

# ON THE HILL

WINTER 2020 • VOL. 59:1

## 2020 rings in abbey anniversary

## Archives protect 165 years of history



## Young Adult Initiative: Five takeaways after two years

Cover: Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, prays during the Advent Lessons and Carols service in December. Assisting is Deacon Gabe Mills.



*Saint Meinrad*



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Seminarians, from left, Oscar Romero, Robbie Bauman and Tuan Nguyen lead the procession out of the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel after the Advent Lessons and Carols in December.

## Monks' Personals

**Fr. Christian Raab** published a review of Dawn Eden Goldstein's *Sunday Will Never Be the Same: A Rock and Roll Journalist Opens Her Ears to God* in the September 30 issue of *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*.

**Fr. Adrian Burke** attended the 7th Annual Fr. Michael J. McGivney Vocations Dinner in Huntingburg, IN, sponsored by the area Knights of Columbus and Daughters of Isabella, in October.

**Br. John Mark Falkenhain** presented a talk on "Celibacy Formation in a Post-Crisis Church" to seminary rectors and formation personnel at the National Association of Catholic Theological Schools annual meeting in Chicago, IL, in October.

**Archabbot Kurt Stasiak** attended the blessing of the new abbot, Rt. Rev. Marcus Voss, at St. Bernard's Abbey in Cullman, AL, on October 13.

**Br. Jean Fish** completed several courses at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, TN, in November.

**Br. Francis de Sales Wagner** has been appointed secretary to the Abbot's Council and to the Chapter.

**Archabbot Kurt Stasiak** and **Fr. Lambert Reilly** took part in the dedication Mass at the newly renovated St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, IN, on November 6. **Fr. Godfrey Mullen** is rector of the cathedral.

**Br. John Mark Falkenhain, Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski, Br. Joel Blaize, Br. James Jensen, Br. Simon Herrmann** and **Br. Zachary Wilberding** attended the National Catholic Youth Conference at the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium on November 21-23.

**Fr. Subprior Guerric DeBona** and **Fr. Mateo Zamora** attended the annual

meeting of the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics on December 4 and the annual meeting of the Academy of Homiletics on December 5-7, both in New Brunswick, NJ.

**Fr. Guerric DeBona** is co-author of a book that was awarded second place in the Liturgy category by the Catholic Press Association. The other authors of *Rites of Passage: Preaching Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals* are David Scotchie and Francis L. Agnoli. The book was published by Liturgical Press.

**Fr. Julian Peters** has been appointed to the Board of Directors for National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy.

**Fr. Eugene Hensell** conducted a retreat for the priests of the John Vianney Renewal Center in Dittmer, MO, on December 9-13. ✝

# Saint Meinrad celebrates 150 years as an abbey



▲ A special novena drew many visitors to Saint Meinrad in 1948.

This year marks an important anniversary in the history of Saint Meinrad Archabbey – its 150th year since it was raised to the status of an abbey.

Saint Meinrad was established on March 21, 1854, as a priory founded by and dependent on the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln in Switzerland. It was not until 1870 that the new foundation in America was able to stand on its own.

So far, two events are planned to commemorate the 150th anniversary.

**March 21:** On the feast of the martyr St. Meinrad, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christopher Pierre, will join the monastic community for Mass and a luncheon. Pope Francis appointed the French-born Pierre as apostolic nuncio in April 2016.

**September 30:** Saint Meinrad will host a visit from the abbot of its motherhouse, the Abbey of Maria Einsiedeln. Abbot Urban Federer, OSB, has served as the superior of the monastery since December 2013. September 30 is the actual anniversary date – the day Saint Meinrad became an abbey in 1870.

## A Rough Start

In 1852, the abbot of Einsiedeln Abbey decided to send two monks to America to look for land that could be used as a new foundation. Fr. Christen Ulrich and Fr. Bede O'Connor eventually found suitable land in Spencer County, Indiana.

The monks bought 2,400 acres of farmland and moved into the farmhouse. Saint Meinrad priory became official on March 21, 1854. A few other monks from Einsiedeln joined the founders to get the priory started.

The early years were a struggle. The monks suffered through drought, poor harvests, illnesses and death. In 1860, the Swiss abbot sent Fr. Martin Marty, OSB, to Saint Meinrad to serve as the administrator and prior. During the next 10 years, Fr. Martin worked hard to stabilize and strengthen the community.

