Abbey was realized not long after graduating from Grade 12. Brother John is one of three brothers from the Bruneau family presently in the monastery, the others being Brothers Joseph and Bartholomew.

Brother John is a young man who exudes practicality, initiative, and hard work. Even in dull periods he is able to find some useful employment. He also has a great love of silence, meticulously maintaining cloister silence and a prayerful work silence. When he speaks, he has a straightforward approach and frequently alludes to Scripture.

The community is greatly appreciative of his presence and his dynamism. May the Lord provide continual guidance in his Benedictine journey.

Ordinations

Father Dominic Sylvester Leo, O.S.B., the son of M. Leo Joseph and Rita Leo of Bangalore, India was ordained to the priesthood on May 25 by Bishop Edward Malesic of the Diocese of Greensburg PA, at Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA.

Dominic was born in 1970 in Mandya, Karnataka, India, and graduated in 1988 from Saint Aloysius Junior College in Bangalore, where he also received a bachelor of commerce degree in 1991 from Saint Joseph’s College of Commerce, majoring in taxation. He earned the master of science degree in information technology in 2004 from Karnataka State Open University.

Dominic studied at the Seminary of Christ the King for two years, 2009-11; at Saint John’s...
School of Theology and Seminary, Collegeville, Minnesota, in 2014 and received a master of divinity degree from Saint Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA in 2019.

He entered the Benedictine Order as a monk of Saint Peter’s Abbey, Munster, Saskatchewan, made first profession on April 12, 2014 and transferred his vows to Saint Vincent Archabbey on March 21, 2017.

At the Archabbey he has been assigned as co-socius of novices (2017-2018), sacristan and assistant master of ceremonies (2017-present) and blogger in the Vocation Office (2017-present), as well as assistant manager of the Gristmill General Store and miller at Saint Vincent Gristmill (2017-present).

Father Felix Jung Youn Min was born in Busan, South Korea, in 1987, the younger of two sons. He moved with his parents and brother to a larger city in South Korea in 1993 and began school. Felix began violin lessons a year later and music became a large part of his life. Anyone who has heard him play the violin immediately recognizes his proficiency.

His parents sent him to Canada in 2001 to continue his music studies and learn English. He boarded with a Korean family and through their example began to practise his Catholic faith on a regular basis. Unfamiliarity with English and separation from his family were challenges for Felix and he struggled academically and personally. Never a strong student, he drifted through high school without completing the requirements for graduation.

Felix’s mother joined him two years later and his father and brother some time afterwards. The family settled in Surrey and attended St. Andrew Kim Parish. Work experience and participation in parish life were the background of Felix’s life after high school. He gradually discerned a vocation to priesthood and began the long road to ordination. After inquiring about entering the Seminary of Christ the King, he was asked to take a year to complete courses necessary for high school graduation and to prepare himself humanly and spiritually for priestly formation.

Entering SCK in September 2011, he continued to encounter challenges such as weak English skills and academic struggles. With the encouragement of the vocations directors for the Archdiocese of Vancouver, he persevered through both the Arts and Theology programs. Not a speculative thinker, Felix demonstrated determination in battling through his courses and displayed an ability to handle the practical dimensions of seminary life. He was a capable MC in the liturgy and showed leadership and concern for the seminary community, enjoying the esteem of faculty and seminarians alike. Felix was particularly notable for rising to the occasion in community skits and All Saints parties. Many of his costumes and routines are memorable.

Ordained deacon by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver on December 8, 2018, Felix has had a pastoral internship at St. Patrick’s Parish in Vancouver under the guidance of Father James Hughes since May 2019.

He will be ordained to the priesthood on October 12 by Archbishop Miller at Holy Rosary Cathedral and celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving at St. Andrew Kim Parish the following day. Ad multos annos!

September

12: After celebrating the dedication of the Abbey Church on the 10th and preparing for the year with a day of prayer and recollection on the 11th, the majors had their first day of class on the 12th. The theology classroom was near max capacity with thirteen students, the most it’s had in recent history.

