

The Death of Rt. Rev. Abbot Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B.

(Continued from page 1.)

porter of strictly Catholic societies and organizations. The Volkverein is now robbed of its second General Director within less than eight months. Last fall the enthusiastic Father Suffa, O. M. I., for many years General Director of the Verein, succumbed to the ravages of the influenza. All eyes were turned toward Abbot Bruno as the able successor to the Rev. Father Suffa. Though the Abbot was but for a short time Director of the Verein, the society owes him much and mourns its loss deeply. The members of the Volkverein as well as the Knights of Columbus are paying their last respects to the universally beloved Abbot in a most befitting and charitable manner by keeping vigil by the corpse during the night. The Knights of Columbus have placed a beautiful wreath of natural carnations and ferns at the feet of the Abbot.

A large vacancy now exists in the field of Western Canada's journalism, but especially does the Catholic press, which stands so badly in need of fearless defenders of Catholics and Catholic traditions, suffer an apparently irreparable loss for a long period to come. Abbot Bruno was extremely well read, was an excellent conversationalist and could write or converse on almost any subject. For some years he was editor of the St. Peters Bote and at the time of his death did most of the editing. That the change of the St. Peters Bote from a German publication made not the slightest difference to the able pen of the Abbot has been sufficiently proven and illustrated by the ease, grace, force, and pertness when necessary, of his style. That Abbot Bruno was an able editor of the St. Peters Bote as a German publication, was well known to all readers, but the ability with which he wielded his pen when the paper had to adapt itself to the ordinances of the government and publish in English, was a revelation to many a reader. It pleased him to note that though a number of readers could not read or understand English, they practically all, nevertheless, continued their subscriptions. Several attempts have been made by Abbot Bruno towards attaining the privilege of again editing the paper in the German language. In this he was unsuccessful. He never hesitated to submit to the rulings of the civil authorities as rigorous as they may at times have been, as long as nothing subsversive of Catholic doctrine and tradition was promoted. On the contrary, he instilled the patriotism that filled his own heart, into the hearts of the readers, especially the young men, and that particularly when they were tried hardest through the drafting measures of the army. He hated desertion and exhorted every young man to duty, advising him to go when called, and fight manfully for the country of his adoption.

True to Benedictine tradition, the Abbot was averse to controversy. But when he was literally forced by the opponents of the Catholic Faith who disliked to hear certain plain truths, to step up in defense of religion, equity and liberty, his rebuttals and counter-attacks were flung against the adversaries with such vim and grit as seemed almost to belie his usual smooth and unruffled temperament which had become by practice and effort, a second nature to him. These defenses for the Catholic cause have proven themselves spicy and useful instruction to the common people and have laid bare many a snare hidden under the rubbish heaps of Orange 'peals' etc.

Abbot Bruno was a true philanthropist, and the thousands of people whom he benefitted have now lost him whom they, after his own community, can in the true sense of the word, call their father. Any settler who has been in or near the Colony for some years, cannot help but admire the progress that has taken place within a few years. This progress, none dare gainsay, has been due to the never-remitting efforts of Abbot Bruno to obtain for the settlers the best for soul, mind and body—and to this purpose he introduced into the Colony two orders of nuns, the Elizabethans and the Ursulines. The first band of Elizabethans arrived in the Colony from the convent at Klagenfurt, Kaernten, Austria, in 1911. The blessings of Almighty have rested visibly upon the now so numerous community of hospital sisters at Humboldt. It has been the sad privilege of these sisters to tend the Abbot in his short illness, and to close his glazed eyes to this world. It is notable with what eagerness the Abbot came to Humboldt to his sisters, though he was seriously ill. He might have stayed in Saskatoon and taken quarters at the hospital there, but no, back to his own sisters and as near to his confreres as possible.

The Ursuline Nuns are, as far as their number permits, in charge of the parochial schools of the Colony.—May God speed the day when every school in the Colony, or at least a school at every parish will be under the direction of these sisters. They are at present active at Münster, Leafeld, Dead Moose Lake and Bruno, where a new motherhouse is being erected.—These two communities of sisters are a boon and a blessing to the Colony. In their hearts, we trust, will the memory of Abbot Bruno be ever firmly rooted as well as in the hearts of the settlers for whose benefit the Abbot planted these communities in their midst that they might by their labors bear fruit a hundredfold.