With their affairs in good order, both the priory and Einsiedeln Abbey agreed it was time for the foundation to become independent. The request was made to Rome and approved by Pope Pius IX on September 30, 1870. Fr. Martin became Saint Meinrad's first abbot, serving for almost 10 years. ✚

## Students open UnStable pub 50 years ago in 1970

Another Saint Meinrad institution will celebrate an anniversary in 2020. This year marks 50 years since the establishment of the campus pub, the UnStable.

The UnStable was established when students of Saint Meinrad College reworked two recreation rooms, called the Ritz and the Dink, and made them into a campus pizzeria.

Using lumber from two old barns, the students created a barn-like room with picnic tables, lantern-converted lights, a donated TV, and a kitchen for making pizza and serving "liquid refreshments."

The senior class of 1970 came up with the idea and convinced then-business manager Fr. Martin Dusseau, OSB, of its viability. According to the April 1970 issue of the *Saint Meinrad College Newsletter*, "all of the work was done by the collegians with the help of brother-members of the Archabbey community who installed electricity and plumbing."

At its inception, the UnStable was overseen by student manager David Hodde, general manager Bill Delaney and Fr. Martin.

Anniversary activities are planned for the Alumni Reunion, to be held August 2-5. ✚

## The UnStable



# Monk leads students on Rome trip to John Henry Newman canonization



▲ *Photo banners of the five new saints hang in St. Peter's Square on October 13. St. John Henry Newman is in the center.*

When some area college students learned that the namesake of their university Newman Center would be canonized a saint in Rome, they wanted to attend. They did not realize how unique the experience would be.

Last July, Pope Francis announced he would name Cardinal John Henry Newman a saint on October 13. Newman was a theologian and Anglican priest who later converted to Catholicism, became a Catholic priest and eventually a cardinal.

Considered one of the 19th century's most important theologians, Newman had a special interest in ministering to Catholic students who were attending non-Catholic schools. When Newman Centers began to be established to offer Catholic pastoral ministry at non-Catholic universities, they were named for him.

Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad and volunteer chaplain at the University of Evansville, heard about the students' interest in attending Newman's canonization. "We reached out and put together a group of 11 students from the University of Evansville, Bellarmine University, and the University of Southern Indiana," he says.

The group arrived in Rome on the day before the canonization, not realizing they were uncommon. A representative from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) told them she did not know of any other students from Newman Centers who were attending the canonization ceremony.

The USCCB representative told the group that the Oratorians, the religious order that Newman belonged to, wished to have an American student read one of the prayer

petitions at the canonization vigil. Hailey Thayer, a Jasper, IN, student attending the University of Evansville, was chosen to take part in the service the night before the canonization.

At the service, she stood between a pre-eminent Newman scholar, Fr. Ian Kerr, and Melinda Villalobos, the Chicago woman whose cure was attributed to Newman's intercession and thus became the second miracle needed for his canonization.

The next day, the group attended the canonization Mass, seated only about 50 yards away and able to get an up-close look at Pope Francis.

On the day they arrived in Rome, the students, accompanied by Fr. Christian and University of Evansville campus minister and Saint Meinrad alumna Jenny Koch, were given a tour of various Rome sites connected to Cardinal Newman by Saint Meinrad President-Rector and Newman expert Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, who also was there for the canonization.

"The next couple of days, we went touring and had Mass in the catacombs and visited various churches," explains Fr. Christian.



▲ *On of the local attendees at the canonization took a closeup photo of Pope Francis on October 13.*

Fr. Christian says the experience seemed to make an impact on the students. “You can just see them soaking it all up,” he says. “There was a lot of enthusiasm for the history of Rome.” The most powerful experience was the visit to the catacombs, the underground burial site that dates from the second century and includes the graves of many martyrs.

Attending the canonization brought home the story of the Catholic faith to the

young adults. “What a canonization is celebrating is eternal life and the fact that we have evidence, and we believe, that these people are in heaven,” explains Fr. Christian.

