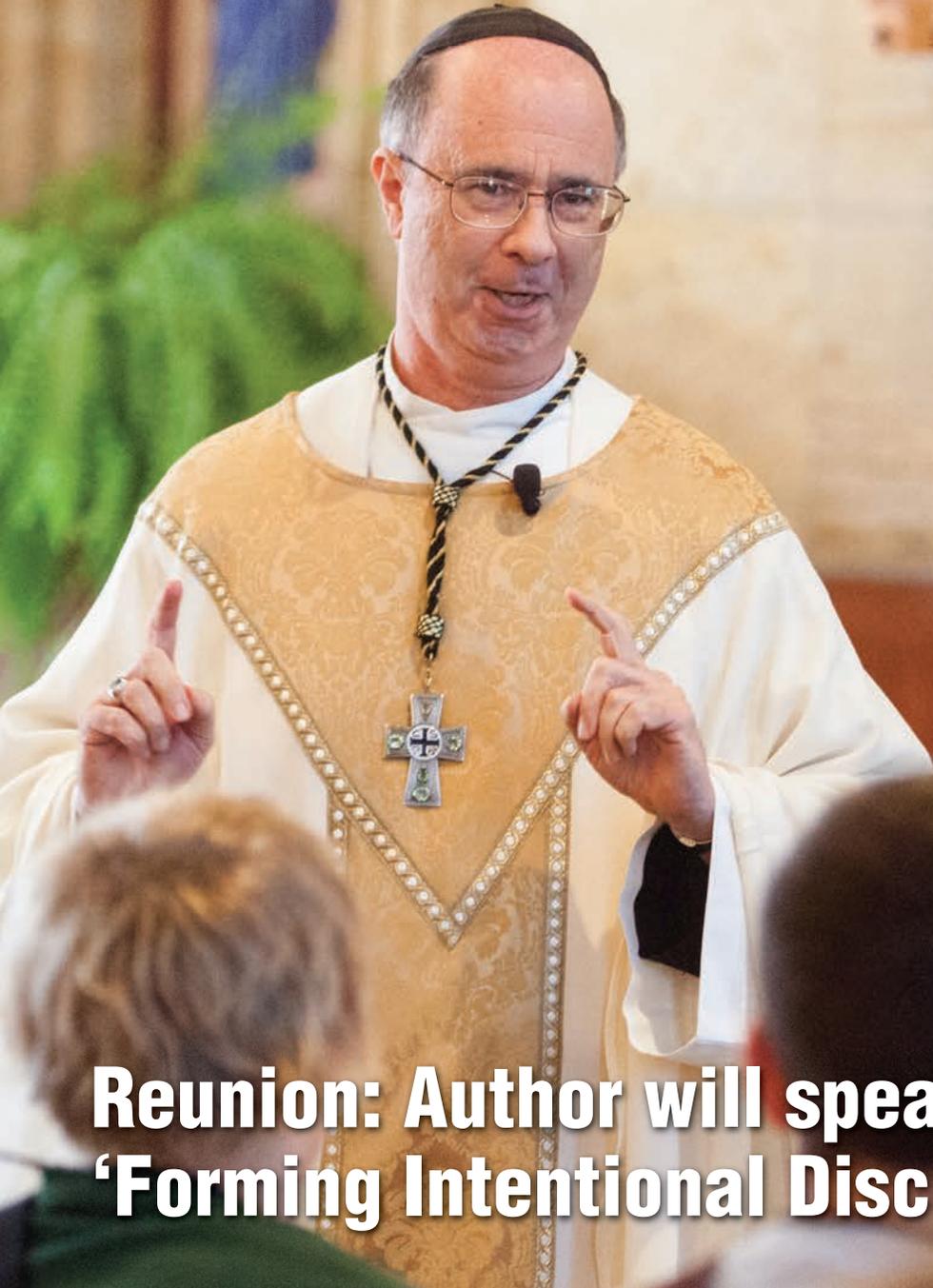


# ON THE HILL

SPRING 2016 • VOL. 55:2

## 10th abbot to be elected in June



### Reunion: Author will speak on 'Forming Intentional Disciples'

Cover: Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, announced early this year that he will resign the office of archabbot on June 2.



*Saint Meinrad*



# ON THE HILL

SPRING 2016 • VOL. 55:2

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*Fr. Jeremy King, OSB, Br. Joel Blaize, OSB, and Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, sing as the monastic community processes into the Archabbey Church for Mass on the Feast of St. Meinrad.*

## Monks' Personals

**Fr. Gueric DeBona** delivered the Marten Fellow Homiletic Lecture at the University of Notre Dame in October. The lecture was titled "Recovering Our Voice: Catholic Preaching and Evangelization in America in the Early 20th Century."

**Fr. Thomas Gricoski** gave a retreat to Saint Meinrad deacons titled "Mystagogy on the Rite of Ordination of a Priest" at Einsiedeln, Switzerland, on January 16-21. He also presented a paper, "Towards a Steinian Neo-Essentialism," at an academic conference in Vienna in October.

**Fr. Christian Raab** published a review of Thomas Merton's *In the Valley of Wormwood: Cistercian Saints and Blesseds for The Merton Annual: 2015 Centenary Edition*.

**Fr. Micheas Langston** returned to the monastery in November after serving for the past 12 years as a civilian chaplain at Womack Army Medical Center and the Catholic community at Fort Bragg, NC. He is currently working on German translations in preparation for the quadrennial meeting of the world's abbots at Sant'Anselmo in Rome.

**Fr. Kurt Stasiak** presented "Becoming Better Confessors" to the priests of the Diocese of Buffalo, NY, and to the seminarians at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY, in early March.

**Fr. Tobias Colgan** published the *Allendale Mass*, dedicated to the Carmelite nuns of Terre Haute, IN.

**Br. John Mark Falkenhain** will be on sabbatical from mid-May to mid-December, staying at Catholic University

of America. While there, he will be writing a book on celibacy formation and continuing his affiliation with Saint Luke Institute.

**Archabbot Justin DuVall** appointed **Fr. Eugene Hensell**, **Fr. Meinrad Brune**, **Fr. Julian Peters**, **Br. John Mark Falkenhain** and **Fr. Thomas Gricoski** to the Abbatial Election and Blessing Task Force. This group will handle preparations and plans for the logistics of both the election and blessing of the new abbot. ✚

## Smugmug

*For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:*

<http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>

# Monastery News

## Four monks make first profession of vows



▲ Holding their vow charts before they make their first profession of vows are, from left, Br. Jean Fish, OSB; Br. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB; Br. Simon Herrmann, OSB; and Br. Joel Blaize, OSB.

Four monks professed their temporary vows as Benedictine monks in a ceremony on January 20, 2016, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

They have completed their novitiate, a year of prayer and study of the Benedictine way of life. As is the custom during the profession of vows, they were assigned religious names.