Journalism, the Catholic press, Catholic organizations, the church of Western Canada, the diocese of Prince Albert, the Colony etc. have all suffered severely through the passing of this capable man, some by way of a guide, others by way of a benefactor; some by way of a sincere friend, others by way of a spiritual father; and again others by way of a staunch defender; but in all these ways has the Benedictine Community of St. Peter at Münster, Sask., sustained an awful loss, a calamity. Few people outside realize what our beloved Abbot meant to the little community of monks. It is only with the greatest difficulty that we bow in humble resignation to the Will of the Almighty All-merciful God and kiss the hand that smote us. May the good God Who has tried us so sorely be more merciful to our beloved Abbot than He has been to us in sending us this trial. May the soul of our dearly beloved Abbot rest in the sweetest peace and enjoy the beatific vision forevermore!

The monks have become dearly attached to their Abbot whilst he ruled the community. Abbot Bruno has hosts of friends, not to mention the Colony, among the Catholic Hierarchy of Canada and the United States, as well as among all classes of people in all North America, ranging from the southernmost Benedictine community in the U. S. to the world's northernmost missions near Canada's Arctic circle, and not a few in Europe. From Abbot Bruno's eyes there shone forth such a personal magnetism of charity with which his heart overflowed, as few could resist. Anyone who was acquainted with Father Abbot could not help but note in him his characteristic childlike simplicity, frankness and charity in his dealings with others, coupled with almost entire forgetfulness of self. His commands were ordinarily in the form of requests. Despite his manifold and difficult duties, trials and troubles, Father Abbot retained a remarkable equanimity. He had also a way of

performing some of the most menial services about the house without yielding his high dignity one iota, and in the performance of such or other duties, the least shadow of ostentatious conduct was ever something unknown to him. The sick he would often, aye, commonly tend with his own hands and rise at any odd hours of the night to be of use or to see whether he could be of use to the patient. Ought not such fatherly or brotherly love win any heart?

The forlorn community thanks sincerely for the words, letters and telegrams of sympathy received. His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate himself has sent the community a telegram of heartfelt sympathy with the assurance of his prayers. Many others were there, among them one from His Grace the Most Rev. Archbishop Mathieu of Regina, Sask. We wish to thank all who have been and are lending a helping hand in the many preparations prior to the reception of the corpse and at the funeral, and all who share with us in any way whatsoever in our grief, whether it be at the altar, in the choir, by way of harboring visiting clergy, or whether it be merely by way of sharing in the general mourning. To the Rt. Rev. Bishops and Abbots and Rev. Fathers, our sincere thanks. We in turn extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the relatives of the deceased Abbot, especially to the Rev. Father Hilary Doerfler of St. John's Abbey.

It is with sincere regret that we are obliged to bring this meagre tribute to our departed dearly beloved Abbot to a close. May he look down upon us from his heavenly home with holy interest and stretch forth his hand which has so often on earth given us its blessing, to impart to us his fatherly benediction. Here was a man who served as a model in the observance of the injunction of our holy Father Benedict when, in speaking of the Abbot of the community, he says: "Let him aim to be loved rather than feared." (Holy Rule, Chap. 64.)

Rueful day, O day of sorrow!
Evening, morn, 'this day, the morrow,
Sounds do steep in mournful sadness
This sad heart, devoid of gladness.

Jesus! wounded heart divine,
Ne'er my heart was sore as Thine.

Peace, then, heart, why all this weeping?
Empty grief! Who lay there sleeping
Angels bore from earth's sad valley;—
Cease, then, spirit, up and rally!
Even now his fruits He's reaping.

REST IN PEACE!

Letters of Condolence and Telegrams.

SASKATOON, SASK.,
June 13, 1919.

Very Rev. Father Prior, O. S. B.,
Muenster, Sask.

Very Rev. and Dear Father—

It is with grief we learned of the untimely and unexpected death of the Right Reverend Father Abbot, our worthy and devoted administrator.

We realize what a loss it is to your Order as well as to the Diocese.