“As one of the people on the trip said, ‘The saints are like signs to us of how close a person can be to God,’” he notes. ✚



*Photos, clockwise from top: Leslie Gerster, Megan Jackson, Jenny Koch and Claire Muensterman toss coins in Trevi Fountain.*

*Behind John Henry Newman’s portrait, Hailey Thayer lights a candle during the canonization vigil.*

*Hailey Thayer, left, meets Melissa Villalobos, whose miracle cure led to Newman’s canonization.*

## EVENTS ON THE HILL

### February 11

*Father Cyprian Davis Lecture given by Dr. C. Vanessa White*

### February 14-16 and March 13-15

*Guest House Retreat: “Together in Christ” by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB (Married Couples Only)*

### March 5

*Thomas Lecture given by Dr. Cyril O’Regan*

### March 17-19

*Guest House Retreat: “Healing Anger Through Forgiveness” by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB*

### March 27-29

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

### April 3-5

*Guest House Retreat: “Lectio Divina Retreat” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB*

### April 8-12

*Guest House Retreat: “The Easter Triduum: Three Days, One Event” by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB (Holy Week Retreat)*

### April 27-May 1

*Guest House Retreat: “Matthew’s Advice to a Church in Crisis and Distress” by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB*

### May 1-3

*Guest House Retreat: “Contemplative Christianity” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB*

### May 15-17

*Guest House Retreat: “Way Stations and Homecomings of Forgiveness” by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB*

### June 16-18

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

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

## [Meet the Student]

# Deacon Peter Grodi

Diocese: Toledo, Ohio

Hometown: Dresden, OH

### **Q.** *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

First and foremost, I think I was attracted to the priesthood because it represented a life totally committed to serving God. As a child, I frequently watched my father giving talks at churches about his conversion story. His witness inspired me to want to be as dedicated to Jesus with my life as he is with his.

### **Q.** *Who or what influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?*

After college, I had not sufficiently answered the question of whether God was calling me to seminary. I continued to wrestle with the question for a year. I remember being in the chapel praying about my job, a girl I had begun to court, and basically all of my possible life choices when, all of a sudden, I realized in a moment of clarity that I could not move forward toward anything else in my life with any real peace until I answered the question of whether I was called to priesthood. That is when I realized that I needed to go to seminary.

### **Q.** *What were you doing before you came to the seminary?*

After I graduated from college, I was able to land a job as a worship director at a parish in Bowling Green, Ohio. That was my first real opportunity to work at a church and experience all the ins and outs of parish life. I now claim that church as my home parish.

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

If I had to pick one, I would pick St. Isaac Jogues. Long story short, he endured

extreme torture at the hands of the Iroquois tribe in the Americas during his missionary work. He escaped with his life only to return and continue his work, which eventually led to being martyred. I have never been the most naturally courageous person, and I knew that he had what I needed. His example continues to humble me and push me forward today.

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

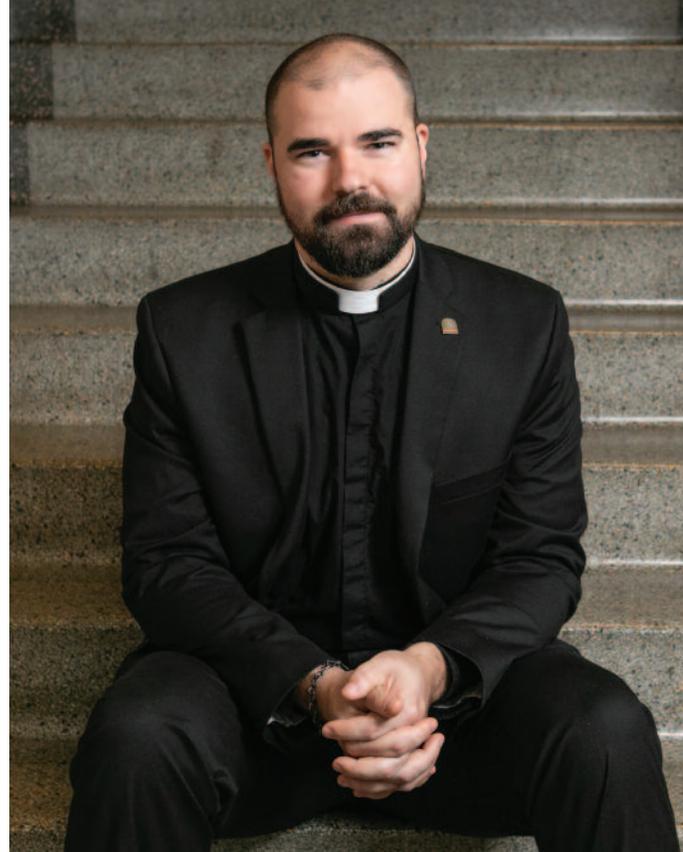
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6). This verse has been both a challenge and a consolation to me for much of my life, but especially during my time in seminary. Through many doubts and fears, this verse was one of the things that kept me moving forward.

