

ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2016 • VOL. 55:3



**Fr. Kurt Stasiak
elected abbot**

62 students earn degrees

Cover: Fr. Prior John McMullen, left, pledges obedience to new Archabbot Kurt Stasiak.



Saint Meinrad



ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2016 • VOL. 55:3

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You can find more photos of Saint Meinrad events at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>

Monks' Personals

Then **Archabbot Justin DuVall** attended the annual meeting of the Abbot President's Council at Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham, Massachusetts, on April 16-21. He attended the annual meeting of the Indiana Bishops and Major Superiors at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on May 1-2.

Fr. Edward Linton was elected to the Council of Seniors at Sant' Anselmo Monastery in Rome.

Br. Zachary Wilberding traveled to the country of Suriname, South America, to give two talks on prayer to a conference of fiscal officers of the English-speaking Catholic dioceses of the Caribbean on May 21-25.

Fr. John McMullen has been appointed prior of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski has been appointed liturgical master of ceremonies and chair of the Liturgical Advisory Committee.

Br. André DeDecker has been appointed to the responsibility of assigning the weekly duties and assistant master of ceremonies.

Fr. Barnabas Gillespie has been appointed a member of the Liturgical Advisory Committee.

Fr. Anthony Vinson, along with 30 pilgrims from Fulda and St. Meinrad, IN, traveled to Fulda, Germany, to celebrate the feast day of St. Boniface on June 5. The pilgrimage was the capstone to a year-long celebration honoring the 150th anniversary of the parish church in Fulda, Indiana. He also traveled to Belize City, Belize, Central America, on June 12-26 for an immersion trip. ✚

Sign up for the e-newsletter

If you'd like to receive brief updates on what's happening at Saint Meinrad, you can sign up for a free e-newsletter. Every few weeks, you will receive a newsletter in your email's inbox.

To sign up, go to the "Newsletters" link on the front page of the website: www.saintmeinrad.edu. Or, send an email to news@saintmeinrad.edu

Monastery News

Seven monks celebrate priesthood jubilees



▲ *The jubilarians are, from left, Fr. Joseph Cox, Fr. John McMullen, Fr. Patrick Cooney, Fr. Mel Patton (seated), Fr. David Rabenecker, Fr. Edward Linton and Fr. Warren Heitz.*

The Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey celebrated the jubilees of priesthood ordination of seven of their confreres on May 29, 2016. Honored were Fr. Mel Patton, 60 years; Fr. John McMullen and Fr. Warren Heitz, each 50 years; and Fr. David Rabenecker, Fr. Edward Linton, Fr. Patrick Cooney and Fr. Joseph Cox, each 25 years.

Fr. Mel, a native of Fairview Village, OH, made his first profession of vows on July 31, 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood September 22, 1956. He earned his BA from John Carroll University, a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology and did post-graduate work at Marquette University.

Prior to coming to Saint Meinrad, Fr. Mel served in the Army from 1944-46, where he received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He taught Latin, English, music and journalism at Saint Meinrad's high school and college. He was also organist for the monastic community for many years. He has been director of retreats and director of public relations at Saint Meinrad and served as a chaplain at Fort Knox, KY, for many years.

After his career as a teacher, he was the chaplain for Holy Angels Convent in

Jonesboro, AR, and, later, the infirmary chaplain at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, SD. He resides in the monastery infirmary.

Fr. John is a native of Vincennes, IN. He became a monk of Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD, on August 1, 1960, and made his first profession of vows on August 15, 1961.

He studied at Saint Meinrad's high school and college from 1955-60, completing college at Blue Cloud Abbey. He studied theology at St. Bede Abbey, Peru, IL, and was ordained a priest on May 29, 1966. He did graduate studies at The Catholic University of America from 1967-69. He holds a master's degree in library science.

As a monk of Blue Cloud, he served in various assignments, including 40 years as the abbey librarian. He also served in area parishes and as the abbey treasurer. He served the Native Americans at St. Ann's Indian Mission, Belcourt, ND, for three years. When Blue Cloud Abbey closed, Fr. John transferred to Saint Meinrad Archabbey in 2013.

He currently serves as prior of the monastery. In addition, he is an adjunct priest at St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad

and St. Boniface Parish in Fulda, IN, and as a commuting chaplain for Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN.

Fr. Warren is a native of Huntingburg, IN, coming to Saint Meinrad as a high school student in 1954. He completed high school, college and theology studies at Saint Meinrad. He joined the monastery in 1960 and made his first profession of vows on August 15, 1961. He was ordained a priest on May 1, 1966.

He also studied at the University of Notre Dame, earning a master's in institutional administration in 1972. Fr. Warren served in a variety of assignments, including assistant business manager, purchasing agent, director of corporate services, director of alumni relations, and parish assistance.

He currently serves as the editor of the *Ordo* for the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation.

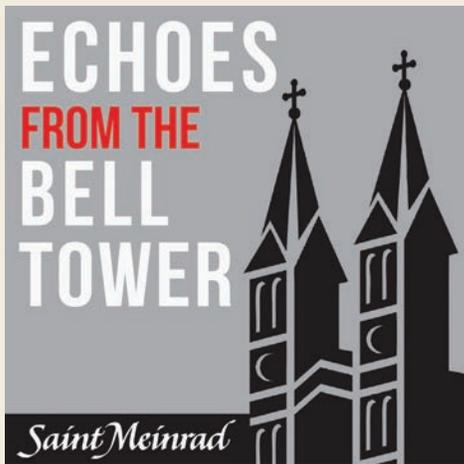
Fr. David made his first profession of vows on August 6, 1986, and was ordained a priest on May 4, 1991. He is a native of Louisville, KY. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Meinrad College and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

From 1991-94, Fr. David served as associate pastor at St. Benedict Parish in Evansville. In 1994, he became associate dean of students for Saint Meinrad College, as well as director of service formation, part-time instructor and part-time spiritual director.

