



PAX REGIS

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The cover: Easter daffodil from the abbey gardens.

Abbatial Resignation

As many readers will have already heard, Abbot John Braganza resigned on May 3, 2022. This event occurred after months of personal and community discernment.

Abbot John has served as abbot for sixteen years with many accomplishments with regard to the life of the monastery and the seminaries.

An abbot of the Swiss-American Congregation can resign when he becomes aware that his needs or those of the community would be best served by a change in leadership. The need for change and renewal, for both Abbot John and for the community became

evident after concerns regarding his interpersonal relations arose.

In the present societal and ecclesial context, it is important to note that there are neither allegations of sexual misconduct nor of any misconduct with minors.

Fr. Benedict Lefebvre, OSB, Prior of the community, is the temporary administrator of the Abbey until July 11 when the



Refurbished Cross of St. Benedict in the abbey gardens

monastic chapter will meet for an abbatial election. Abbot John will be away for a period of time. Prayers for Abbot John and the community in this time of transition are appreciated.

Ecumenical Visit

We have not had an ecumenical guest for three years now with COVID. However, this year, when Father Matthew Francis, the pastor at Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Chilliwack was asked to be one of our ecumenical guests, he in turn invited us. Later, we had to cancel all the Ecumenical evenings due to a spike in COVID cases in our communities, but we were able to reschedule our visit to Holy Apostles.

We attended Vespers and a Liturgy of the Presanctified on the first Wednesday of Lent in the Eastern calendar. During the weekdays of Lent, the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified is celebrated in lieu of the usual Divine Liturgy, as it better reflects the penitential nature of the season. This Liturgy included many Alleluias

(more Alleluias are sung in Lent), psalms, and prostrations (characteristic of Lent). It is also of liturgical interest for us Westerners because it was largely composed by a Bishop of Rome, Pope St. Gregory the Great (in the Eastern traditions, called Gregory the Dialogist).

There were eight of us who attended: six seminarians, and Frs. Joseph and Caesarius. After the Liturgy, we were able to chat with some of the parishioners, including the priest's wife, Matushka Krista ("Matushka" meaning "mama" in Russian), who herself was a priest's daughter, and was conducting the choir during the Liturgy. When Fr. Matthew was finished unvesting, we had a very edifying visit with him, touching on the topics of the liturgy, seminary formation,

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and the nature of the priesthood, to name a few things.

It was a beautiful and enriching experience, which has helped us to appreciate more the mysteries that we celebrate in the Liturgy, as well as the power of Christ at work even outside the confines of the Catholic Church.



Holy Apostles Orthodox Church in Chilliwack

Major Seminary Diary

November 2021

4: Luis completed his fifth straight day of serving as thurifer today! Depending on the week, one might only serve on the Sunday, so five straight days is quite unusual.

6: Nathan, Paul Vo, Peter, and Patrick went down to St. Joseph's Food Bank to help with their bottle drive. It was a wet experience, but we were fed and even sent back to the Seminary with some food to share with the community.

10: Most of the Major seminarians attended the Archbishop's Dinner at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver.

11: The seminarians left this afternoon for the November home weekend.

14: The seminarians returned this evening. Now there is just over a month till the Majors have their first semester exams.

15: Fr. Richard Conlin celebrated a solemn Mass of thanksgiving for the Conventual Mass this morning. He also met with some of the seminarians and joined us for dinner. Fr. Richard finished his studies at SCK in 2020.

20: The Major seminarians hosted five men for a "Come and See" at the seminary. The day was filled with activities such as holy hour, sports, and times of discussion where some of the seminarians could share about life in the seminary.

21: Today was the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe; the patronal feast for our seminary.

December 2021

1: Frs. Matthew and Joseph joined several of the Major seminarians on an outing to see the Abbotsford Canucks



The birthday mitre (L to R): Noah Clendenin, Solomon Nyguen, Patrick Le



Major seminarians with retreat master, Fr. James Northrop

hockey team. It was a very close and exciting game with a final score of 5-4 for the Canucks.