**Novice Timothy Herrmann** is now **Br. Simon**. A former resident of Findlay, OH, he is a graduate of the University of Dayton, earning a bachelor's degree in communication management in 2010.

He worked as an associate editor for the national office of Beta Theta Pi fraternity from 2010-11 and then at Saint Meinrad Archabbey as the director of alumni relations from 2011-14. He also served as a college intern for three summers in Saint Meinrad's "One Bread, One Cup" program.

**Novice Peter Szidik** is now **Br. Nathaniel**. A native of Grand Rapids, MI, he is a 2011 graduate of the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

He worked for three years as a production manager in the byproducts and coal handling divisions at United States Steel in St. Louis, MO. He also served as a college intern for two summers in Saint Meinrad's "One Bread, One Cup" program.

**Novice Jonathan Blaize** received the name **Br. Joel**. He is formerly of Mount Carmel, IL, and a graduate of Southern Illinois University, with a bachelor's degree in English literature. He earned an associate degree at Wabash Valley College. He also studied at Ivy Tech Community College for drafting and design.

He formerly worked as a tool and die machinist and a design engineering technician at Hansen Corporation. He attended Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology for one year before entering the monastery.

**Novice Thomas Fish** will now be **Br. Jean**. Formerly of Poway, CA, he is a 2013 graduate of Sonoma State University with a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

He has been a youth ministry volunteer and an intern at St. Gabriel Parish in Poway, and he worked in the shipping department of a moving company.

Temporary vows are typically for three years. This period offers a continuing opportunity for the monk and the monastic community to determine whether monastic life is, indeed, the right vocation. ✚

## Novice joins Saint Meinrad



Novice Joshua W. Leeuw

**Novice Joshua W. Leeuw** was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19, 2016. He now begins a year of monastic formation, including study of the *Rule of St.*

*Benedict* and monastic history.

Novice Joshua, 28, of Columbia City, IN, attended Columbia City High School and graduated from Holy Cross College in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in theology. He then spent five years in formation with the Congregation of the Holy Cross at the University of Notre Dame.

In 2013, he began a two-year stint as a theology teacher at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, CA. He has also done ministry work as a counselor, hospital chaplain, teacher and homeless shelter volunteer.

As a novice, he takes a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. After a year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad. ✚

## EVENTS ON THE HILL

### May

*Rosary pilgrimage at Monte Cassino Shrine each Sunday.*

### May 6-8

*Guest House Retreat: "Monastic Life as it is Lived Today" by Fr. Barnabas Gillespie, OSB.*

### May 14

*Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.*

### May 20-22

*Guest House Retreat: "Peace, the Benedictine Way" by Br. Maurus Zoeller, OSB.*

### May 29

*Celebration of priesthood jubilees.*

### June 2

*Election of new archabbot.*

### June 12

*Einsiedeln Society Dinner.*

### June 21-23

*Guest House Retreat: "The Jesus Prayer" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.*

### June 28-30

*Guest House Retreat: "The Beatitudes: God's Logic in a Crazy World" by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB.*

### July 1-3

*Guest House Retreat: "Basic Bach: Appreciating a Creative Genius" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.*

### July 8-10

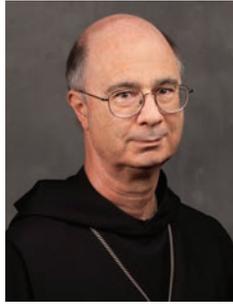
*Guest House Retreat: "Powerlessness, Weakness and Strength in Recovery: An AA Retreat" by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB.*

### July 15-17

*Guest House Retreat: "Pray Always" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.*

For more information, call (812) 357-6611 or visit our website [www.saintmeinrad.org](http://www.saintmeinrad.org)

# Abbot Justin DuVall, OSB announces resignation



Archabbot Justin DuVall

Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, the spiritual leader and chief administrator of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, announced on January 13 that he will resign as abbot, effective on June 2.

His successor will be elected by the Saint Meinrad monastic community on June 2, following a period of discernment and discussion.

Archabbot Justin has served as the ninth abbot and sixth archabbot of the 162-year-old Benedictine community for more than 11 years. He was elected on December 31, 2004.

Archabbot Justin said the next abbot will inherit a strong and vital monastic community. "Our community at present is healthy and strong. We have had a recent influx of vocations. Our Seminary and School of Theology is flourishing," he said. "We are also able to continue our service to the Church through the good work of those monks who serve in parishes, schools and chaplaincies. The community is well positioned for change and the need to move forward."

During his tenure as abbot, Archabbot Justin has overseen several significant building projects, including the final stage of construction of a new Guest House and Retreat Center and the renovation of St. Gregory Hall, St. Bede Hall, Newman Hall and the St. Martin Center (formerly Kleber Gym).

Most recently, extensive repairs are under way in the 33-year-old monastery, including an addition to the infirmary and the installation of a geothermal heating/cooling system.

He also led the final 18 months of the Archabbey's largest-ever campaign, which raised nearly \$43 million for renovations, endowment and operating expenses.

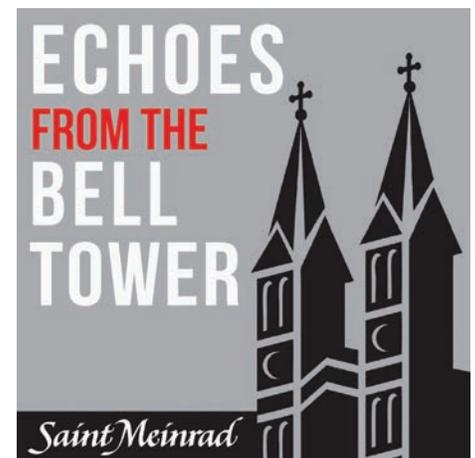
A native of Toledo, OH, Archabbot Justin professed vows as a Benedictine monk in

1974 and was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1978. He did graduate studies at the University of Michigan, where he earned a Master of Arts degree in library science in 1979.

From 1979-93, he was the assistant librarian in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library. In 1984, he was appointed prior (second in leadership) of the monastery and served until 1995. Other assignments have included master of ceremonies, assistant to the novice/junior master, and chairman of the monastery's Liturgical Advisory Committee.

He served as associate dean of Saint Meinrad School of Theology from 1995 to 1996, when he was named the provost and vice rector of the School of Theology, a position he held until his election as archabbot.

Archabbot Justin has also served as a member of the Archabbey Council and the Archabbey Strategic Planning Committee, and as a commuting chaplain for the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, IN. ✚



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NEW PODCAST:

[www.saintmeinrad.edu/echoes](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/echoes)

# Abbot election begins with preparation

The monastic community is preparing for an event that has occurred only eight times before in the history of Saint Meinrad. They are getting ready to elect the 10<sup>th</sup> abbot. (The first abbot, Martin Marty, was appointed by the Holy Father.)