In recent years, he has worked in prison ministry. He is currently a religious services evaluation specialist with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Fr. Edward is a native of Louisville, KY. He joined the monastery in 1985 and professed his first vows on August 6, 1986.

Continued on p. 4



Saint Meinrad monks launch new podcast

The monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey have launched a podcast, “Echoes from the Bell Tower.” The podcast’s first season begins with an episode about, logically enough, the bells of the Archabbey Church.

Hosting the audio talk show are two young monks, Br. Joel Blaize, OSB, and Novice Tony Wolniakowski, OSB. Both are fairly new to the Benedictine monastery, having joined in 2015.

The idea behind the podcast is to bring stories from the monastery to the rest of the world, demystifying some of the notions of monastic life and sharing the wit and wisdom found among the monks who have lived in southern Indiana for more than 160 years.

“In this podcast, you’ll get to know us monks. You’ll get to hear our stories, and things you just may not hear any other way,” the hosts explain in the trailer that introduces the new podcast. “We’re hoping to give you a chance to learn what monks are like by hearing from us monks – and not from Hollywood.”

The podcast’s first season contains five episodes. Find the episodes, as well as extras, on the podcast blog, at: www.saintmeinrad.edu/echoes. Listeners can subscribe at iTunes, Stitcher or wherever they find their podcasts. †

continued from p. 3

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 4, 1991. He has a bachelor’s degree in history from Saint Meinrad College and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

He earned a master’s in English literature from Middlebury College and taught English at Saint Meinrad College from 1992-98. He then earned a doctorate in speech communication at Southern Illinois University.

He served as associate pastor at St. Benedict Parish in Evansville and as pastor of St. James Parish in Chicago, IL. He returned to Saint Meinrad in 2014 to serve as director of Saint Meinrad’s Institute for Priests and Presbyterates. Currently, he is director of international Benedictine formation at Collegio Sant’ Anselmo in Rome.

Fr. Patrick is a native of Evergreen Park, IL. After earning degrees in electronic technology at Purdue University, he entered the Air Force as a research and developmental engineer for five years.

He then studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He earned a Master of Divinity in 1991 and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Belleville on June 1, 1991. He later earned a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America.

In 1994, he decided to join the monastery at Saint Meinrad and made his first profession of vows on August 6, 1995. He has served as director of academic and administrative computing, and associate formation dean, director of human formation, director of pastoral formation and assistant professor of canon law in the Seminary and School of Theology.

He also served as a chaplain (lieutenant colonel) in the Kentucky Air National Guard, retiring in 2014 after 21 years of active duty in the Air Force and Air National Guard. He currently is assigned to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Tribunal as the defender of the bond.

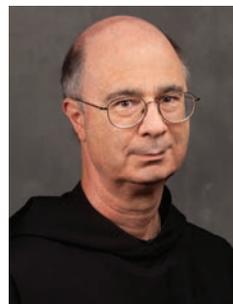
Fr. Joseph, a native of Peoria, IL, earned a bachelor’s degree in international business from Quincy University and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad

School of Theology. He was ordained a priest on May 25, 1991, for the Diocese of Peoria, where he served as assistant pastor and pastor in parishes until 1997.

In 1997, Fr. Joseph joined the monastery at Saint Meinrad and made his first profession of vows on August 6, 1998. He then earned a master’s degree in library science from Indiana University.

He is the library cataloger in the Archabbey Library, assistant director for the Benedictine Oblate community, and serves as secretary for the Archabbot’s Council and the Archabbey Chapter. †

Former abbot named vice rector at Bruté College Seminary



Fr. Justin DuVall, OSB

Following the election, former abbot Fr. Justin DuVall, OSB, began a short sabbatical. When he returns later this summer, he will take up work in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Most Rev. Joseph Tobin, CSsR, archbishop of Indianapolis, has appointed Fr. Justin as the vice rector of the archdiocese’s Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. He will replace Fr. Joseph Moriarty, who will become the seminary’s rector.

The founding rector, Fr. Bob Robeson, has stepped down after 12 years as the head of the seminary to begin a new assignment.

Before his election as abbot in 2004, Fr. Justin served as vice rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology for eight years. †



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Saint Meinrad monks elect Fr. Kurt Stasiak, OSB, as new archabbot



Archabbot Kurt Stasiak

The Right Reverend Kurt Stasiak, OSB, was elected archabbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey by the Benedictine monks of the community on June 2, 2016.

He becomes the 10th abbot and seventh archabbot in the community's 162-year history, succeeding Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, who announced in January that he would resign the position upon the new abbot's election. He had served as abbot since December 31, 2004.

Archabbot Kurt, 63, has served as prior of Saint Meinrad Archabbey since July 9, 2010. The prior is the second in leadership in the monastery.

Born in Rüdeshheim, Germany, on October 9, 1952, Archabbot Kurt professed vows as a Benedictine monk on August 15, 1975, and was ordained a priest on April 27, 1980.

He received a Bachelor of Science in biology from Saint Meinrad College in 1974 and a Master of Divinity in 1980 from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

He later earned a licentiate (1986) and a doctorate (1993) in sacramental theology from Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo, Rome.

From 1978-81, Archabbot Kurt served as administrative assistant to the president-rector. In 1980 he was appointed associate spiritual director for Saint Meinrad School of Theology for three years.

From 1986-90, he taught sacramental theology in the School and was assistant to the novice/junior master in the monastery. Also during that time, he

served as secretary to the archabbot (1986-89) and as vocation director for the monastery (1986-90 and 1992-98).