16: The annual Student Council election saw the incumbent President Dominic Rosario re-elected for a second term—an affirmation of his just, efficient, and benevolent rule in the previous school year. Matthew Belle- rive, after two faithful years of service as Treasurer was ineligible for re-election to that position and so was voted into the role of Secretary to fill the void left by Shawn Chessell who was promoted to the illustrious role of Vice President. The young and promising apprentice, Solomon Nguyen, received the confidence of the members to dutifully govern the financial well-being of the council as Treasurer.

27/28: Eager to fulfill their promise but unable to do so last year, the Excursion Committee planned an overnight camp and hike at the end of September. Five brave majors set up camp by Tamahi Creek and by the grace of God had only a small sprinkle of rain to endure. Several other majors joined the adventurous campers the next day for a hike up Mr. Cheam after morning Mass at St. Mary’s in Chilliwack with SCK alumnus Fr. Mark McGuckin. The hike met with several minor difficulties, which made the day that much more memorable, including an extra 20km of hiking on the logging roads due to a lack of 4X4 vehicles. Snow from the trailhead to the peak was a surprise and proved to be an extra challenge for the guys in slippery sneakers. All in all, it was an adventurous and enjoyable day.

October

12: For the first time in recent memory the minor seminarians faced the major seminarians in a game of soccer on the newly minted south field. The majors scored the first goal before the minors took the lead with two goals from Daniel Bittman. Lorenzo D’Alessandro pulled up his socks and proved to be an extra challenge for the guys in slippery sneakers. All in all, it was an adventurous and enjoyable day.
Spirituality Year Diary

September
11-15: The 2nd Spirituality Year began in the Nazareth House with a five-day silent retreat, which helped us four seminarians focus on what we needed to bring to the Lord. Fr. Abbot, Fr. Hien, Fr. Leo, and Fr. Anthony guided us with insightful talks, reflection, and discussion, all centered on coming to better self-knowledge so as to become closer to the Lord; and in coming closer to the Lord, to come closer to ourselves. We all have hidden years and experiences with which we need to become familiar for the sake of our human formation. Our formators, including Fr. Abbot, Fr. Hien, and Jake Khym, will help us to make sense of them throughout this year. “Self-knowledge is so important [for humility] that, even if you were raised right up to the heavens, I should like you never to relax your cultivation of it” (St. Teresa of Avila, The Interior Castle).

28: Today, Fr. Hien took us on a bit of a drive to hike up Mt. Cheam in Chilliwack. As we drove up the bumpy logging road for an hour, we began to notice that there was a lot of snow. And I don’t think we expected any! We began to hike up the mountain anyway, but not everyone was at the same level of preparedness (it definitely wasn’t shorts-wearing weather...)! The hike itself was beautiful, and was a good workout, although when we got to the top, we were unable to see anything. Still, what we lacked in terms of view, we made up for with good camaraderie and fresh air, while pushing through very cold wind and cloud and snow. We were definitely being bolder than ever before. We will have to hike Cheam again when the weather is better! After coming back down the mountain, we all warmed up with delicious Vietnamese food at a restaurant run by Fr. Hien’s friends. Rock on.