### **Q.** *Hobbies?*

I am what some would call a “prince of all traits, master of none” type of person. I enjoy doing many things but, unfortunately, I am not an expert at any of them. Among my hobbies are piano, guitar, accordion, ultimate Frisbee, disc golf, volleyball, video-gaming, board-gaming, reading, and so-on and so-forth.

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

Well, the most obvious and truest thing is my ever-developing relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. But setting that aside, the many friendships I have developed among the current and past seminarians have been some of the



greatest joys of my life. They have been a major reason I have made it this far and have become who I am. They have formed me, challenged me, supported me, irritated me, made me laugh, and everything in between.

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

I think pushing through the slow, drudging times in the semester is the hardest thing. About three-quarters of the way through the semester, most of us get very tired, unmotivated and swamped with papers. Continuing to keep up with all the public commitments, school assignments and other duties can be extremely trying.

### **Q.** *Best advice you've heard in seminary?*

You have to “own” yourself if you want to give yourself away in service to others. So, taking care of yourself physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually is so important, not as a selfish thing, but as a way of respecting yourself, respecting your people and respecting God.

### **Q.** *Other comments?*

Thank you, Saint Meinrad, for all of the many, many gifts I have received in my time here. †

# Michael Shumway named director of planned giving and foundation relations



Michael Shumway

Michael M. Shumway has been named the new director of planned giving and foundation relations for Saint Meinrad, effective November 18, 2019.

In this position, Shumway will administer a comprehensive program of planned giving for the Archabbey and the Seminary and School of Theology. He will identify, cultivate and solicit major gifts and be responsible for helping to build foundation relations to support Saint Meinrad's various programs.

Shumway holds a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from Spaulding University. He earned his Certified Fund Raising Executive credential in 1996 and has defended recertification every three years since then.

He graduated from Saint Meinrad's Permanent Deacon Formation Program in 2016 and was ordained on August 20 of that year. He currently serves as deacon at St. Joseph Parish in Louisville, KY. He is also an auditor/advocate for the Metropolitan Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Shumway previously worked at Saint Meinrad from 1995 to 2002, serving as director of annual giving and then director of annual support programs (2000-2002).

Since 2017, he has been the director of major gifts and planned giving for the Archdiocese of Louisville. In 2014, he formed The Shumway Group to help clients improve their mission advancement operations through direct counsel, coaching and direct service.

He served as senior executive consultant for RSI Catholic Services Group from 2006 to 2008 and its successor (O'Meara, Ferguson, Whelan, and Conway) from 2008 to 2014. He has also worked as director of development for the Public Radio Partnership and as director of resource development at the Home of the Innocents.

He and his wife, Charlotte, live in Crestwood, KY. ✝



*Photos, clockwise from top left: Michelle Blalock and other schola members process into the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel by candlelight before the Advent Lessons and Carols service on December 8.*

*The monastic community processes down the Archabbey Church steps on the way to the cemetery on All Souls' Day.*

*Seminarian Omar Galvan talks with children from the community during La Posada on December 7.*

PIVS PP. XII

Ad perpetuam rei memoriam



Mater et caput congregationis Helveto-Americanae Ordinis Sancti Benedicti est ut accepimus, Abbatia Sancti Meinradi, quae saeculo proximo praeterito a monachis Helvetis in republica «Indiana», intra fines Foederatarum Civitatum Americae Septentrionalis, fuit excitata. Ex hoc enim bene constituto monasterio, quemadmodum rami solent a caudice exire, alia ejusdem Ordinis coenobia in regionibus existerunt, ut Abbatia Neg. Sublacensis, Sancti Joseph, Sancti Augustini, cui appellatio «Marmion», et ea quam, hoc ipso die per Nos erectam, «Blue Cloud» vocant. Alia denique huiusmodi domicilia religionis Benedictinae a primo coenobio Sancti Meinradi Abbate Martino Marty, postea Sancti Clodovaldi Episcopi in Civitatibus Foederatis, quas diximus, diuino afflante Numine, feliciter sunt condita. Post autem maxime prae Nobis ferendum a principe Sancti Meinradi familia et ab eis, quae inde sunt profectae, rem Catholicam in America plurimum auctam esse atque fructus editorum amblysimos. Centum autem annorum expleto spatio a quo insigne Sancti Meinradi coenobium conditum fuerat, dilectus filius Ignatius Esser, ejusdem monasterii Abbas, vota deprecans omnium congregationis Helveto-Americanae Praenitium, submisit. Nos rogavit ut religioas aedes, quae laudavimus nomine et jure «Archabbatiae» consideraremus. Nos autem, per centum annos a Benedictinis illis socialibus exanclatis labores publice agnoscere, iisdemque benedictum a-



nitae, consulte Apostolica Nostra auctoritate, hanc Litterarum de perpetuaque in modum Abbatia Ordinis Sancti Benedicti, intra fines Archidocesis Indianopolitanae, sitam, ad titulum ac di-