5: Today the philosophers presented an original Saint Nicholas play during the Advent Program. The play was written by Brother Joshua and included memorable events from the life of Saint Nicholas, such as his providing the dowries for three young maidens and his election as bishop of Myra. Paul Raine played Saint Nicholas

and will likely be remembered in this role for some time.

13: Today was the last day of classes for the Major seminarians. Now we will have our final examinations.

22: Christmas break!! All the seminarians get to leave after breakfast this morning. See you back at the seminary in two weeks.

2022 January

5: Seminarians return before Vespers to settle in for the second semester.

8: Christmas was very white this year with cold and snowy conditions for much of the break. The first week back at the Seminary was much of the same. Paul Vo, Noah, Paul Raine, and Peter took advantage of the weather by building a snow-fort out of a snowdrift that had formed in front of the Spirituality Year house.

12: Today is the last day of our annual workshop. This year focused on the relationship of the Church with local First Nations. We heard



Hotpot night at the CSJB Formation House

from a number of speakers and guests including Grand Chief Clarence and Nancy Pennier, Bishop Gary Gordon and Deacon Jamie Meskas.

13: Back to the grindstone! Our second semester classes begin today.

26: Our annual seminary retreat starts this evening. This year our retreat master is Fr. James Northrop, a priest from the Archdiocese of Seattle.

March 2022

19: The Majors went out to Galaxy Bowling and had a great time doing our best to shred the lanes and crash some pins!

April 2022

3: Five of the Major seminarians competed in the Oratory contest today. The goals of the persuasive speeches ranged from convincing the audience to spend some time appreciating nature daily to boycotting China. Good work, everyone!

17: Happy Easter! Praise the Lord! Alleluia! Some of the seminarians were serving at Holy Rosary Cathedral for the Vigil, but most of the Major seminarians enjoyed the Abbey's liturgies. The end of the Vigil also marks the beginning of our Easter break. See you in 187 hours, when Easter Sunday is over!

24: The seminarians returned from their Easter break this evening. The Majors have their final Exams this week. One last push to the end!

30: Today we had our final Mass for the year and after Midday Prayer the monastic and seminary communities joined in a common meal



Climbing over "the Wall" during Sports Day

to mark the end of the Majors' year of formation. We were also joined by outside faculty members and other guests. Thank you for another year of formation!

Minoz Seminary Diary

November 2021

Sat 6: Nine boys arrived this morning for our first vocation live-in of the year. The day began with Mass in the high school chapel at 10:00am. Afterwards Fr. Peter showed the Fishers of Men video, which is about the priesthood. In the afternoon, because of the continuous rain, we played games of dodge ball in the gym. After

sports, hot chocolate was provided for snack and later we had adoration with Taizé hymns in the high school chapel.

Sun 21: No school today because it is the Solemnity of Christ the King. We enjoyed the chance to catch up on homework and spend time outside in the good weather.



Saturday work period: clearing the woods and building a rope swing

December 2021

Sun 5: For the Advent Program this year, the Minor seminarians performed a forty minute version of Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens*, starring Gus Pelletier as Timon. We also performed three band pieces and later enjoyed sharing conversations and refreshments before Vespers.

January 2022

Wed 5: The minors returned from a well deserved two week Christmas break to snow at the Abbey! A snow fort complete with tunnels was constructed in the parking lot to ambush unsuspecting Majors. Many boys also took the chance to sled down the surrounding hills as well as checking out the frozen lake. This slow start to school gave us the chance to rest and become accustomed to the routines of seminary life.

Sat 8: Unfortunately, the first seminarian (followed by many more) was tested positive for COVID-19. Over time, COVID went through

most of the school infecting a few boys at a time so now we are using the Rec room to isolate sick boys. For some boys this became a chance to enjoy some extra sleep, not attend classes, all without any severe symptoms. For others staying in one room for days in a row was a real challenge and after recovering they came out very high strung. After a while no one tested positive so the school returned to normal.

Fri 14-Sat 15: The Grade 11s were able to hike Mt. Burke with Fr. Leo and Br. Joseph and stay one night on the mountain. We climbed towards the summit twice and had great weather all day Saturday to enjoy nature and companionship.