Archabbot Kurt taught sacramental/liturgical theology in the Seminary and School of Theology from 1986-2016. For 10 years, he also served as the director of spiritual formation. Other assignments have included provost-vice rector of the School of Theology (2005-08) and chair of the Archabbey Church Renovation Committee (1993-97).

He is the author of several books, including *A Confessor's Handbook* (a revised and expanded edition was published in 2010); *Sacramental Theology: Means of Grace, Ways of Life*; *Return to Grace: A Theology for Infant Baptism* and his most recent, *From Sinners to Saints: A Guide to Understanding the Sacrament of Reconciliation*. He has written numerous articles and book reviews for a variety of publications.

He has also given days of retreat and recollection for clergy and laity. He has been serving as the monastery's master of ceremonies.

The election of Archabbot Kurt followed a centuries-old process. The monks of Saint Meinrad gathered on the morning of June 2 to celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit, seeking guidance and wisdom prior to the election.

Following Mass, the monks met privately in the monastery's Chapter Room to select their next leader. Presiding at the election was the Right Rev. Vincent Bataille, OSB, president of the Swiss-American Congregation of the Benedictine Confederation, to which Saint Meinrad belongs.

The blessing of the new archabbot is planned for July 26, in the Archabbey Church, with the Most Rev. Joseph Tobin, CSsR, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, presiding. ✠



▲ Some of his confreres lead newly elected Archabbot Kurt Stasiak into the Archabbey Church on June 2. From left are Fr. Julian Peters, Fr. Luke Waugh (partially hidden), Br. Matthew Mattingly, Br. Francis Wagner, Abbot President Vincent Bataille and Archabbot Kurt.

[Meet the Student]

Br. Stephen Lawson, OSB

Religious Community: Saint Anselm Abbey, Manchester, NH
Hometown: Holyoke, MA

Q. *What attracted you to the monastic life?*

When I first visited the monastery, I was attracted to the community aspect of monastic life. I grew up in a family of eight boys, so I was very interested in joining a religious order that had a strong sense of community and fraternity.

Q. *Who or what influenced you to enter monastic life?*

The biggest influence on my decision to enter the monastery was Fr. Cecil Donahue, who is a monk of my community. I got to know Fr. Cecil through the Knights of Columbus and one day he asked me if I ever considered joining the monastery. From that day forward, that question was always on my mind and was the seed that grew during my discernment period.

Q. *What were you doing before you entered the monastery?*

Before entering Saint Anselm, I was a political reporter for the website PolitickerNH.com. I was also the website editor for a civic engagement group in New Hampshire called the Live Free or Die Alliance.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

I have a special devotion to St. Thérèse of Lisieux. During my freshman year of college, I read her book *The Story of a Soul*, which was a major factor in me considering joining a religious community. I also say a prayer every day to St. Stephen the Martyr, who is my

patron, and to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Of course, I cannot forget to mention St. Benedict, who is pretty awesome.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

I like the Letter to the Romans Chapter 13, especially verse 11, “It is high time for us to awake out of our sleep.” This verse is one of the first verses in the *Rule of St. Benedict*, and serves as a call to action for Christians.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I like to read historical nonfiction books, particularly about the Civil War or Calvin Coolidge. During my summer vacation, I like to spend time at the New Hampshire seacoast and visit historical sites.

Q. *What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?*

The most rewarding part of seminary life has been getting to know future priests who will be working in parishes. This experience has opened my eyes to the challenges that my diocesan brothers will be facing. I also like any class with Dr. Keith Lemna, especially his elective “Theology in History,” which forced me to expand my thoughts on man’s relationship with the world, the purpose of monastic life, and the role the angels play in my life.

Q. *What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?*

The most challenging part of seminary life is balancing my monastic duties with my seminary obligations. As a monk-



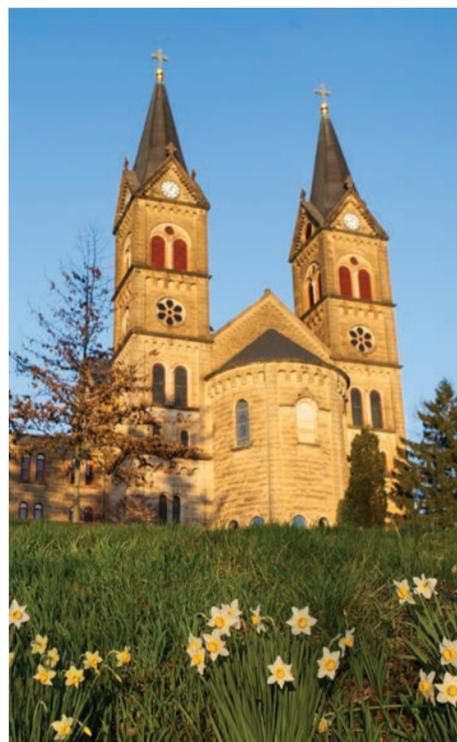
seminarian, I live in the monastery, but still need to attend various events in the seminary.

Q. *Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?*

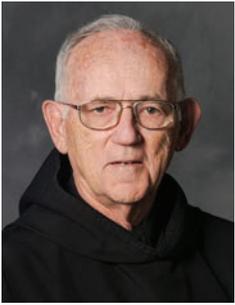
My spiritual director once told me, “The most powerful prayer is to simply say the name Jesus.”

Q. *Other comments?*

Join the Benedictines! ✝



Fr. Damian Schmelz, OSB, served as pastor, teacher and scientist



Fr. Damian Schmelz, OSB

Fr. Damian Schmelz, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on June 12, 2016, in the monastery infirmary. He was 84 and a jubilarian of both profession and ordination.