# ARCHIVES

## preserve Saint Meinrad's history

By Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, and Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB

Even though archives and archiving are not explicitly mentioned in the *Rule of St. Benedict*, Benedict does take care to ensure that the goods and the vow charts of the monastery will be preserved and handed on to the next generation.

“The abbot will maintain a list of these, so that when the brothers succeed one another in their assigned tasks, he may be aware of what he hands out and what he receives back. Whoever fails to keep the things belonging to the monastery clean or treats them carelessly should be reproved” (RB 32:3-4).

“But that [vow chart] of his which the abbot took from the altar should not be given back to him but kept in the monastery” (RB 58:29).

Archives have always been important to Benedictine monasteries and this is especially true here at Saint Meinrad Archabbey. From the beginning of our community, the abbot was the one who archived the important documents.

Beginning in the 1930s, though, Abbot Ignatius Esser asked Fr. Herman Romoser to be the first official archivist of Saint Meinrad. During this time, the abbot could not keep track of all the documents in the archive by himself, so he entrusted this task to a conscientious monk.

The first archive was located in a small space next to the chapter room. After the new monastery was built in the 1980s, the community saw the importance of having a larger space dedicated to preserving our history.

The monastery archives then found a home on the ground floor of the new Archabbey Library, while the records of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation – which always have been housed at Saint Meinrad – made their way to the bottom floor of St. Gregory Hall.

In recent years, our oblate community's records also have been preserved in the archives in St. Gregory Hall. Even though the monastery's records are housed in the Archabbey Library, the growth in the number of documents has facilitated the creation of the Annex, allowing certain monastery documents to be housed in the archives in St. Gregory Hall.

There have been upwards to four monks working in the archives throughout our history. Recently, though, both of us are

assigned to the archives and we have a small army of volunteers, all associated with Saint Meinrad in some way: an alumnus, three oblates and a seminarian.

And there is much work to be done. For example, since we upgraded our technology, we have found that the number of patron requests has risen exponentially. We now respond to several requests a month, often scanning records for genealogical purposes. We also

prepared displays for the 2018 and 2019 Alumni Reunions, featuring photos of the Archabbey and student newsletters from the Seminary.

In the coming months, we will be working with a committee to plan the 150th anniversary of Saint Meinrad becoming an independent abbey in 1870. Many records were destroyed during the Great Fire of 1887, but during a recent visit to our motherhouse in Switzerland, we recovered

copies of some founding documents and lists of monks from the 1870s.

Indeed, we are keeping the history of our community alive for the next generation, just as Benedict envisioned in his *Rule*.

If you have a request of your own or would like to make a donation to our archives, please contact us at [archives2@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:archives2@saintmeinrad.edu) or (812) 357-6756. ✝



*Photos opposite page: The Saint Meinrad archives houses important founding and historical documents, including this document from 1954, establishing Saint Meinrad as an Archabbey.*

*Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, left, serves as the Archabbey Archivist and Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB, serves as Assistant to the Archivist.*

*Photos, clockwise from top left: The archives is home to many photographs that show how Saint Meinrad has changed over the years.*

*This photograph shows priest-monks concelebrating Mass in the Archabbey Church in the early 1970s.*

*Official documents were stamped in hot wax, like this one from the Holy See acknowledging Saint Meinrad as an abbey in 1870.*

*This document was written in 1855 from Saint Meinrad's motherhouse in Switzerland about the founding of Saint Meinrad as a mission.*

*This photograph depicts the original Abbey Church in 1858.*

# Young Adult Initiative

## Four takeaways from the program's first two years

Saint Meinrad is at the halfway point of its five-year, Lilly-funded Young Adult Initiative.

In 2017, the Seminary and School of Theology received a \$1.38 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of its initiative to help religious leaders reach young adults and work with them to create new ministries.