Thu 27-Sun 30: On Thursday night we began the first of eight conferences led by Fr. Matthew for the Minors' annual retreat. This gave us the chance to reflect on why we are in the seminary. The retreat focused on how we relate to others and offered us Scripture stories to find out more about ourselves. Some of the memorable events of the retreat were the saint movies we watched, private prayer, and the times just for silence.

February 2022

Fri 11-13: We hosted a boys' live-in this weekend for more than fifteen boys filled with lots of prayer and fun. Saturday included adoration, spiritual reading and Midday Prayer with the monks followed by a vocation talk by Fr. Leo. Games of manhunt and dodge ball made up the afternoon.

March 2022

Thu 11-Sun 13: Departing after lunch on Friday the Minors with Fr. Leo, Fr. Peter, and Br. Bartholomew set out by bus for another visit to Queen of Peace Monastery in Squamish. Through all the outside work of felling trees, chopping wood, transplanting small trees, moving logs, digging trenches, and sorting compost, our prayers for good weather were heard. We had beautiful sunny weather during our time there. We had the opportunity to join the nuns in the work as well as in their prayer. Sunday morning

left us with time to pray and enjoy the good weather before returning in the afternoon.

Sat 19: With the help of local families as drivers, the grade 11s and 12s organized two hikes on nearby mountains. The second hike was this Saturday and although it was very cold at the top (It was snowing!), the beauty of nature and brotherhood as well as the amazing sandwiches turned the trip into a memorable experience for all.

Sun 20: In the rain several minors pitched in during the minors vs. majors hockey game today. Opening with a top shelf goal by Ian Yun, the minors held their lead until a last minute goal by the majors left the game in a 4 to 4 tie. The game was exciting right to the end.

Mon 21: As it was the solemnity of Saint Benedict's Passing, there was no school and the seminarians enjoyed the good food. In the evening Sam Hertel, Jean-Paul, and Nathan Ticman made their final oblation as Oblates of Saint Benedict.

April 2022

Sun 3: For the spring Parents' Day the minor seminarians, under the direction of Fr Caesarius, put on a short choric drama featuring Roald Dahl's *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Also we played multiple band pieces concluding with the *Captain America March*. Fr. Peter announced after the performances that three of the seminarians, Alarick, Jacob, and Andrew, had won prize money for essays they submitted in an Unplanned (pro-life) essay writing contest. Alarick came in first place!

Thu 14-17: Christ is risen! Mere hours before the Easter Vigil, the minors watched the movie "The Passion" by Mel Gibson as is the tradition. After we proceeded to Easter Vigil. After Mass finished at 2AM, several boys grabbed bathing suits and took a dip in Mary Lake under a beautiful big moon! It has brought so much joy to us seeing the Church filled with people again. Truly now is a time to rejoice for Lent is over and Easter has begun!



Grade 11s and 12s make a day trip into Mission City

With the Brothers



Br Joshua tastes his special juice mixture

When he wrote his rule for monks, St. Benedict sought to establish a “school of the Lord’s service.” The image of a school fittingly characterizes the evangelical discipleship which monks live in accordance with the Lord’s words, “But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers” (Mt 23:8). Of course, this does not annihilate the necessary and beneficial hierarchical relationships of community life but rather elucidates how every monk is fundamentally a disciple learning each day how to love the Lord anew. Following St. Benedict’s advice that “speaking and teaching belong to the master; the disciple’s part is to be silent and to listen” (RB 6) the brothers are understandably hesitant to share their recent experiences of discipleship. As edifying as a blank page may be (a point made clear in the movie *Kung Fu Panda*) the author is determined to use what information he can glean from observation and communication to meet our readers’ expectations.

After a second year of theology in which Frater Athanasius learned about transcendent eschatology,

Hellenistic historiography, histrionic mannerisms, *ferendae sententiae*, and recalcitrant recidivism, he discovered on Good Friday that he did not yet know how to iron out the wrinkles from boiled altar cloths (boiled so as to get all the wax out). Thankfully, Br. Paschasius came to his aid with a better iron and improved techniques so that by 10:00PM the needed cloth was ready to serve on the altar for the Easter Vigil.