Surviving are nieces and nephews.

Born in Georgetown, IN, on May 7, 1932, to Aloysius William and Grace (Miller) Schmelz, Fr. Damian was given the name Vincent Eugene at his baptism. After completing his elementary education at St. Mary School in Lanesville, IN, he entered the Minor Seminary at Saint Meinrad in 1950, and joined the novitiate two years later. He professed his simple vows on July 31, 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1958.

Fr. Damian earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Meinrad College, and then a baccalaureate in sacred theology from Saint Meinrad School of Theology and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He began teaching biology at Saint Meinrad High School seminary immediately after his ordination.

During summers, he pursued graduate studies at Purdue University, earning a master's in plant ecology in 1964 and a doctorate in that field in 1969. He taught biology at Saint Meinrad College until its closing in 1998.

Fr. Damian also served as assistant dean of students for four years, as academic dean for 18, and as provost and vice rector for five years. He also served as the manager of The UnStable, the campus pub, for over 25 years.

He also was well known in the Indiana Academy of Science, of which he was a member since 1966, serving twice as chairman of the Academy's Plant

Taxonomy Section. Fr. Damian also served terms as the Academy's treasurer and then president, was the Academy's representative to the Indiana Natural Resources Commission, and was the Academy's Speaker of the Year in 1979-1980.

Fr. Damian was named a fellow of the Academy in 1973, and received their Outstanding Service Award in 2003. He was known for his research in Indiana old-growth forests, and was chairman of a blue-ribbon committee assigned to study controlled deer hunts in Brown County State Park. He and a colleague specialized in the area of Donaldson's Woods; in 2000, an addition to the Donaldson's Woods Nature Preserve was dedicated in his honor.

Fr. Damian served for 33 years on the Indiana Natural Resources Commission and was co-author of *Natural Areas of Indiana* (1969), which served as a guide for the creation of Indiana's Natural Preserves.

In 2007, he was awarded a Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award by the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Two years later, he was a member of the inaugural class named to the Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame.

In 2015, Fr. Damian was named a Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest honor bestowed by the Governor of Indiana.

His membership in other professional organizations included Sigma XI, the Ecological Society of America, and the Indiana Natural Resources Commission.

Most recently, he served as pastor of St. Henry Parish, St. Henry, IN, from 2001 to 2015, when declining health led to his retirement.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on June 18 in the Archabbey Church. Fr. Damian arranged for his body to be donated to the Indiana University School of Medicine. Burial will be held at a later date. ✠

EVENTS ON THE HILL

August 1-3

Alumni Reunion

August 16-18

Guest House Retreat: "Pray Your Way to Happiness" by Br. Maurus Zoeller, OSB

August 19-21

Guest House Retreat: "Discovering the Spiritual Richness in the Letters of St. Paul" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB

August 26-28

Guest House Retreat: "Living Monastic Values in Everyday Life" by Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB

September 2-4

Guest House Retreat: "Simplicity: To Have is Not to Be" by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB

September 13

Dolle Lecture, Fr. Dick Sullivan

September 16-18

Guest House Retreat: "Aging Gracefully: A Retreat for 60s and Over" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB

September 23-25

Guest House Retreat: "Cultivating a Discerning Heart" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB

October 4 and 5

Marten Lecture and Workshop, Fr. Greg Heile, OP

October 7-9

Guest House Retreat: "Beauty as a Pathway to God: Religious Art and Symbol in the Spiritual Life" by Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB

October 17-21

Guest House Retreat: "Biblical Reflections on Pastoral Leadership" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB

October 29

Abbot Martin Marty Guild Day of Reflection

For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher at (812) 357-6501 or visit our website www.saintmeinrad.org

62 earn degrees

from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology



▲ *Soon-to-be graduates process to St. Bede Hall for commencement on May 14.*

Graduates of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology were awarded master's degrees on May 14. Graduates accepted their diplomas from the Rt. Rev. Justin DuVall, OSB, archabbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and chairman of the school's Board of Trustees.

The graduation address was given by the Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Mobile.

Receiving Master of Divinity degrees were:

Nicolás Ajpacajá Tzoc, James Brockmeier, Douglas Hunter and Kyle Rodden, Archdiocese of Indianapolis;
Basilio Az Cuc and James Dennis Jr., Diocese of Owensboro;
Christopher Boutin, Archdiocese of Mobile;
Joseph Chan, Mario Jacobo, Norman McFall and R. Taryn Whittington, Diocese of Little Rock;
Terrence de Silva and John Lijana, Diocese of Lexington;
Charles Dunn, Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau;
Braden Maher, Diocese of Springfield, IL;

Kyle Neterer, Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana;
Adam Royal, Diocese of Knoxville;
Jude Meril Sahayam, Diocese of Palayamkottai, India;
Tyler Tenbarga and Ambrose Wanyonyi, Diocese of Evansville.

Receiving Master of Arts in Catholic Philosophical Studies degrees were:

Michael Batz and Jonathan Hilber, Archdiocese of Indianapolis;
George Jose, Diocese of Memphis;
Grant Monnig, Diocese of Jefferson City;
Weston Pickhinke, Diocese of Sioux City;
Br. William Sprauer, OSB, Saint Meinrad Archabbey;
Dan Taylor, Diocese of Lexington;
Daniel Velasco, Diocese of Little Rock.