In January, Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, announced he would resign the office of abbot, which he has held since December 31, 2004, on June 2. (*See story on Page 4.*) On that day, the election of a new abbot will be held.

Shortly after his announcement, Archabbot Justin appointed a task force to organize the election and prepare for the blessing of the new archabbot. The members are Fr. Eugene Hensell, chair; Fr. Julian Peters, Br. John Mark Falkenhain, Fr. Meinrad Brune and Fr. Thomas Gricoski.

Fr. Eugene explains that, to prepare for the election, the monks are undertaking a process of discernment and prayer. That began in February when Abbot President Vincent Bataille, of the Swiss-American Congregation, gave a talk to the community about the election process. He will preside over the election in June.

Next, a series of community meetings are scheduled to look at such topics as the current state of the community, what to consider in the next 10 years or so, and what qualities the community should be looking for in the next abbot.

It's important to look at the community's challenges, says Fr. Eugene, but we don't want to ignore the good foundation we have to build on. "We're not in any kind of a crisis," he says.

In the days immediately prior to the election, the monks will hold a *scrutinium*. "It's basically saying we want to designate a number of monks and talk seriously about their qualities." The monks will raise the names on May 31 and then hold the *scrutinium* the following day.

Each monk who is eligible to vote (those who have taken solemn vows) will be asked to submit the names of two men he

would like scrutinized. In the past, the top six names are the ones chosen to talk about. Anyone nominated for the scrutiny list can ask to not be included in the *scrutinium*. Before discussion begins for each candidate, that person is asked to leave the room.

On election day, the monks begin with Mass in the Archabbey Church and then move to the Chapter Room for the balloting. Other than the Abbot-President of the Swiss-American Congregation, there are no observers.

Regardless of who was on the *scrutinium* list, each monk can vote for whomever he wishes. All votes are cast by secret ballot and in silence. Ballots are printed with the names of all eligible monks. (The abbot must be a priest, at least 35 years old and solemnly professed for at least five years.)

There is no election until one monk receives the necessary number of votes. In the first three rounds, a monk must receive 2/3 of the votes; in rounds four

and on, the monk must receive a simple majority (one over half).

After a monk receives the appropriate number of votes, he is asked whether he will accept the office. When the monk accepts, he immediately becomes the new abbot and assumes authority of the monastic community.

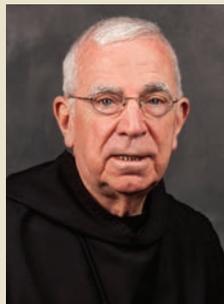
The ringing of the church bells announces the election of the new abbot. The monastic community will then process into the church for a private ceremony in which the monks will renew their pledge of obedience to their new abbot.

Within three months of the election, the new abbot will be blessed, which is the official Catholic Church recognition of his election as abbot. The blessing likely will be held in July. ✚



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## Father Lambert to serve as missionary of mercy



Fr. Lambert Reilly, OSB

Retired Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB, has been named one of two "missionaries of mercy" from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The other is Fr. Joseph Moriarty, a former member

of the spiritual formation staff at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The two are among the 1,071 priests from around the world chosen for this

work during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which runs through November 20.

Pope Francis has asked the missionaries of mercy to be inspiring preachers of mercy and compassionate confessors who are especially attentive to the difficult situations of each person.

The missionaries will be invited by diocesan bishops within their particular country to give missions or facilitate specific initiatives organized for the Jubilee, with particular attention given to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Holy Father has given these missionaries the authority to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See. ✚

## [Meet the Student]

# Elizabeth Escoffery

Hometown: Indianapolis, IN  
Degree: MA Theology

**Q.** *When did you begin your studies at Saint Meinrad?*

Spring 2012.

**Q.** *What influenced you to begin studying for a master's degree in theology?*

As an undergraduate at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN), my minor was in Catholic studies. I loved my coursework, as I had the chance to study everything from Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory* to ethics to the history of the Catholic Church in Europe. I left there with a hunger to continue to grow in my understanding of the awesome intellectual tradition of the Catholic faith. As I like to say, a Catholic's bookshelf is always full.

As a teenager, I had attended the "One Bread, One Cup" liturgical leadership conference at Saint Meinrad. Since I moved back to Indiana after graduation, it seemed like a natural fit to investigate the master's program at Saint Meinrad since I was already familiar with Saint Meinrad. My visit to campus, as well as the flexibility of the program, enticed me.

**Q.** *What else are you doing besides seeking a master's degree?*

I have been married 3½ years to my wonderful husband Bill. We have a toddler son, Teddy, and are looking forward to welcoming a daughter into our family sometime in April. We are parishioners of St. Monica Catholic Church close to our home on the northwest side.

From 2012-2015, I worked for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Vocations

Office. I found the work incredibly rewarding, as I got to know many seminarians, priests, religious and those who work hard in their formation. This past August, I made the difficult decision to stay at home with Teddy and I currently work about 20 hours a week tending to the needs of my small business, Indy Fertility Care ([www.IndyFertilityCare.com](http://www.IndyFertilityCare.com)).

In this work, I coach and educate women and couples about their reproductive health, help them learn their days of fertility and infertility to be able to achieve or avoid pregnancy naturally and in light of Catholic moral teaching. I work with many couples facing fertility challenges, such as infertility and recurrent miscarriage.

I teach community education classes, blog and offer one-on-one coaching sessions, inviting my clients to pray at the end of each session. I have a knack for event planning and have organized gatherings of instructors of different methods of Natural Family Planning and helped coordinate several events related to miscarriage, stillbirth and infant loss.

**Q.** *Favorite saint and why?*

That's an easy one! My favorite saint is St. Mother Theodore Guerin, who was canonized in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI. I had the privilege of travelling to Rome while still in high school to witness her canonization. I greatly admire the reverence and joy St. Mother Theodore



had for the Eucharist and the faithfulness she had to her vocation in the midst of tough early frontier life.

She overcame adversity and is a model to me of leadership and mentoring. I love that she was a Hoosier. I believe her intercession allowed me to have a healthy pregnancy following an early miscarriage, and my son, Teddy, is named after her. She is my go-to saint, and I visit her home, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, whenever I have an opportunity.

St. John Paul II comes in second place due to his beautiful and inspiring writings on marriage, love, sexuality and the Theology of the Body. I hope I have the opportunity to visit Poland someday and his beloved city of Krakow.

**Q.** *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

Acts 5:38-39. This verse reminds me that God does intervene in our lives and He does this quite often in different ways. He opens and shuts doors and will make those things He wants us pursuing or leaving apparent if we take the time to listen to His voice. I have always been fascinated with the early Christian community and the events that happened following the resurrection of Jesus.

**Q.** *Hobbies?*

I enjoy reading fiction, exercising at the YMCA or outdoors, and trying new recipes in the kitchen. I also enjoy taking my son to some of my favorite hot spots from my childhood – the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, the zoo and the park. We go on lots of field trips around town during the week. When Teddy is a little older, Bill and I hope we can share our love of camping and the outdoors with him by sleeping out under the stars, canoeing and teaching him how to build a fire.