On the matter of household tasks, Br. Isidore had a great insight into mopping kitchen floors. The task used to be done in the day hours when chaotic kitchen activities were in full swing. It was understandably difficult for Brother to avoid both obstructing others and being obstructed himself; a situation which brings to mind the sage advice found in a *Company’s Coming Cookbook*: “If everything’s coming your way, better check what lane you’re in.” Well, rather than strain his neck with shoulder checks, Brother reasoned that nothing will come your way if you just go at the right time. He now mops the floors peacefully at twilight.

But danger lurks even in tranquility. One



Novice Isaac prepares the asparagus beds with our two observers, Peter Pitchko and Thomas Cliplef

quiet evening, Brother put down his jug of floor soap and continued mopping. When he went to retrieve it, lo and behold, the jug had vanished! Truth be told, Br. Benedict had mistaken it for oil and left the jug of floor soap on the counter for the next morning's omelettes. Fortunately, disaster was averted and not a single omelette fried in floor soap passed from plate to palate. Br. Isidore had espied the dangerous jug in due time. Speaking of omelettes, we have been spoiled with more than our usual Easter octave omelette because Frater Matthias has eagerly stepped in to cook our Sunday order breakfasts while Br. Joseph is away at the eternal city taking a course on monastic formation. Frater Matthias has also successfully completed his first year of Arts and is learning to apply his artistic talents in many fields, from flower gardening to wood working.

Br. Joseph relates from Rome that he is learning monastic lore by the hour. It struck him that in studying monastic history, not only do we better understand our present particular situation but, thanks to the communion of saints which spans space and time, we get to know our living brothers and sisters who have gone before us and who make up the Body of Christ with us. Seeing no need to travel, Br. Luke has been renewing his own monastic formation right at home by reading a commentary on the Holy Rule by Michael Casey, OCSO. Meanwhile, Frater Novice Isaac has been undergoing the intensive formation of the novitiate. St. Benedict lists three precise activities for those who live in the novitiate: "They meditate, eat and sleep" (RB 58). Thankfully, no one had to teach Frater how to eat and sleep so he has concentrated on the meditating part. Numbered among the helpers of Fr. Dunstan, Frater is also learning the art of patience as the gargantuan Stations of the Cross project progresses slowly but surely.

With Brother Joseph away, there are many roles to learn besides cooking Sunday breakfasts. Worthy of note is Br. John's shopping practicum. This task, proverbially difficult for men, is well-

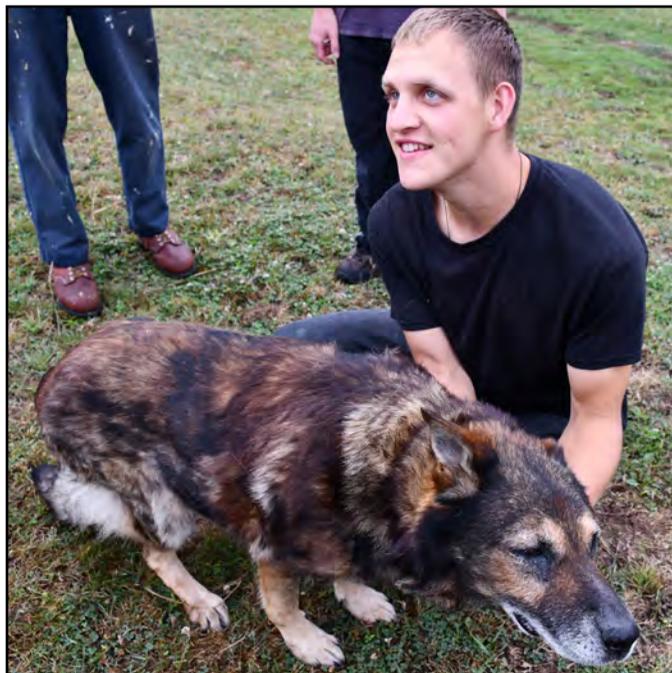


Br. Joseph stands next to a Swiss Guard in Rome

nigh impossible for monks. It can sometimes be a veritable nightmare to find the right product. For example, while purchasing vitamins for Br. Meinrad, Brother failed to notice the tiny "Children's" label on a bottle of Vitamin D. They say one reverts to childhood in old age but strawberry flavoured teddy bears were a bit over the top for Br. Meinrad. Brother John charitably picked up some age-appropriate pills on his next shopping expedition. (The teddy bears were not bought in vain, however. They have been placed in the monastic dispensary and appear to be diminishing.)