Receiving Master of Arts (Theology) degrees were:

Stephen Benningfield, Ellettsville, IN;
Dawn Dye and Matthew Hilton, Indianapolis, IN;
Tammy Flippo, Louisville, KY;
Logan Haire, Owensboro, KY;
Stuart Hamilton, Bardstown, KY;
Victor Ippoliti and Laura McFall,

St. Meinrad, IN;
Jenny Koch, Evansville, IN;
J.P. Masterson, Cordova, TN;
Jennifer Morris, Murfreesboro, TN;
Bradford Nilsson, Lexington, KY;
Carl Ritzel, Naperville, IL;
Gary Ryan, Gettysburg, PA;
Andrew Wood, Muncie, IN.

Receiving Master of Theological Studies degrees were:

Cynthia Heckmann, Louisville, KY;
Holly McGuire, LaGrange, KY;
Andrew Miller, Columbus, IN;
Steven L. Rhodes, Whitesville, KY.

Receiving Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology) degrees were:

Tammy Becht, Floyds Knobs, IN;
Willard Braniff, Whitestown, IN;
Sean Caveny, Gillespie, IL;
Richard Cooper, Corydon, IN;
Beth Gootee, Luke Reese, Kathryn Scoville and Mary Kay Summers, Indianapolis, IN;
Ryan Klobassa, Sioux Falls, SD;
Kimberly Mandelkow, Red Wing, MN;
Matthew Mescall, Fishers, IN;
Marco Rajkovich, Nicholasville, KY;
Paul Root, Lexington, KY;
Cheryl Zoldak and Richard Zoldak, Crestwood, KY. ✝



▲ *Graduates Tyler Tenbarga, left, and Meril Sahayam share a laugh after the commencement ceremony.*

Donated seedlings

could provide 'giant' return

Dr. Matthew Auman, a family practice physician from the Indianapolis area, spent a morning at Saint Meinrad Archabbey this spring planting 20 small trees. Although there are lots of trees on campus, these were the first Giant Sequoias planted.

Auman had never been to Saint Meinrad before, but he had heard about it from some friends at his church. He has a passion for planting trees, especially the Giant Sequoia, and based on descriptions of the Hill from his friends, he thought Saint Meinrad might be the perfect spot to establish a few small groves of what may someday be the largest trees on the planet.

It's unclear whether Giant Sequoias are native to Indiana. Auman said it is believed they once thrived here thousands of years ago. There are no concerns that the tree will become an invasive species to the area. In fact, they could be threatened by extinction someday due to the unique conditions they require to reproduce.

In nature, tightly packed seed cones require a forest fire to initiate the dispersal of the seed from the cones. Then, with sufficient moisture, the seeds germinate on the clear and freshly burned forest floor.

Auman has tried with limited success to sprout the seedlings. Of the 500 seeds he purchased, he could get only 50 to sprout. Of those 50, only 10 survived to be planted. Although he continues to experiment with his methods, Auman buys healthy seedlings from a friend in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California.

Giant Sequoias, once established, grow well in the Midwest. Getting them started is the hard part. Auman attributes his success to the use of a watering system invented and manufactured in Holland called the Groasis Waterboxx. The system provides a constant source of moisture to

the young trees by harvesting dew and rainfall and then slowly distributing it through a wick like that of an oil lamp.

In addition to donating the 20 seedlings, he also donated 20 of these unique dew harvesting systems. The system holds about four gallons of water and, once initially filled, never needs to be refilled except during severe drought conditions.

"That's the trick," he said. "Sequoias need that constant sip of water until their long taproot can reach deep enough to take care of themselves." This usually takes 18 to 24 months. By next fall or the following spring, the water boxes can be removed and repurposed for planting something else.

Auman also donated and installed green plastic screens around the trees to protect against deer and wildlife. The green "collars" also make the seedlings easy to spot around campus.

Because of the potential size of the trees, sites were selected that would not interfere with buildings or underground utilities. Another benefit is that Giant Sequoias, once mature, can absorb a tremendous amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas attributed to climate change.

Giant Sequoias can live more than 2,000 years and reach heights of 300 feet and diameters over 25 feet. ✚

Smugmug

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

<http://saintmeinrad.smugmug.com>

Br. Philip Ripley dies at age 83



Br. Philip Ripley, OSB

Br. Philip Ripley, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on Saturday, April 16, 2016, at his residence in Evansville, IN. He was 83 and a jubilarian of profession.

Br. Philip was born in Paducah, KY, on August 6, 1932, and was given the name Clarence Henry at his baptism.

After completing his elementary education at St. Mary's Academy in Paducah, he attended high school at the Academy for one year, and then entered Saint Meinrad Seminary High School, where he graduated in 1950.

He then began a period of candidacy, assuming work in the monastery tailor shop. He was invested with the monastic habit the following year. He professed his simple vows on August 10, 1952, and his perpetual vows on August 10, 1955.

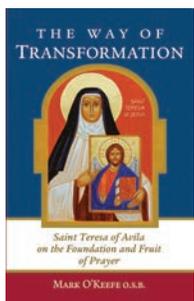
After working in the tailor shop for five years, Br. Philip began work in the seminary high school library, an assignment he held for five years.

In 1977, he began nearly 40 years of service to St. Mary Parish in Evansville, working as housekeeper and launderer, assisting in the sacristy, and caring for many of the parish's sick and elderly through his ministry as Eucharistic minister.

The funeral Mass and burial were held on April 23. ✚

New books feature Carmelite, Benedictine spirituality

The Way of Transformation



Fr. Mark O'Keefe, OSB, associate professor of moral theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and chaplain to the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Terre Haute, IN, has published a

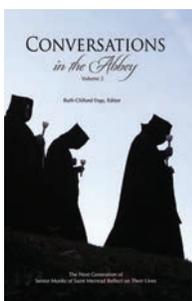
second book exploring Carmelite spirituality.

The book is *The Way of Transformation: Saint Teresa of Avila on the Foundation and Fruit of Prayer*, published by ICS Publications in June 2016.