Kindly accept and convey to the Fathers of your Order the sincere expression of the heartfelt sympathy of the Clergy of the Diocese.

The Clergy and Faithful will, I am sure, do what they can to pay the debt of gratitude they owe him for all he has done for the Diocese of Prince Albert, by recommending his soul to God's mercy.

Believe me Very Reverend and Dear Father Prior

Yours most respectfully
in Our Lord

The Clergy of the Diocese of Prince Albert,
per A. JAN, O. M. I.

ST. ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL,
HUMBOLDT, SASK.,
June 13, 1919.

To the Very Rev. Father Prior,
St. Peter's Monastery,
Muenster, Sask.

Very Rev. Father,

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth of the Hospital at Humboldt present to the members of your Abbey their respectful and pious sentiments of sympathy on the occasion of the great sorrow which has struck them through the unexpected death of your Rt. Rev. and most beloved Abbot Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B.

They will never forget all that the beloved deceased has been to them. He was not only a great benefactor, but moreover a true Father who never ceased to guide and protect them ever since the timid beginnings of their foundation at Humboldt.

It is with these sentiments of gratitude that they have begun to pray and will still continue to pray very much. In recollection

of all that the good Father Abbot—who leaves so great a void in the whole St. Peter's Colony and far beyond it—has accomplished for the glory of God and the honor of our Holy Mother the Church, one cannot but be convinced that his crown in heaven will be glorious.

Receive, Very Rev. Father, these expressions of our feelings together with the homage of our profound respect.

The Sisters of St. Elizabeth,
per Sr. Walburga Swetlin,
Superioress.

BRUNO, SASK.,
June 12th, 1919.

Rev. Father Prior,
St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster.

Reverend Father:—

Just now we received the sad news of the death of Reverend Father Abbot, and I hasten to express our deepfelt sympathy and condolence with you and the Reverend Fathers.

It is a hard blow not alone to you but also to the whole diocese. But God's will be done! We shall certainly unite our prayers with yours for the repose of his soul. We mourn in him, too, a father and benefactor to whom we were deeply grateful for the interest which he took in us and in our work here.

May God be his great reward! Again expressing our sympathy, I remain, Reverend Father Prior, Yours gratefully,

SISTER M. ANTONIA,
Superioress of the Ursulines.

CONVENT OF N. D. DE SION,
PRINCE ALBERT, JUNE 14, 1919

Very Rev'd Father Peter, O.S.B.,
Prior, St. Peter's Abbey,
Muenster, Sask.

Very Reverend and dear Father: The news of the loss suffered yesterday by your Community, was received by Rev. Mother Superior and by us all with heartfelt grief; and we beg of you to believe in our sincere sympathy in such a painful trial.

Although we were but slightly acquainted with Abbot Bruno, reports of his devotedness in the service of God and of the Diocese frequently reached us, so that we reckoned him among our per-

sonal friends. It is, therefore, with all possible fervour on our part that we are praying for him.

Reverend Mother wishes me to assure you, Father, that the sisters and Novices, as well as the children in our boarding school, responded heartily to her appeal for Communion and prayers on behalf of him you mourn. May the Master faithfully served by your reverend Father soon grant to His loyal servant the Eternal Reward; and to yourself and your Community, Father, help and true consolation in your grief.

With the renewed assurance of our religious condolence,

Believe me, Rev. Father,

Yours respectfully in J. C.
SR. MARIE CYRILLE DE SION, Ass't
for Rev. Mother Marie Hilda de
Sion, Superior.

WAYZATA, MINN.,
June 13th, 1919.

My dear Father Prior:—

Just received the sad news, "Abbot Bruno died." Be assured it was a shock! A great loss to the Community.

The Fathers here join me in extending to you and the Community our heartfelt sympathy. May God be merciful to the dead and benevolent to the Community.

Yours in sincere condolence,
Father George, O.S.B.

OTTAWA, Ont., 14.-6.-19.
Very Reverend Prior,
Muenster, Sask.

Please accept my profound sympathy with assurance of prayers for death of Abbot Bruno.

DI MARIA,
Apostolic Delegate.