FORM OF BEQUESTS
I give, bequeath and devise to WESTMINSTER ABBEY LTD, Mission, BC, a corporation under the laws of British Columbia, the sum of $........ to be used at the discretion of the Benedictines of Westminster Abbey for the building program and general benefit of the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC, Canada.
October
5: While we normally join the major seminarians for dinner on Saturdays, today, Jeremy decided to cook Penne Bolognese for the Nazareth House. A four-hour slow-cooked rich beef and sausage meat sauce, it was a great meal to share and to foster a sense of community among the four of us and Fr. Hien. It was also a great way to start an evening of socializing, which we capped off with a movie (P.S. make sure to fry out all of the liquid in the sofrito base before adding in the meat for the sauce, and only boil your pasta noodles to 80% al dente, and then cook it in portions in the sauce. That way, the sauce soaks into the noodles!)
6: All of the SY, major, and minor seminarians took part in the annual Life Chain in Mission today. Carrying rosaries, signs, and smiles, we stood silently on both sides of the road to protest against abortion, by peacefully bearing witness to the goodness of “life in the womb, coming from [God’s] creative power.” Even though we faced slight resistance and mockery, we simply kept silent, smiled, and prayed for all those who have been affected by the awful reality of abortion, especially for the victims. May God continue to give us the grace to fight this fight with courage, charity, and perseverance, and may He gently soften the hearts of those who are in positions to more directly effect a positive change in our country.
24: Kevin and Mary Reese, two Oblates, are generously and regularly involved with the Spirituality Year by helping us to gain some practical skills, as well as some ways to simply take our minds off of what at times can be heavy and intense spiritual-human formation. (Who knew that we would learn to sew at the seminary!) Today, Kevin took us to Deacon Terry’s workshop where he showed each of us how to start making our own copper wire bonsai trees (they’re all over Etsy). It was actually a very contemplative, peaceful, and creatively fun project, and even though we were all very green, Deacon Terry made the process simple and stress-free. We’ll be heading back to the workshop soon to finish our trees. We’re really starting to branch out at the Nazareth House.
31: Our All Saints Day celebration began with Solemn Vespers with the entire community in the Abbey Church, followed by a delicious Vietnamese curry dinner! We were all in Sunday wear, which meant white shirts...and yes, we were eating curry. (We like to live dangerously here at Christ the King!) After dinner and Vigs, the SY seminarians joined the Majors for a costume party in the gym. We went dressed as the symbols of the four Evangelists: a man (St. Matthew), a lion (St. Mark), an ox (St. Luke), an eagle (St. John). Fr. Hien rounded out the group costume, dressed up as the mysterious ‘Q’ source for the Synoptic Gospels. If the monks’ laughing was any indication, the costumes were very well received!

November
1: Feast of All Saints today. Seven minors visited St. Michael’s Elementary School to sing Taizé chants accompanied by flute, violin, and cello. These visits are a powerful means by which God touches the hearts of young men and boys.
3: Parents’ Day: The minor seminary’s band played two traditional Celtic pieces, followed by the performance of two scenes from Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar and A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

Minor Seminary Diary

September
4: The minors returned this morning. We had a Family Orientation Day, and potluck lunch in the majors’ dining room. 34 boys this year in the minor seminary.
13: The minor seminarians watched the film “Unplanned”, a film which exposes Planned Parenthood and reiterates the monstrous reality of abortion in crystal clear terms.
18: Solemn Mass of the Holy Spirit. Elections for Student Council of 2019-20 were held. Warren Swoboda elected as President, Gabriel Baig as Vice-President, Bruno Walters as Secretary. Felix Reichel was elected as Hockey President with Joshua White as Vice-Hockey President.
24: Elections for Vocations Club were held.

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Clearwater Trip

Around 12:30 PM on the 3rd of October, 2019, the cloudy sky above the Abbey was sprinkling rain over the property and the Grade 12 class hurried to finish packing up the van while trying to remain dry. Peter, Felix, Warren, and Bruno were electrified with excitement since they awoke that morning. They were about to depart on the annual Grade 12 camping trip to Clearwater, BC. The van was soon packed full with food, gear, and the four senior seminarians, as well as Brother Joseph and Father Leo. The two monks had also been anticipating this trip, but they seemed calm and recollected as the group prayed before the small fire. After a short breakfast, the group reached the last leg of its journey. Whatever empty space could be found in the backpacks was filled with the provisions needed for that night and the following morning. Each person hoisted a pack onto his shoulders and we set out along the path down to the cabin by the river. On arrival, the beds were set up in the cabin, and the famished travellers quickly gathered wood, made a fire, and cooked their first camp meal. They prayed Vespers and headed to bed as soon as they could.