**Q.** *What aspect of your coursework has been most rewarding?*

The opportunity to come frequently to Saint Meinrad for study, rest, prayer and fellowship has been the most rewarding part of the program. I have enjoyed learning about Benedictine spirituality and seeing it lived out by the monks, as well as my classmates, in various ways.

I believe that everyone who comes to Saint Meinrad carries the spirit of St. Benedict in their heart for life. I enjoy the chance for authentic dialogue with my classmates who have had different careers, hail from different states and are at different points in their lives. Their perspectives have enriched my own as we are united by our Catholic faith and desire to seek truth in the classroom.

**Q.** *What aspect of your coursework has been most challenging?*

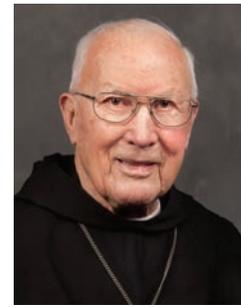
I have definitely been challenged by some of the courses that I may not have electively chosen to take were they not requirements, including the systematic theology and philosophy coursework. Finding the time to study in the midst of work and family life has not been easy, as it often requires a sacrifice, not only for me, but especially for my husband and son. I know they are proud of me, and I do not take this sacrifice they are making for granted.

**Q.** *What plans, if any, do you have after you receive your degree?*

I intend to continue to run my business, as I am doing presently, while tending to the needs of my growing family, although I am open to wherever the Holy Spirit may call me next. I have a real passion for what I do and feel like I am where I need to be to support women and couples who want to live the vocation of married life in an authentic way.

There are a lot of issues that affect families: parenting, infertility, miscarriage/stillbirth/infant loss, infidelity, divorce, unexpected pregnancies ... the list goes on. I hope that what I do can offer some hope and support where there is darkness or confusion. I try to be a peaceful, encouraging presence in the world. ✚

## Obituary: Abbot Alan Berndt, OSB



*Abbot Alan Berndt, OSB*

Abbot Alan Berndt, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on February 24, 2016, in the monastery infirmary. He was 95 and a jubilarian of profession. Surviving is a brother, Richard Berndt, of South Bend.

Abbot Alan was born in South Bend, IN, on March 15, 1920, and was given the name Robert Joseph at his baptism. He completed his elementary education at St. Matthew Parish in South Bend before studying at Saint Meinrad in the high school, college and seminary.

He was invested in the monastic habit in 1939, professed simple vows as a monk of Saint Meinrad on August 6, 1940, and was ordained to the priesthood on February 2, 1945.

Following ordination, he taught algebra and Latin in the minor seminary for one year. He then served for 10 years as a missionary priest at Immaculate Conception Mission in Stephan, South Dakota, and 10 years at St. Michael Mission in North Dakota. At that time, Saint Meinrad oversaw four mission communities: two in South Dakota and two in North Dakota.

In 1950, Saint Meinrad founded Blue Cloud Abbey in Marvin, SD. Abbot Alan joined the new community as a founding member. He served as the community’s second abbot from 1970 to 1986.

After his resignation from the abbatial office in 1986, he began a series of pastoral assignments at local parishes and, from 1990 to 1995, served as chaplain for St. Mary Hospital in Pierre, South Dakota.

In 2012, Blue Cloud Abbey closed and Abbot Alan returned to Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

The funeral Mass and burial were held on February 27. ✚



▲ *Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, gives IV Theology Students a tour of the Roman Forum during the annual trip to Rome in December and January.*

# Sherry Weddell:

Author of 'Forming Intentional Disciples' to speak at Reunion



Sherry Weddell's inspiration for her groundbreaking book and subsequent seminars all started with a surprising conversation.

"The turning point was an interview I did about 10 years ago with a woman who was taking our 'Called and Gifted' discernment workshop in Canada," she explains. "After the workshop, we offered a few one-hour, private gifts discernment interviews for some hand-picked parish leaders.

*Could you describe your lived relationship with God to this point in your life?*

"I was listening to a woman who was involved in diocesan-level ministry and, although I had been doing interviews for over 10 years at that point, I was stuck. Her stories were so vague that I just wasn't getting any traction. Finally, in desperation, I asked a question that I had never asked before, 'Could you describe your lived relationship with God to this point in your life?'"

After a few thoughtful moments, the women simply responded: "I don't have a relationship with God."

"My first response was 'No! That is not possible! I must have asked the wrong question or used the wrong language.' By the end of our time, it began to dawn on me that she had been telling me the truth all along. God had a relationship with her but, as far as she was concerned, she had no relationship with God.

"[After the interview], I went to Fr. Mike Fones, who was serving as my co-director at the St. Catherine of Siena Institute then, and told him, 'That was the most amazing conversation I have ever had! Maybe we should ask this question more often?'"

She did start asking that question. She created a seminar called "Making Disciples," designed for people in leadership positions in the Church. Over the course of eight years, she offered it to 1,600 leaders from 60 dioceses in the United States and around the world.

"We learned as much as they did from the process. One of the things we discovered is that many Catholic leaders did not even have an imaginative category for discipleship. That experience was the catalyst for my book, *Forming Intentional Disciples*."

On Tuesday, August 2, Sherry Weddell will give morning and afternoon seminars during the annual Alumni Reunion on her book, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*. Published in 2012, it

has sold over 100,000 copies and become a foundational work in the conversation surrounding the evangelization and renewal of the Church in America.

"What pushed me to write a book was the 2012 Synod on the New Evangelization. I had a sense in the summer of 2011 that it was time for me to write up what we'd learned. I had just sketched an outline of the book's 12 chapters when I got an email out of the blue from an Our Sunday Visitor editor asking if I could do a book on gifts discernment.

"I wrote her back and said, 'Actually, I'm working on this book on making disciples right now and I have to finish it first and, then I can tackle your discernment book.' She wrote back immediately: 'Send me everything you've got. I have an acquisitions meeting this afternoon.'

"So I madly polished my outline and sent it off to her. At 2:30 that afternoon, she called and said, 'We want it.' and my whole life turned on a dime. In eight hours! The book, and its completely unexpected impact, changed the course of my life and the Institute's work."

Raised Baptist in southern Mississippi, Weddell entered the Catholic Church in 1987. In 1993, she created the first gifts discernment program designed especially for Catholics. In 1997, she co-founded the Catherine of Siena Institute with Dominican Father Michael Sweeney.

Based in Colorado, the Institute is dedicated to equipping parishes for the evangelization and formation of lay Catholics for the sake of their mission. Since its founding, they have worked with over 120,000 lay, religious and ordained Catholics in hundreds of parishes in over 100 dioceses on five continents.