The book offers a fresh perspective on St. Teresa of Avila's thoughts about prayer. Fr. Mark draws attention to the central fact that she considers the virtues – especially love of neighbor, detachment and humility – as the essential and relevant foundation for her spirituality of prayer.

His previous book on Carmelite spirituality is *Love Awakened by Love: The Liberating Ascent of Saint John of the Cross*.

Conversations in the Abbey



Conversations in the Abbey, Volume 2: The Next Generation of Senior Monks of Saint Meinrad Reflects on Their Lives features in-depth interviews with 11 monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

The book's author/editor is Ruth Clifford Engs of Bloomington, IN, a retired Indiana University professor and a Benedictine oblate of Saint Meinrad.

She spoke with the monks about their early years in the monastery, their varying work assignments, changes they've seen in the Catholic Church and reflections on living as Benedictine monks for 50-plus years.

Both books are available at Saint Meinrad's bookstore, The Scholar Shop, or its website, www.saintmeinrad.edu/shop.

Conversations in the Abbey is also available at the Archabbey Gift Shop. ✚

School participates in educational forum

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology is participating in a project to explore its educational models and practices. It is one of seven seminaries that are focusing on their schools' formation programs for permanent deacons.

Saint Meinrad's Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, and Dr. Patrick Cooper attended the initial peer group forum in Pittsburgh, PA, in February. Visel is dean of School of Theology Programs and Cooper is director of the Permanent Deacon Formation Program.

The forum is a project of the Association of Theological Schools, of which Saint Meinrad is a member. Funded by a major grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., the Educational Models Project will assess current and developing practices among ATS member schools, identify their most promising aspects, assist member schools in implementing new and innovative models, and integrate promising models into the work of the Association.

Each of the peer groups in the project will collaborate to develop, implement, and assess innovative models and practices. ✚



▲ On each Sunday in May, visitors to Monte Cassino Shrine participate in a rosary pilgrimage and prayer service.



Photos clockwise, from top left:

Br. David N'Djam, OSB, waits for the deacon ordination ceremony to begin on April 2.

Seminarian Chaz Dunn (back to camera) congratulates fellow students and team members following a softball tourney on April 16.

A crew of students did landscaping work at the Marian shrine on campus on May 4.

Deacon Braden Maher smiles at a comment during class with President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB.

Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, receives good wishes from Carl Wolford following a banquet on April 29. The Board of Overseers honored Archabbot Justin for his service as archabbot. At far left is Deacon Mario Jacobo.

Igniting the Fire

Two alumni share story of friendship, conversion and evangelization



▲ Rachel Forbes Kaufman, left, and Mary Ortwein.

Mary Ortwein MAPT'15 ('11-15) and Rachel Forbes Kaufman MAT'14 ('11-14) met at Saint Meinrad while both were studying in the Graduate Theology Program.

“We got to know each other because we were in the group that was always going to prayer [in the Archabbey Church] and therefore we came from prayer, had supper together and formed a group,” says Ortwein.

The pair began to speak about faith, evangelization and conversion – a common interest born out of very different experiences – experiences that led them to Saint Meinrad and eventually to a passion for sharing with others what they've learned.

The Journey to Saint Meinrad

Ortwein, a marriage and family therapist from Frankfort, KY, came to Saint Meinrad after experiencing a rebirth of faith in her own life. “I was tepid in my faith for a while. I never quit going to church, but my heart did. And as I came back and had a conversion, I wanted to study and know all I could know.”

Kaufman, however, as a former hospital executive from Evansville, IN, was studying theology to learn how to re-energize the faith lives of those around her, especially the physicians and other hospital staff she worked with. She developed a passion for this after her experience on 9/11.

On September 11, 2001, Kaufman woke up in her hotel room at a large medical conference in California. After seeing the news, she immediately ran down to the convention floor.

“When the plane hit the first tower, people thought it was an accident,” says Kaufman. “When the plane hit the second tower, we knew we were under attack. At that moment, everyone dropped to their knees in prayer. It didn't matter if they were Catholic, Muslim, agnostic, atheist or Sikh.”

That was a surprising moment for Kaufman. She had worked in the medical profession her whole career and rarely saw others she worked with fall to their knees in prayer. “I went to a variety of prayer services that day throughout the

convention center and, no matter where I went, people were comforting each other.

“I witnessed people caring for each other as human beings who were hurting. That was one of the key moments in my life,” she recalls. “I wanted to see that kind of care and comfort in hospitals all of the time.”

Kaufman came to Saint Meinrad several years later, hoping to help physicians become more engaged in their faith tradition. She believes this will help them live more fully and enjoy a better sense of well-being.

As a capstone to her studies, she channeled that passion into a thesis on discipleship and physician formation, a project that led to a deeper relationship with Ortwein and a clearer understanding of the power of evangelization.

Igniting the Fire

During her thesis research, Kaufman came across Sherry Weddell's book, *Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus*.

“One day I was sitting in a pew at my parish and I noticed in the bulletin that Sherry Weddell was coming to Evansville to give a workshop for the priests on evangelization,” explains Kaufman.

That afternoon, she wrote to her parish priest explaining her familiarity with Weddell's work and offering to help when he started his discipleship project.

“I told him I have a friend who is a licensed marriage and family counselor in the Lexington Diocese. I said she could bring to the table a lot about how we communicate with one another – how we can be welcoming to one another and how we can truly listen.”

According to Kaufman and Ortwein, the rest was history.

The workshop, “Igniting the Fire: Becoming a Parish of Joyful Disciples,” focused on helping parishes build practical and sustainable evangelization plans and equipping parish teams with the tools to become highly effective witnesses to the joy of the Gospel.