The following day, the sky dawned clear and blue. One by one, each camper found the strength to make his way outside and warm himself by the small fire. After a short breakfast, the group threw itself into the half-hour trek back to the van; before they lay the challenge of climbing Trophy Mountain. Another half-hour drive brought the van to a parking lot at the end of the road. With packed bags and full water bottles, the adventurers tackled the sloping path up Trophy Mountain. It was about an hour and a half of hiking before the group began to reap its rewards. The trail opened onto a treeless plain, and to the great joy of all, it was covered with snow! The landscape became vast and rocky, and the snow grew deeper. The hikers continued until they found an elevated place for Fr. Leo to celebrate Mass. After Mass, a hearty lunch was pulled out of the bags, and both monks and seminarians merrily ate, conversed, and soaked in the view. Br. Joseph then announced that it was time for each person to take some time alone to pray and marvel at God’s creation. The whole group rested after an hour. Refreshed and cheerful, they headed at a quick pace back down to the van. Before long, each individual was sharing his experiences of the day around a warm fire with dinner and s’mores. The amazing conversation was soon followed by bedtime, and everyone slept soundly and contentedly.

On Saturday, the wake-up call came earlier than the morning before because this was horseback riding day. Mass was said in the cabin, and a quick breakfast followed. The riders were out of the camp and at the horse yard by eight-thirty that morning, welcomed by the wonderful horse-wrangling couple Matt and Ursula, who assigned everybody a horse. Each horse was thoroughly brushed down and saddled, and after a quick riding lesson, eight horses carrying riders were headed along the long road up a mountain. The ride lasted all day, and everyone was treated with beautiful weather and a lunch lovingly prepared by Ursula - all this with a stunning view of the Clearwater River Valley. Once the ride mercifully ended, the sore riders disembarked, cleaned up their horses, and said goodbye to them, as well as to Matt and Ursula, with many thanks. Back at the cabin, everyone enjoyed a delicious supper. Bedtime was late that night as nobody wanted to miss out on the nighttime campfire conversation.

On Sunday, the group celebrated Mass outside the cabin. The morning was cold, and all were eager to clean up and depart. The hike up to the van was difficult, because everything that had been brought down needed to be carried back up the hill. Their labour, however, was of little consequence, because everyone had the opportunity to rest during the four-hour drive back to the Abbey, except for Fr. Leo, who was again forced to drive. He stopped the van around one o’clock and the last of the food was eaten for lunch. The rest of the drive was spent by some in conversation and some in sleep, but everyone was relieved to be home when the van finally drove up the familiar winding driveway to the seminary. The campers had returned home! Now they had time to rest properly. The Grade Twelves had the opportunity to live out what they had learned during their adventures. As for Fr. Leo and Br. Joseph, they would have to explain to Fr. Abbot why they had missed Sunday Vespers!
The forty-seventh instrument of good works which St. Benedict has imparted to us monks is “to keep death daily before one’s eyes” (RB Ch.4). Lately, this tool has been showing up of its own accord as several confreres enter their final years. Br. David had a stroke this summer and is now chair-and-bed-ridden but the brethren are taking turns to accompany him throughout each day. Though assisting one another in our infirmities is demanding work, it is also one of the most fulfilling. Br. Joseph is confident that his primary monastic formation occurred and still occurs in this work of caring for the elderly.

There is also the daily death to self which is kept before our eyes by our commitment to stability, conversion of life, and obedience. In the early summer, as Fr. Alban and Br. Maximus assiduously studied Latin in the searing heat of Rome, the junior monks faced the frightening prospect of filling the silo with a skeleton crew; by means of a skeleton crew that is. We still perform the feat in what (to the juniors) seems the ancient practice of madly forking freshly cut grass into the open mouth of a mechanical blower where an auger feeds it into the rickety machine’s metal esophagus which conveys the steaming fodder up and back down into the silo’s stomach. Inside the ravenous beast, one or two brave souls spread the grass as evenly as possible and stomp it down in a frenzied dance as they try to breathe and see amidst a noxious atmosphere tainted with the acrid protonemomin glycoside oil emitted by vengeful buttercups. Despite their small numbers and some faulty tractor hydraulics (for which manual maneuvers had to compensate), the juniors went at it with noitral zeal. Needless to say, Frater Athanasius did not complain when substitution for Br. Maximus’ Latin 11 class conveniently occupied his time during the silage hours. After much toil, however, the silo was miraculously brought to bulging point, happily secreting its aromatic juices to the delight of strange flora and fauna. As the juniors patted themselves on the back, the seniors re-counted an antediluvian time when the grass was forked by hand for weeks into lumbering trailers without the aid of a harvester and when the blower’s pipe did not extend into the silo’s stomach but simply rained down grass and buttercups in a maelstrom of chopped vegetation upon the stompers below.