"Pastors, diocesan leaders and lay leaders all over the Church in the U.S. and abroad are now seriously grappling with the question of how we form already-baptized Catholics as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, following him in the midst of his Church," said Weddell. "Obviously, this is something that the Church has been calling us to for the past 50 years, but now it is becoming a real movement on the ground."

Her book has had wide-reaching influence. Readers relate to her perspective and find it important.

"What we have found is that having these encounters with people has given us a remarkable bird's-eye view of the *living* Church, both in the U.S. and abroad. To hear just a little of what so many Catholics have seen God do is deeply moving.

“As an example, a few years ago, I was invited to this national-level, invitation-only gathering of evangelization leaders. This sort of thing was new to me and I was in awe of my company. A man walked up to me and said, ‘Until I read your book last month, I did not know I could have a personal relationship with God.’

“He said, ‘We never talked about relationship with God at home. I just did not know it was possible.’ What was particularly poignant for me was to learn that this man was in full-time ministry.”

Personally, she is surprised and deeply moved by the impact of her work.

“One of the most interesting developments is that numerous new jobs that focus on evangelization and disciple-making are being created at the diocesan and parish level. When a pastoral initiative is considered important enough to create many full-time positions, that means the conversation has changed dramatically.

“Five years ago, I would have said this was impossible. It is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit. Nobody could be more surprised and delighted than I am.”

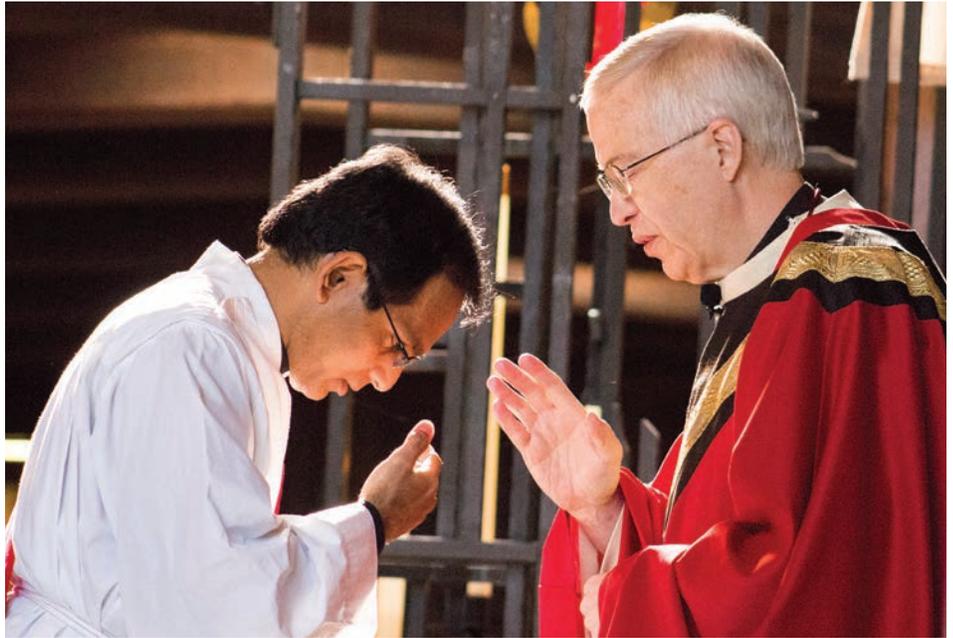
Weddell’s first presentation begins at 9 a.m. (CT) on Tuesday, August 2. Other Alumni Reunion speakers include Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology; and Mr. Kyle Kramer, executive director of the Earth and Spirit Center in Louisville, KY.

### Register Early for Savings

This year there is a \$10-per-day savings for those who register early for the Reunion. The deadline for early registration is July 8.

There are three ways to register:

- Fill out and return the registration form included in this newsletter.
- Register on the website: [alumni.saintmeinrad.edu](http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu).
- Call the Saint Meinrad Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988. ✝



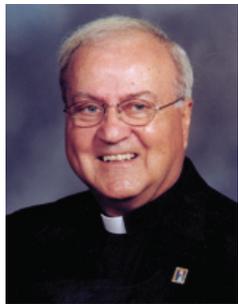
*Photographs from the international student outing, the IPP Associate Pastor Program, the monastery first profession of vows and the local Knights of Columbus Lenten retreat.*

# Alumni Board Slate

## Five alumni seeking approval for second term

Five alumni are seeking approval for a second term as members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors. Instructions to approve the slate are located at the end of this article.

### PRE-1984



**Fr. Joseph L. Ziliak, O'62 ('50-58)**, is a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN. He enrolled at Saint Meinrad Minor Seminary in 1950, graduating with a bachelor's degree

*Fr. Joseph L. Ziliak*

in philosophy in 1958.

Fr. Ziliak studied theology at the University of Innsbruck in Austria, and completed work for a Licentiate degree in Sacred Theology (STL). He was ordained in Innsbruck in 1962.

In 1966, he earned a master's degree in English literature from the University of Notre Dame. He was a founding member of the faculty at the Magister Noster Latin School and served as vice-rector.

In the Diocese of Evansville, he served as director for radio and television from 1964-66 and vicar for seminarians from 1966-68. In 1968, he was named editor of the *Southwestern Edition of the Criterion* and was the founding editor of *The Message* from 1970-1987 and associate publisher from 1987-1992.

Fr. Ziliak provided weekend help at various parishes before being named administrator of St. Nicholas Parish, Santa Claus (1970-80); pastor of Nativity Parish, Evansville (1980-87); and pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Newburgh (1987-2012).

Fr. Ziliak served on the Board of Directors for the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada and as a U.S.

representative to World Councils of the Catholic Press in Ireland, India, Brazil and Germany.

He has also served on Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology's Board of Overseers and the Communications Advisory Board.

Fr. Ziliak retired as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in 2012. He serves as a member of the Priests' Retirement Trust Board and chairs the Diocesan Evangelization Team.



*Dr. Lanny K. Hollis*

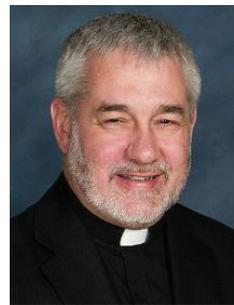
**Dr. Lanny K. Hollis, C'80 ('76-80) and T'86 ('82-86)**, has been an educator within the Diocese of Cleveland, OH, for the past 25-plus years. Having taught social studies,

theology, Spanish and Latin, Dr. Hollis has also served in numerous administrative positions and is currently the associate principal of Cleveland Central Catholic High School.

In addition to a Saint Meinrad bachelor's degree in psychology and Master of Theological Studies, Dr. Hollis holds advanced degrees in religious studies from Indiana University, educational administration from Ursuline College, Spanish language and English instruction to speakers of other languages from the University of Southern Mississippi, along with a doctorate in urban education from Cleveland State University.