Over 40 catechetical leaders from across the Diocese of Evansville attended their two-day workshop in October and November of 2015.

While planning the workshop, Kaufman and Ortwein focused on a few key concepts to enable participants to become successful evangelizers. One of those concepts – hospitality and service – is something both women feel passionate about.

“It is all about establishing trust,” explained Ortwein. “Pope Francis talks about service in plentitude. How do you trust a Christian? Through service. That’s something we don’t often talk about in terms of the new evangelization, but that’s something Pope Francis makes very clear.”

In addition to service, Kaufman and Ortwein emphasized the concepts of vulnerability and empathetic listening.

“One of the things we found is that to be successful in discipleship, we have to welcome people just the way they are. We are to engage with them and not be fearful of it, which requires us to be vulnerable and open,” said Kaufman. “We have to tell our own stories of faith and conversion and we have to recognize them.”

The Road from Saint Meinrad

They carried the lessons they learned in the classroom and while at prayer into the workshop.

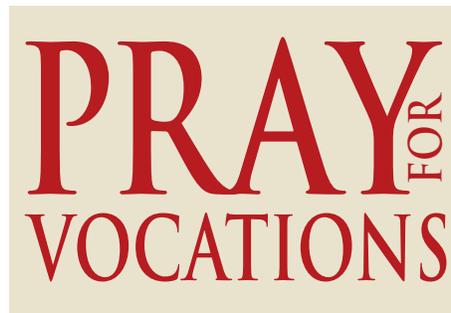
“I took pieces of everything I am at this point in my life to that workshop, which included my education at Saint Meinrad,” explained Kaufman. “Even though I was not an expert on evangelization, God had things He could bring to the table through me. And if I live my life open to God, there will be good that God can do through me.”

For her part, Ortwein found, at least in part, a model for conversion – something she came to Saint Meinrad to discover.

“For me, the most profound piece of the workshop was its place in my ongoing study of conversion. I was able to put it all together and discover that outreach component, which really is mercy. Mercy is not the outgrowth of conversion, but the beginning. For me, the process of being merciful is a conversion experience again and again.”

Kaufman agrees. Their workshop helped participants open their eyes to what God was calling them to do and how they could do it.

“In terms of impact of our program, the vulnerability piece was an eye-opener for people. We don’t need to do anything to earn God’s love. With God, we are perfect, so we do not need to be afraid to help others – to be merciful.” ✚



Alumni Giving Program benefits today’s students

We have closed the books on the 2015-16 Alumni Annual Giving Program. It was another very successful year with gifts totaling \$712,682. The overall participation rate among alumni was 25%.

“Once again, Saint Meinrad’s alumni have demonstrated their dedication and commitment to their alma mater,” says Duane Schaefer, director of development.

“We are blessed to have loyal alumni who understand the importance of giving back. Their support helps to ensure that

Save the Date!

August 1-3, 2016
Alumni Reunion

August 7, 2016
Louisville Alumni & Friends Dinner

August 17, 2016
Gary Alumni & Friends Dinner

September 26, 2016
Indianapolis
Alumni & Friends Dinner

September 29, 2016
Evansville Alumni & Friends Dinner

October 3, 2016
Sioux City Alumni & Friends Dinner

October 19, 2016
Jasper and Lincoln Hills Area
Alumni & Friends Dinner

October 25, 2016
Toledo Alumni & Friends Dinner

March 23, 2017
Pittsburgh Alumni & Friends Dinner

Saint Meinrad’s work will continue for generations to come.”

The amount Saint Meinrad charges a student covers only about 49% of the costs of his or her education. Annual unrestricted gifts help make up the difference. In addition, those gifts help Saint Meinrad keep its tuition rates competitive with other seminaries.

Alumni can look for the 2016-17 Alumni Annual Giving Program to kick off in late August, Schaefer says, when the first mailing goes out. ✚

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Nelson G. Baker O'77 ('73), of Louisville, KY, died on April 6, 2016.

Mr. Al Bosemer O'50 ('46-47), of South Louisville, KY, died on May 15, 2016.

Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard PD'12 ('08-12), of Alexandria, LA, died on May 8, 2016.

Mr. David L. Chambliss C'93 ('89-90), of Murfreesboro, TN, died on January 23, 2015.

Msgr. Robert L. Charlebois O'57 ('51-57), a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died on February 22, 2016.

Fr. John M. Hebert O'51 ('49-51), of Hot Springs Village, AR, died on January 26, 2013. He was a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, NE.

Mr. Leo T. Hettich O'55 ('43-53), of Reno, NV, died on May 10, 2016.

Mr. Dennis M. Jarvis C'83 ('78-82), of Lawrenceburg, IN, died on May 11, 2016.

Mr. Thomas P. Klee O'59 ('47-55), of Fort Wayne, IN, died on April 6, 2016.

Mr. Dennis R. Kotara O'64 ('52-54), of Panhandle, TX, died on October 4, 2013.

Mr. Harold A. Lundergan O'A'45 ('34-44), of Bradenton, FL, died on October 5, 2015.

Fr. James McKay, SM, O'44 ('42-44), of the Siena Woods Community in Dayton, OH, died on October 15, 2015.

Fr. Michael McWhorter T'92 ('87-91), a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA, died on April 29, 2016.

Mr. Thomas M. Moore O'76 ('64-65), of Niceville, FL, died on March 30, 2014.

Fr. William J. Raftery, SJ, S'96, of Weston, MA, died on August 1, 2010.

Mr. Paul J. Rethinger O'68 ('60-64), of Tigard, OR, died on March 9, 2016.

Mr. Jerry C. Rowe O'66 ('54-55), of Greencastle, IN, died on October 26, 2011.