Br. Maximus notes the importance of learning from the wisdom and experience of our aging elders. He was racking his brains wondering how to round out a square block of wood when Fr. Nicholas came by and showed him a trick using a round pipe and hammer which he himself had learned from Br. Joseph Gauch of venerable memory.

Postulant Agostino had some harrowing experiences in the fields. He helped harrow them, in other words. He also picked up a knack for picking up sticks. One may think that, like eating and sleeping, this skill would not have much of a learning curve. However, on a two-hundred-acre property of curving forests and fields it is a most honourable chore and was once accomplished by no less a monk than our burly Br. Stephen, of venerable memory. Meanwhile, Postulant Jonathan has been (mostly dexterously) handling the myriad learning curves of a first year in the monastery. One must start somewhere before becoming a jack of all trades and master of none (a turn of phrase which captures monastic discipleship quite well).



Br John gives Thor, our old farm dog, a good scratch

As usual, Br. Bartholomew has been leading many work projects and learning that the task of discipleship is all the more incumbent for one who has disciples under him. It takes a lot of analysis to size up practical problems and then to involve others (who are not always practically gifted or experienced) with implementing a solution. Aided by Jonathan and Agostino, the minor seminarians, and two men interested in the monastic life, Brother has marvellously installed firewalls and seismic upgrades to the Minor Seminary attic, repaired innumerable fences, and removed five dump trucks of dirt from beside the library to install a brick moisture-prevention wall. With our enhanced manure pits and repaired spreader, Brother was also able to spread manure in record time.

Down at the barn, our old dog Thor was put to rest after a bitter bout with cancer and jealousy. He had not been pleased with our new dog, Blue, taking his place and so had tried to nip the new recruit at every opportunity. Presently, Br. Emeric is still figuring out how to harness Blue's unbounded energy. Brother needs all the energy he has for this task so an energy-saving device was purchased. A grain silo now delivers chicken food straight to the coop.

There are few things which give more energy to a monk's step than the signal for the Work of God. St. Benedict tells us, "As soon as the signal is heard, let them abandon whatever they may have in hand and hasten with the greatest speed" (RB 43). This year, Br. Joshua has introduced a new bell-ringing method to signal the Work of God. Most ringers learned by a crash course. The result was a clash course accompanied by Brother's increasingly desperate calls for order:

"You're snapping with the treble!"

"Crash!"

Second places down!"

"Bash!"

"Five-Six!"

"CLANG!"

"FIVE-SIX!"



The tower bell rung for the angelus

“KABLASH!”

(detectable interior sigh...)

“Rounds!”

And the bells fell neatly back into place. After many such attempts, most of the wrinkles have been ironed out and Brother has his eyes set on introducing another even more challenging method called Stedman Doubles. Frater Athanasius is just glad that Frater Matthias fitted a “sock” to the fraying rope of bell six. It had seemed undignified to come before the Lord of heaven and earth looking like one had been jumped by one of those shaggy dogs which shed hair faster than a sheep being shorn.

In reflecting upon what the brothers have experienced during the past few months, one cannot help but notice that community life causes problems. But one also begins to recognize that those very problems and many more besides are in turn resolved by community life. This brings to mind how the communion of the Three Divine Persons is responsible for the problem of evil. After all, has not God lovingly bestowed

free will on foolhardy beings like ourselves? But do not lose heart! The Holy Trinity has sized up the problem and involved us (who are not always spiritually gifted or experienced) in the solution accomplished by Jesus’ Paschal Mystery. And what could be sweeter to us, dearest readers, than the voice of the Lord inviting us “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves” (Mt 11:29)?

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.

Alumnitems

We recently received news that **Fr. Andrew Souksavath Nouane-Asa** ’02 was appointed Vicar Apostolic of the Vicariate of Pakse in Laos as of May 31, 2022. Pakse has about 21,000 Catholics in a total population of about 1.3 million, so 1.6% of the population. Souksavath was in our seminary 1998-2002, studied theology at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Edmonton and was ordained for the Vicariate of Pakse in 2006.