Currently, he dedicates his energies to his urban high school; leadership in special education and second language learning; adjunct teaching in the Cleveland area in pastoral ministry, theology and Spanish language; maintaining long-distance friendships with many of his Saint Meinrad friends and commuting to Toledo where most of his family still lives.

### 1984-1998



*Fr. Michael Williams*

**Fr. Michael Williams T'97 ('90-97, '01)** currently serves as chaplain at the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Campus Center at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

He has studied at the University of Louisville, Brescia University and Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Fr. Williams was ordained in 1997. His first assignment was at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro, where he served as parochial vicar. In 2000, he became parochial vicar at St. Mary of the Woods Parish in Whitesville, where he served for one year. During that assignment, he taught senior religion at Trinity High School in Whitesville.

Fr. Williams served as pastor of St. Edward Parish in Fulton, Sacred Heart Parish in Hickman, and St. Jude Parish in Clinton for three years. He was assigned as pastor of St. Leo Parish and director of the Newman Center at Murray State University in Murray, KY, from 2004-09.

Fr. Williams has worked with the Christian Leadership program, Campus Life, Teens Encounter Christ and is currently part-time chaplain at the Gasper River Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

### 1999-PRESENT



*Betsy Dunman*

**Betsy Dunman, MTS'01 ('94-01)** is the director of lifelong formation at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Louisville, KY. Before that, she was a theology teacher at Trinity High School in Louisville.

She earned her Master of Theological Studies from Saint Meinrad School of Theology, a master's degree in systems safety management from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree from Murray State University, Murray, KY.

Dunman worked for over a decade in the defense industry on various U.S. Navy programs before returning to school to obtain her theology degree.

Currently, she is an advocate and assessor for the Tribunal in Louisville. She has served on the Saint Meinrad Advisory Board for Youth and Young Adult Ministry and was the coordinator of religious education at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Louisville.

She has presented at the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry and the Ohio Catholic Education Association Conference. Dunman and her husband, Leo Walsh, have four adult children.



**Fr. Alan Carter, T'13 ('07-13)**, is the associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Lexington as well as the associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and Newman Center at the University

of Kentucky in Lexington. Fr. Carter is also an adjunct spiritual director at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Fr. Carter earned his master's in Catholic philosophical studies from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in 2009 and received his Master of Divinity in May 2013, before being ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Lexington. Upon graduation, Fr. Carter also earned certificates in supervision for both pastoral care and homiletics.

Most recently, Fr. Carter earned a certificate in spiritual direction from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Born and raised in Lexington, Fr. Carter earned a bachelor's degree from Washington & Lee University, studying politics, religion and philosophy. He was the director of an information technology practice at a management consulting firm for a little over a decade before entering the seminary.

Fr. Carter served as associate pastor at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Lexington from 2013-14. From 2014-15, Fr. Carter served as the pastoral administrator at Sts. John and Elizabeth Parish in Goshen and Prince of Peace Parish in West Liberty.

Fr. Carter is currently one year into his two-year term as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Candidates for the board are elected as a slate for approval. Alumni can submit their approval or disapproval by email to [alumni@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:alumni@saintmeinrad.edu), by calling the Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988 or by voting on the alumni website at <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>. Voting ends July 25, 2016. ✝

## 2016 Phonathon is successful

Each spring, the seminarians in the Seminary and School of Theology participate in the annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon. This year, groups of about 16 students on each of the seven evenings gave up their time to make calls to alumni and friends from across the country.

"For many students, this is their first experience in fundraising," said John Huether, O'78 ('71-74), associate director of annual giving, who organizes the event. "The Phonathon gives them the opportunity to learn some new skills communicating on the phone and handling questions."

In addition, the Phonathon is an opportunity to reach out to alumni and friends, thank them for their past support

and bring them up to date on the latest news from the Hill. This year, students spoke with approximately 1,021 alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad and received gifts and pledges totaling \$36,264.

"It's a win-win-win situation," added Huether. "The seminarians enjoy having many good conversations, the alumni and friends enjoy hearing from a seminarian, and money is raised to help support the work of Saint Meinrad."

Gifts to the Phonathon make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Alumni can make gifts to the 2015-16 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. ✝



*Seminarians Ryan McCandless, center, and Tim Pick, right, participate in the school's schola during the priesthood promises ceremony in March.*

# Br. Martin Erspamer

## finds God in his artist studio

Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB, always wanted to be an artist. Even as a kid, he used to make all kinds of things out of junk and bits of paper and paint.

“To create something is to tap into a ‘conduit of divine inspiration.’ It reveals a glimmer of what it must be like to be God,” he says. “The artist alters some kind of material, but God creates out of nothing.”

Br. Martin has been a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey for 11 years, and it was art that first brought him to the Hill.

He joined the Marianists when he was 17 and, after earning a bachelor’s degree in fine art, he worked in the Marianist Art Studio in St. Louis. “I worked at the studio until the Marianists inaugurated a new mission territory in India and the superiors asked for volunteers,” says Br. Martin.

He spent three years in India and, when he came back to the United States, he went to graduate school at Boston University, earning a Master of Fine Arts in ceramics.

When he returned to St. Louis, he received a call from the Emil Frei Stained Glass Studio asking him to help design some windows. They gave him one job, then another and another. Before long, he was designing windows for them fulltime and has continued to work for them for over 30 years.

Br. Martin was introduced to Saint Meinrad in 1996 during the Archabbey Church renovation. He was hired to design the St. Meinrad Shrine and the reliquary that are currently in the church.

“Through that contact and a desire to have a more contemplative life, I eventually moved over and made the canonical transfer to Saint Meinrad,” he says.

He continues to work as a designer and painter of glass for Emil Frei, but he also works in the pottery studio, does

illustrations for books and publications, and works with parishes and religious communities that want to build or renovate worship spaces. Br. Martin has certification as a liturgical designer from the Catholic Theological Union of Chicago.

“I work with a variety of faith communities,” says Br. Martin about his design work. “If things go well, their lives and mine are enriched by our work together.”

He explains that the initial phase of a project is teaching about the liturgy, liturgical art and liturgical architecture.

“It’s wonderful to see the light go on in people’s minds, to help them to appreciate the richness of the Church’s tradition and art.”