Fr. Richard Slavish S'96, a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, IL, died at his home in Matherville, IL, on February 18, 2016.

Mr. Phillip H. Strahl O'64 ('52-53), of Greenfield, IN, died on March 25, 2016.

Mr. John J. Sullivan O'66 ('65-66), of Sahuarita, AZ, died on May 16, 2015.

Fr. Joseph E. Swierczynski O'64 ('54-58), a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA, died on May 12, 2016.

Mr. Don Weller O'65 ('53-57), of Louisville, KY, died on April 17, 2016.

Fr. William D. Willett O'79 ('75-79), a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, died on April 20, 2016.

Mr. Francis H. Wolfla O'64 ('52-61), of Indianapolis, IN, died on March 31, 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 ✝

Attention Alumni!

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DON'T MISS:

- Latest News from the Hill
- Alumni Obituaries
- Event Schedules and Reminders

To sign up, send your email to alumni@saintmeinrad.edu!



▲ Monks process to the cemetery for the burial of Br. Philip Ripley, OSB, on April 23.

Mr. Dan Conway O'75 ('67-75), of Louisville, KY, has written *A Man of Few Words: Remembering Jack Conway*, a book about his father. It is available on Amazon.

Mr. Keith Fritz C'99 ('95-97), of Ferdinand, IN, is getting national attention for his company's line of high-end furniture. A unique console was featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and on *Architectural Digest's* website. It was then put on display in the Kips Bay Show House.

Mr. Walter Glover MTS'06 ('00-05), of Columbus, IN, has published a book about his mountaineering experiences. *Mount Everest and Mount Kilimanjaro: Seven Mountain Story, Book 1* is available from Amazon.

Mr. Logan Haire MAT'16 ('14-16), of Owensboro, KY, married Kathryn Thompson on May 28, 2016.

Mr. Brian Holtz C'91 ('88-'91) has been named the executive director of the Evansville (IN) Department of Parks and Recreation.

Fr. J. Ronald Knott O'70 ('64-70), of Louisville, KY, spoke in April to the bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference in Port of Spain, Trinidad. He spoke about diocesan presbyterates and

also gave a talk on the topic to a class of seminarians there.

Fr. John McCaslin T'02 ('97-02), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, was honored in March with the "Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award" from the National Catholic Educational Association. He was honored for his role in reopening St. Anthony Catholic School as Mother Theodore Catholic Academy after five years as a public charter school.

Fr. Joseph Merkt S'00, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been honored by the national Association of Graduate Programs in Ministry with its Called and Gifted Award. The award recognizes his extensive work in developing and shaping the national standards for lay ecclesial ministers.

Fr. Rick Nagel T'07 ('02-07), pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis, IN, and campus minister at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, was guest speaker at a day of renewal for parish staffs in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. He spoke on the Year of Mercy.

Mrs. Melinda Prunty MTS'10 ('06-09), of Belton, KY, received the 2016 Bishop John J. McRaith Catechetical Award on

May 16. She is the director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro, KY.

Mrs. Sharon Schuhmann MTS'11 ('08-11), of Louisville, KY, received her doctorate of ministry in preaching degree from Aquinas Institute of Theology on May 6, 2016.

Judge Timothy J. Sullivan O'62 ('57-62), of Blairstown, NY, has been chosen for inclusion in the New York Law School Hall of Judges. A member of the Law School's class of 1971, he has practiced law in New Jersey for many years.

Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson T'87 ('83-87), bishop of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, received the Bronze Pelican award in March for his active support of Catholic scouting.

Fr. Joe Weigman T'91 ('85-91), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, has a new ministry. In addition to being resident chaplain at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Oregon, OH, he is a part-time chaplain at Mercy St. Charles Hospital in Oregon.

Deacon Clete Yochum PD'13 ('09-13), of Vincennes, IN, was honored for 35 years of service for his work at Niehaus Companies. He works at Wholesale Building Materials in Vincennes. ✚

Stay Connected

Alumni website offers better ways to stay connected

If you haven't visited the Saint Meinrad Alumni website recently, you may have missed:

- Online registration for the August 1-3 Alumni Reunion
- Information about the 2017 Saint Meinrad Day of Service
- Alumni resources, such as online access to academic theology journals through the Archabbey Library
- Details on how to nominate a classmate for the Distinguished Alumnus Award

- The list of upcoming tours and pilgrimages hosted by Saint Meinrad's Br. Maurus Zoeller, OSB
- The online alumni directory, where you can search for classmates.

Some items on the website are open to all, but make sure to register for full access. Just follow the on-screen prompts to sign up.

To get started, visit <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>. ✚



Saint Meinrad
DAY OF SERVICE
has been set for
March 11, 2017.
Watch for more details!



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Three ordained deacons at Saint Meinrad



▲ From left, Br. David N'Djam, OSB, Joseph Park and Joseph Lee were ordained deacons in the Archabbey Church on April 2.

Three seminarians received the order of deacon from the Most Rev. Joseph Tobin, CSsR, archbishop of Indianapolis, at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church on April 2.

The newly ordained deacons are Joseph Lee and Joseph Park, both of the Diocese of Busan, South Korea; and Br. David N'Djam, OSB, of Monastère de l'Incarnation in Togo, West Africa. They

are students at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Others in their class will be or have been ordained deacons in their respective dioceses.

In the Catholic faith, a deacon can preach, baptize, witness marriages, offer Communion to the sick and aged, and perform other ministerial duties. The newly ordained deacons are transitional deacons, meaning they are preparing for ordination to the priesthood. Many Catholic dioceses also have permanent deacons, who carry out the same role, but are not studying for the priesthood. ✝



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