There is also quite a story behind the hay season this year but suffice it to say that the rain came down consistently until camp time (leaving the work to a skeleton crew once again) and that the hay baler functioned normally by breaking down on numerous occasions. During a crucial evening fix-up, Fr. Joseph and Br. Joseph were invigorated when the air was suddenly filled with some roaring Soviet songs sounding down from the recreation room.

This summer, Fr. Joseph also set to work installing 170 metres of 8-inch water lines in order to expand our fire protection. It involved adding two more fire hydrants to the existing system. But just before work began, a design problem was noticed. With the help of Peter Abels, a retired master plumber and benefactor from Germany, and our local consulting engineers, a second pipe was added to the trenches to provide a passive loopback in the new branch to keep the water treatment fresh and safer to drink. The workforce for this project included many different confreres; even the Abbot and the Prior jumped into the trenches. On the final day before approval from the city and to initiate the new system, the hydrants were opened and purged with tremendous force.

In an effort to make the property more proper to monastic principles, a new viewpoint was created so that the land around the old viewpoint could be reserved for the monastic enclosure. Fr. Joseph continued landscaping our future monastic enclosure. Fr. Joseph continued landscaping our future monastic enclosure and hauled the extra dirt to the chosen site for the fabrication of a road. Several monks cut down obstructing trees and built a form for a retaining wall. On the exciting day of the cement pour, the assigned brethren waited with eager expectation for the trucks to arrive. To pass the time productively, they gathered a horde of woolly bear caterpillars out of harm’s way into the hands of Br. Isidore. The restless critters soon began a widespread exploration of his jacket. The trucks did eventually arrive and work began in earnest.

When all was over and done, Br. Joseph said it was the best pour he had had, albeit the most frightening because of the dangerous soft and hilly ground through which the monstrous vehicles had to traverse. To finish the project, the new road was buttressed and gravelled, a chain link fence was assembled with the help of Postulant Isaac’s Red Seal welding expertise, and a beautiful cedar bench lately refurbished by Br. Bartholomew was suitably situated.

Alack, our colourful account leaves us with little room to recount countless other duties and accomplishments of the brethren: the steert barn was reroofed and reinforced; Isaac’s welding skills came into use again (after the barn was filled with flammable hay of course); Br. Meinrad retired from his office as minor seminary rector’s assistant, leaving behind him a
Mr. Don Rullens retired from teaching at the High School Seminary after sixteen years. Donald Joseph Rullens was born August 16, 1935 in New Westminster. His father, Louis, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at the beginning of WWII and the family followed him to Calgary and Toronto. They returned to New Westminster when Louis was posted overseas in 1941/1942.

Don was received into the Church at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Coquitlam at Easter 1950 and was confirmed that same year at Pen-tecost. He completed his grade 12 at St. Ann’s Academy, New Westminster in 1952/53.

From October 1954 till October 1963 Don was an pilot with the R.C.A.F. After his initial year of training, he spent three years on an all-weather jet fighter squadron (CF-100’s) at St. Hubert, Quebec. This was followed by five years at the Primary Flying School in Ontario. The R.C.A.F. offered him a permanent commission in 1963 which he declined. When Don left the Air Force he was Chief Standards Officer of the Flying School with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. He remained in the inactive reserve till 1983.