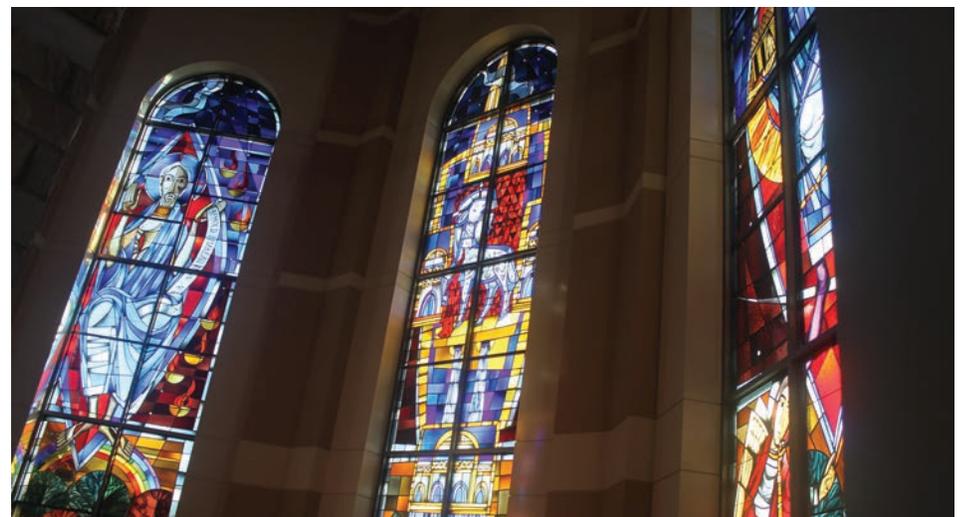
The liturgy provides a wealth of inspiration for Br. Martin. He says there is a wellspring of imagery in the psalms and ancient hymnody, and in the rituals and routines of everyday life in the monastery. “Monastic life and the artistic life are so intertwined I can’t separate one from the other,” he says. “In a real way, the two places I come in contact with God are in the monastery and in the studio.”



As an artist, he works alone and, because it’s always quiet, it’s the perfect atmosphere for the Benedictine idea of work. “My hands can be working, but I can turn that work into a prayer,” he explains.

In the monastery, Br. Martin wears several hats. He serves as house prefect, overseeing the building and furnishings of the monastery, and he works in the refectory (dining room).

This May, Br. Martin will have an exhibit at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art, in Owensboro, KY. The exhibit will feature some of his stained glass work along with prints and ceramics. ✝



▲ Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB, completed a series of apocalypse windows in stained glass for St. Mary of the Knobs Church in Floyds Knobs, IN, in 2015.

# *Saint Meinrad* **DAY OF SERVICE**



*Nine locations hosted a Day of Service, coordinated by Saint Meinrad alumni. Projects included serving meals at soup kitchens, sprucing up church buildings, cleaning up yards of abandoned homes and repair work at a summer camp. Over 100 volunteers took part, totaling over 700 hours of service to local communities. More photos at: <https://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com/Alumni/Day-of-Service-2016/>*

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Fr. Arthur A. Badger O'53 ('44-49)**, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on March 4, 2016. He was a past member of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Board (1964; 2003-06).

**Sr. Charleen (Joseph Dolores) Barta, SSND, SS'84 ('80-84)**, of Lemay, MO, died on January 3, 2016.

**Mr. Thomas J. Dahlheim O'72 ('64-65)**, of Jeffersonville, IN, died on February 8, 2016.

**Mr. Gerard De Lion O'71 ('59-60)**, of Daly City, CA, died on October 10, 2014.

**Mr. Ramon T. "Ray" Diaz O'73 ('61-62)**, of Louisville, KY, died on February 1, 2016.

**Fr. Mark D. Edelen O'83 ('76-77)**, a priest of the Diocese of Lexington, died on June 26, 2015.

**Mr. Edward P. Ernst SPH ('53-54)**, of Louisville, KY, died on January 5, 2014.

**Dr. Lester F. Goodchild O'75 ('71-75)**, of Scottsdale, AZ, died on December 19, 2015.

**Fr. Kenneth L. Graehler O'63 ('51-59; '70; '80)**, a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, died on February 19, 2016.

**Mr. Edward F. "Red" Hegarty O'55 ('43-46)**, of Indianapolis, died on February 28, 2016.

**Mr. Herman A. Heinz O'57 ('45-48)**, of Vincennes, IN, died on February 17, 2015.

**Mr. James Hunt O'66 ('54-57)**, of Lexington, KY, died on January 3, 2016.

**Sr. Mary Helen Kane, CSJ, S ('99-00; '07)**, of St. Louis, MO, died on November 20, 2015.

**Dr. Morgan D. Kyle O'75 ('63-67)**, of Lawrenceville, GA, died on January 12, 2016.

**Mr. David L. Lottes O'58 ('46-48)**, of Monticello, IN, died on June 14, 2013.

**Mr. Joseph P. McConahay O'59 ('47-49)**, of Indianapolis, died on February 25, 2016.

**Fr. Paul D. Miller O'44 ('38-44)**, of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died on January 13, 2016.

**Fr. Joseph Rigali, OFM, O'58 ('45-49)**, of Cincinnati, OH, died on November 27, 2015.

**Mr. Richard A. Rutishauser O'69 ('57-59)**, of Volo, IL, died on October 18, 2008.

**Mr. William "Bill" F. Schmitz O'67 ('55-57)**, of Akron, IA, died on January 26, 2016.

**Fr. Francis A. Siler O'63 ('53-57)**, of West Mifflin, PA, died on December 10, 2015.

**Mr. Bernard S. "Bud" Vahlkamp O'60 ('54-55)**, of Fairview Heights, IL, died on February 14, 2016.

**Mr. Christopher Weber O'70 ('62-63)**, of Indianapolis, died on Feb. 25, 2016.

**Mr. Leo P. Welch O'52 ('46-48)**, of Gulfport, MS, died on January 9, 2016.

### A key to the initials behind the names of alumni:

**C:** College

**GTP:** Graduate Theology Programs

**HS:** High School

**MAT:** Master of Arts (Theology)

**MAPT:** Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology)

**MTS:** Master in Theological Studies

**O:** Ordination

**PD:** Permanent Deacon Formation Program

**S:** Sabbaticant

**SPH:** St. Placid Hall

**SS:** Summer Session

**T:** Theology ✚

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Fr. Kevin Bazzel C'97 ('94-97)**, of the Diocese of Birmingham, has been appointed to serve as an official of the Congregation for the Clergy at the Vatican. He has been the rector of St. Paul's Cathedral in Birmingham since 2009.

**Mrs. Georgene Beiriger GTP ('12-16)**, of Indianapolis, IN, is the new director of the Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis.

**Dr. Michael Conrad, EdD, O'66 ('55-66)**, of Tallahassee, FL, has published five more books in 2015-16, including *Resolving Spiritual Conflicts* and *Six Thresholds of Life: How to Prepare to Live ... Forever*.

**Mr. Dan Conway O'75 ('67-75)**, of Louisville, KY, is now senior vice president of Graham-Pelton, a strategic fundraising firm.

**Mr. J. Griffin Crump O'58 ('48-52)**, of Alexandria, VA, teaches a weekly class in Falls Church for beginners wanting to learn Irish.

**Deacon Mark Desmond O'77 ('73-76; '85)**, of Paducah, KY, has retired as vice president mission integration at Mercy Health in Paducah.

**Fr. Martin Dobrzynski T'84 ('76-84)**, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel

Parish in Schererville, IN, gave a presentation on the Year of Mercy in January.