Among alumni celebrating 25 years of priestly ordination are Fathers **Kevin McGee** ’84 and **Phong Pham** ’96 of the Saskatoon diocese; **David Mayovsky** ’92 of the Seattle archdiocese; **Vincent Tuan Ha** ’92 of the Calgary diocese, **James Mallon** ’92, of the Halifax archdiocese, and **Patrick Fulton**, CSB ’85 now Principal at Detroit Catholic Central High School, Novi, Michigan.

Congratulations to our jubilarians, and *Ad multos annos!*

Among the recent clergy appointments in the Vancouver Archdiocese, effective July 14, are the following: as pastors, Fathers **Lucio Choi** ’16 to

Holy Trinity, North Vancouver; **Mark McGuckin** ’16, to St. Francis de Sales, Burnaby; **John McCarthy** ’83, to St. Joseph’s, Mission; **Nick Meisl** ’07, to St. Peter’s, New Westminster; **Augustine Obiwumma** ’93, to Star of the Sea, Surrey.

As assistant pastors: Fathers **Guy Zidago** ’16, to Christ the Redeemer, West Vancouver; and **Giovanni Schiesari** ’16 to St. Mary’s, Chilliwack.

John Lingley ’67 writes that he and his wife both retired recently from their architectural careers and have moved from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where they had lived for the past 24 years to the Eastern Townships in Quebec. They are enjoying retirement in their cottage on the shores of Lake Massawippi.

Father **Bill Corcoran** ’69 writes:

1. It will be three years this coming August 1st since I retired. I now live at a unique and wonderful arrangement with presently 14 retired clergy choosing to rent these two-bedroom apartment units, owned by our diocese.

2. With the arrival of the pandemic, I was

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Grade 12s graduation (L to R): Dominic Cummings, Gus Pelletier, Charles Testa, Sam Hertel, Jayden Nguyen

simultaneously diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. With much chemotherapy and radiation and thankfully even more prayer, I have recovered. While many were forced into pandemic isolation, I was very busy with medical appointments and treatments at our fabulous and famous Tom Baker cancer hospital.

3. I again remain occupied with teaching homiletics and sacramental sessions with our permanent diaconate program in Calgary diocese as well as weekend, parish replacements.

I continue to be grateful for my faith, health and priestly ministry.”

Ken Beatch '74 writes: “I have retired from the practice of criminal law after 35 years and have moved with my wife to Vancouver Island and now operate a Bed and Breakfast in Kye Bay, just outside of Comox. Life is good here, we live across the road from the ocean and can see Powell River across the water. Gary Gordon, a classmate of mine, is now my Bishop.”

Whilst teaching Social Studies 10 at St. Thomas Aquinas in North Vancouver, **John O'Flynn '83** has found time to make contact with his fellow SCK graduates of 1982. Plans for the 40th Anniversary gathering are taking shape for alumni **Mario Milanese, David Johnson, Kenneth Graham, Paul Franchuk** and **Marc Dansereau.**

Christopher Bryde '03 writes: “I moved [from Oregon] to England and currently reside at St. Mary's University in London.”

Chris Moraes '05 writes: “I recently completed my Bachelor of Education at the University of Calgary and am teaching high school economics, social studies, debate and French at Clear Water Academy, a private Catholic School in Calgary. Our school is planning a vocations live-in trip to SCK in the fall semester of 2022. I am also the founding president of the Serra Club of the Diocese of Calgary working to promote priestly and religious vocations in our parishes and schools.”

Fr. Dean Henderson '07 writes: “Royal Roads University has purchased our property and we're in the process of designing a new Church and hall, as well as getting our new 7 acre site ready for construction once we get a permit from the Ministry of Environment.” He is the pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Langford, Diocese of Victoria.

Requiescant in pace:

Ronald Welwood '57 died November 21, 2021 in Nelson, BC. He was a noted Kootenay historian and archivist of the Diocese of Nelson for many years.

Herman Broekhuizen '56 died on March 26 in Parksville, BC. He was a brother-in-law to **Frank Verkerk '57** who let us know.