After leaving the Air Force Don did two years at Christ the King College in London, Ontario. In September of 1966 he volunteered in Prince George as a Frontier Apostle under Bishop Fergus O’Grady, OMI, returning to Maillardville in June 1967. In July of that year he became a guard in the maximum security unit of the Lower Mainland Regional Correctional Centre in Burnaby. Next May Don took the graveyard shift at the prison so he could attend SFU during the days. By August of 1970 he completed his BA, majoring in English, as well as obtaining a Professional Teaching Certificate. In October, he enrolled in a Probation Officers’ Training Course in Vancouver which he completed in February 1971. Don worked in this field for the next twelve years and was the Local Director of the eighteen person office when he left there to start PreTheology at the Seminary in the fall of 1983. Don remained in the seminary till May 1, 1987 and completed a Bachelor of Theology degree. Don was known, and is remembered, for many things in the seminary. He was the oldest of the seminarians at that time but still participated in all the sports. He had size 14 shoes and had to get special soccer cleats. He was very orderly, always had a bowl of unshelled peanuts on his desk and was always very approachable to all in need.

During his first year at the seminary Don began helping immigrants. This started when one of the Vietnamese seminarians asked Don if he would help to sponsor his brother in a Malaysian refugee camp. So began a ministry that helped hundreds of refugees.

After seminary studies Don returned to his job in Probation till 2000, when he reached retirement age. Never one to slow down, Don right away enrolled in the ESL training program at UBC and got his certificate in 2002, which aided him in his continuing work with immigrants. At this time he also audited courses in SFU in Linguistics. He kept teaching Adult Bible Study groups, which he began in 1977 and in 2003 started to teach at the high school seminary. At first he came to teach English 9, then took on Religion 8 and 9 as well. Don’s wide experience in teaching, working with people in need, his love for God and the poor and his stories of devils kept his students engaged and informed.

True to his fighting character to the end, he gave these last words to the monastic and seminary communities, during the common meal on September 29, “If you follow Jesus you will be wounded. Make sure your wounds are in the front from facing the enemy and not in the back from running away.”

Don became a Benedictine Oblate of the Abbey on April 16, 1978 and continues to have a great devotion to St. Benedict and an appreciation of the power of St. Benedict Medals.
Father Alban, OSB, emailed us from Rome on June 19th: “I was having supper here at Sant’ Anselmo tonight and a Franciscan with a beard came up to me, turning out to be Fr. Christopher McKelvie ’00. He is with the Franciscans of Halifax and doing a licence in Scripture at the Biblicum, planning to start his doctorate next year. He is dedicating his thesis to Fr. Nicholas Ruh, OSB, who suggested a long time ago that he study at the Biblicum. He sends his greetings to the community, especially Fr Nicholas and Fr Dunstan.”

Fr. Troy Nguyen ’06, newly ordained for the Calgary diocese, came overnight with his parents and five other Vietnamese family members on July 5th.

Fr. Derrick Cameron ’96, Vocations Director for Kamloops, brought two men for the Vocation Live-In on July 5th.

Rudy Van Berkel ’80 and an assistant came to shampoo the carpets in all the guesthouse rooms & in the majors’ residence in July.

Fr. Bryan Duggan ’11 came on private retreat August 6-8. He is studying for a doctorate in Psychology in Virginia.

Fr. Paul Antonius Ho, CSJB, ’90 died on Sept 23, 2019, in the Bronx, NY, of cancer. He was born in Vietnam, studied at SCK 1987-90, ordained a priest in 1995 after joining the Congregation of St. John the Baptist in Taiwan, and ministered in Brooklyn, NY, for almost 20 years.

Richard Stowell Murphy ’76 died in Abbotsford on December 11, 2018, of a brain tumour. His wife, Janet Delia Murphy, brought up to the Abbey a framed photo that Richard kept from his student days at SCK (1972-76), showing Father Lawrence, OSB, at the top a mountain in the Chilliwack area, taken by Father Damasus Payne, OSB. Richard grew to love hiking after going on several trips with Fr. Damasus.

John Rossi ’62, died in Surrey on October 12, 2019. He was the brother of Msgr. Bernard Rossi ’69 and of Tarcisio Rossi ’77.

Felix Ruh, the brother of Father Nicholas Ruh OSB, died in Switzerland at the age of 97 on September 15th.