**Sr. Suzan Foster, SSJ, SS'79 ('75-79; '88-89)**, was honored for her golden jubilee in October. She has taught at various schools in Florida. Currently, she is a teacher and vice principal at St. Joseph Academy in St. Augustine.

**Fr. Jeffrey Goeckner C'91 ('88-91)** has been named the first president of Father McGivney Catholic High School in Glen Carbon, IL.

**Ms. Emily Herr GTP ('11-15)** and **Mr. Pedro Mendez T'14 ('11-14)** were married on November 14, 2015, in

Evansville, IN. They are residing in Huntingburg, IN.

**Mr. Michael Hupfer O'77 ('69-72)** retired in December from Ashland University, Ashland, OH, where he served as assistant/associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for 18 years.

**Ms. Sarah Longoria GTP ('15)** and Mr. Patrick Glennon were married on January 2, 2016, in Millington, TN. They are residing in Saint Marys, GA.

**Ms. Brandy Mader GTP ('15-16)** and Mr. Bill Norton were married on December 19, 2015, in Louisville, KY.

**Mr. Thomas Malewitz MTS'07 ('05-07)** was honored with the Outstanding Religious Educator Award by the Archdiocese of Louisville during Catholic Schools Week. He teaches at St. Xavier High School.

**Mr. Daniel E. Martin GTP'01 ('00-01)** has defended his dissertation in theology at the University of Dayton and will graduate with a PhD in theology in May.

**Mr. Thomas Mauro O'67 ('61-63)** and his daughter, Mary Mauro, of Kentwood, MI, will be inducted into the Greater Lansing Area Sports Hall of Fame this summer. He is being honored as head coach of the 1977 state championship cross country team, while Mary is being recognized for her high school and college softball achievements.

**Mr. George Moll O'73 ('61-66)** and his wife, Dianne, of Evansville, IN, have undertaken mission work in Haiti since 2009. They recently helped to develop a program in which sewing students in Haiti make children's clothing that is then sold at southern Indiana gift shops and craft shows.

**Mr. Adelbert "Bert" Nett O'59 ('47-59)**, of Boulder, CO, is in his 15<sup>th</sup> year of growing organic vegetables for several food banks in the area. With the help of volunteers, an estimated 90 tons of food has been donated over the years.

**Mr. Bernie Niehaus O'63 ('51-54)**, of Vincennes, IN, has published *Splinters II*,

his second book based on columns he has written for the Niehaus Companies corporate newsletter. The book is available at amazon.com.

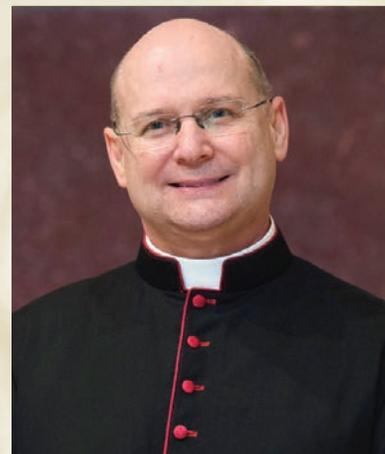
**Mr. Joel Padgett GTP'13 ('12-13)**, parish catechetical leader at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight, IN, was profiled in the "People of Faith" feature in the Evansville diocesan publication, *The Message*.

**Fr. Aaron Peters, OSB, O'77 ('73-77)**, of St. Benedict's Abbey in Atchison, KS, has published a new book, *Walking with Christ and St. Benedict*.

**Fr. Robert Ponticello O'82 ('79-82)** was recently appointed a dean in the Diocese of Memphis. The pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Union City, he also is the promoter of justice for the Diocesan Review Board and an advocate for the tribunals of the dioceses of Memphis and Owensboro.

**Mr. Mark Rowlands C'91 ('87-91)**, of Indianapolis, IN, has been appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Judicial Selection Committee. He is a principal/partner of Freeman Heyne, headquartered in Cincinnati, OH.

**Dr. Tony Schapker PD'09 ('05-09)**, of Newburgh, IN, a deacon serving in the Diocese of Evansville, serves as vice president of the SW Indiana Guild of the Catholic Medical Association. ✝



*Most Rev. Peter B. Wells*

Archbishop Peter B. Wells, an alumnus of Saint Meinrad College C'87 ('85-87) and a priest from the Diocese of Tulsa, was ordained an archbishop by Pope Francis on March 19 in the Basilica of St. Peter.

On February 9, the Vatican announced the pope's decision to ordain Wells and send him as papal nuncio to South Africa and Botswana. As nuncio there, he will be expected to support the Vatican's efforts to encourage the work of the local bishops, to foster vocations and to promote evangelization in the region.

Called to Rome in 1996, Archbishop Wells earned advanced degrees in canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University and studied at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy before entering the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1999.

His first assignment was to the Apostolic Nunciature in Nigeria. In 2002, he was asked to serve at the Section for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State. He was appointed to head the English Section in 2006. Since 2009, he has served the Holy See as assessor at the Secretariat of State. ✝

## Online Store

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## Distinguished Alumnus: Fr. Nick Rice



▲ *Fr. G. Nicholas Rice*

Fr. G. Nicholas Rice O'67 ('61-67; '71) will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award at this year's Alumni Reunion Banquet on August 2.

"He is known throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville, both ecclesiastically and civilly, as a man of keen intellect, judicious service, great enthusiasm, pastoral charity and effective leadership," says one nominator. "He has been actively engaged in various facets of diocesan and parish life, always exuding a bold spirit of joy, creativity and compassion."

Fr. Rice, born in 1941 in Lebanon, KY, was the second oldest of 12 children. He received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Meinrad College in 1963 and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1967. Fr. Rice was ordained that same year for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

He went on to study at Boston College, receiving a Master of Education in 1980. He also participated in two sabbatical programs, one in 1984 at the University of Louvain, Belgium, and the other in 2005 at the North American College in Rome, Italy.

For the Archdiocese of Louisville, Fr. Rice has served as pastor of two large suburban parishes, St. Margaret Mary and Our Lady of Lourdes, as well as director of the archdiocesan offices for vocations, permanent diaconate, religious education and communications.

He has served two terms as president of the Council of Priests and chair of the College of Consultors for the Archdiocese of Louisville. He has served as president of three national organizations, the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership, National Directors of the Permanent Diaconate and the National Federation of Priests' Councils with accompanying membership on the NCCB/USCCB committees.

Fr. Rice is a certified trainer for the Stephen Covey Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. He is founder and executive director of Mass of the Air and a 20-year panelist on the Moral Side of the News, both on WHAS TV. He has served for 22 years on the Crusade for Children Allocation Panel.

"It's difficult to imagine how many thousands of people whose lives have been changed because of Fr. Rice's ministry," says another nominator. "He has done a great deal for us and, as far as I can tell, he's done it very quietly, an unsung hero of sorts." ✝