REGINA, Sask., 13.-6.-19.
Benedictine Fathers,
Muenster, Sask.

Sincere sympathy.

ARCHBISHOP MATHIEU.

WINNIPEG, Man., 16.-6.-19.
Very Reverend Prior,
Muenster, Sask.

Deep sympathy in your loss. Sorry cannot assist at funeral.

ARCHBISHOP SINNOTT.

THE PAS, Man., 16.-6.-19.
Reverend Father Prior,
Muenster, Sask.

Abbot's loss very sad. Sincere sympathy. Sorry cannot go to funeral.

O. CHARLEBOIS, Bishop.

ST. JOSEPH, Minn., 13.-6.-19.
Rev. Windschiegel,
St. Peter's Abbey, Muenster, Sask.

Our deepest condolence over the unexpected death of your good Abbot.

PETER ENGEL, Abbot.

BEATTY, Penn., 14.-6.-19.
Benedictine Fathers,
Muenster, Sask.

The sad news of Abbot Bruno's death came as a distinct shock. We extend to your community the expression of our heartfelt condolence and sincere sympathy and shall offer for Abbot Bruno our fervent prayers.

ST. VINCENT ARCHABBEY.

CULLMAN, Alabama, 15.-6.-19.
Reverend Prior,
Muenster, Sask.

Accept heartfelt sympathy of myself and community.

ABBOT BERNARD.

VIBANK, Sask., 14.-6.-19.
Reverend Prior,
Muenster, Sask.

Deep sorrow and sympathy at the loss, our Volkverein mourns.

Rev. J. SHELBER.

REGINA, Sask., 14.-6.-19.
Reverend Father Prior,
Muenster, Sask.

The Oblate Fathers of Regina extend to your community their most heartfelt sympathy.

Rev. Father KIM, O. M. I.

NORTH BATTLEFORD, 15.-6.-19.
Benedictine Fathers,
Muenster, Sask.

Much grieved over Abbot's death, accept sincere sympathy.

J. LEPAROUX, O. M. I.

NORTH BATTLEFORD, 15.-6.-19.
Reverend Fathers,
Muenster, Sask.

Profund sympathy and assurance of prayers for the Very Rev. Abbot Bruno.

THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE,
Notre Dame Hospital.

Resolution Passed By The Knights Of Columbus

Resolved that we, the Members of Humboldt Council Knights of Columbus 1886, join in the deep sorrow that prevails throughout St. Peter's Colony today succeeding the inexpressibly sad news that was flashed around the country last evening announcing the death of our Chief Pastor, Right Reverend Abbot Bruno.

As Catholics and as Knights of Columbus we have reason to deplore the sudden death of our beloved Priest and to hold his name in grateful remembrance.

Therefore be it resolved that this Council place it on record as a great admirer of his noble qualities and priestly character and that we send messages of sympathy to the Rev. Father Prior of St. Peter's Monastery and to the Right Rev. Abbot Peter Engel, O. S. B., at Collegeville, Minn.

This resolution was moved by Brother H. R. Fleming and seconded by Brother E. M. Bruning and was unanimously carried.

F. I. HAUSER, G. K.
LEO SCHUMACHER, F. S.

HUMBOLDT, SASK., June 13th, 1919.

Twenty-eight States in U.S. with over 100,000 Catholics.

The following 28 States have a Catholic population of 100,000 or over:

1. New York	3,089,266
2. Pennsylvania	1,867,000
3. Illinois	1,481,789
4. Massachusetts	1,406,845
5. Ohio	866,715
6. New Jersey	746,319
7. Michigan	631,508
8. Louisiana	618,869
9. Wisconsin	592,231
10. California	589,000
11. Missouri	538,692
12. Connecticut	523,795
13. Minnesota	493,494
14. Texas	453,339
15. Maryland (including District of Columbia)	278,406
16. Indiana	275,964
17. Rhode Island	275,000
18. Iowa	265,560
19. Kentucky	178,296
20. Maine	152,635
21. New Mexico	151,573
22. New Hampshire	135,600
23. Kansas	132,210
24. Nebraska	129,279
25. Colorado	113,638
26. North Dakota	105,871
27. Washington	105,836
28. Montana	103,850