Saint Meinrad began a new program to work with Catholic parishes and improve parish outreach to young adults and better engage them with the Church.

The work is being spearheaded by Michal Horace, director, and Kami Knies, who served as administrative and research assistant through December 2019.

They are working with 15 parishes in five states to help them explore the demographics of their communities and educate them about the marks of young adulthood.

In a recent interview, Horace and Knies talked about some of the lessons learned as the Young Adult Initiative moves forward.

### **Lesson #1 – “This is not about a young adult group.”**

Horace says parishes often misunderstand the goal of the program. It's not meant to help a parish start or shore up its young adult group. “It's about a parish-wide effort to engage young adults,” he says.

He uses the example of a parish capital campaign to explain how the process works. It begins with the pastor and a core group of parish leaders. They dream up ideas, advocate for the campaign, and begin to spread the word.

Eventually, more people get involved in the campaign – praying, volunteering, helping to organize various projects. Before long, the entire parish knows about the campaign and has a role to play in making it successful.

To better involve young adults in the parish, it begins with the pastor. Horace says he asks each parish's pastor to handpick the core team. “They are not the ‘doers’ who are going to do all this young adult ministry,” he says. “They are the dreamers and the enablers of others who get involved.”

This sets the tone for a whole-parish focus on better engaging young adults – the demographic that has been leaving the Church in record numbers.

### **Lesson #2 – “Let's plan an event!”**

Most parishes are pros at event planning, Knies says, but listening to the needs of young adults must come first.

Horace and Knies strongly encourage parishes to first hold listening sessions to find out the needs of young adults. The goal is to ask questions and listen carefully.

The YAI staff has a model that parishes can use for its listening sessions. The goal, they say, is to collect information – not pass judgment or offer “corrections” about misunderstood Catholic teachings and doctrine.

They urge parishes to consider hosting sessions away from the parish – and to offer incentives such as door prizes or a complimentary dinner to encourage attendance. Horace says it's important to also hear from those who have disaffiliated from the Church. “It's challenging, no question, but I think parishes are coming up with more ways of trying to hear the voices of those who are not active.”

### **Lesson #3 – “Find out what your parish culture is like.”**

One important thing a parish can learn is whether young adults perceive the parish as welcoming. The listening sessions are one way parishes can find out what young adults are thinking.

One of the comments that Horace and Knies hear regularly from young adults is, “I tried to get involved, and the leaders were not welcoming to me.” The YAI staff believe it's key for parish leadership to understand young adults better and to make extra efforts to welcome them, mentor them and get them involved in the parish.

The old way of waiting until the younger generation is old enough to “take its turn” will not work, Horace says. On the other hand, young Catholics need to learn patience and sensitivity. It can take time for established parish leaders to be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things.

“Your first meeting is probably not the meeting to present some radical, different ideas,” he advises young adults. Others in the group will need time to trust the young adults and become open to their ideas.

### **Lesson #4 – “There are more questions than answers.”**

With half of the five-year project timeline gone, the Young Adult Initiative staff is learning that progress is slow and that they are coming up with more questions than answers.

“We're providing a systematic way to analyze your parish and its culture,” according to Horace. It takes time and the results are not as evident as planning an event and counting how many people attend.

“We're not going to get a flood of young adults coming right out to the pews,” says Knies, but progress is happening and parishes are realizing that it's a process, rather than a quick fix.

To learn more about the program, visit the Young Adult Initiative's website, [www.saintmeinradyai.org](http://www.saintmeinradyai.org). ✝



*Photos clockwise from top left: Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, offers seminarian Dustin Hungerford the cup during Communion on October 23.*

*Monks, students and co-workers join hands and pray in St. Bede Circle for World Kindness Day on November 13.*

*Saint Meinrad Wellness Coordinator Jill Memmer cheers on race participants before the beginning of the On the Hill 5K in September.*

*Saint Meinrad alumnus Fr. Tony Cecil talks with Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, at Saint Meinrad's booth during the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis in November.*

*Catie Eichhorn and Kaitlin Vahling participate in a prayer walk around campus during the September Young Adult Initiative gathering.*



# Janet Werne retires

## A half century of service to Saint Meinrad alumni



Janet Werne

After 52 years of loyal service to Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Janet Ann Werne will retire on January 31. Janet has served as secretary for the Development Office, administrative assistant for Development and Alumni Affairs, and, for the last 20 years, associate director of alumni relations.

Alumni of Saint Meinrad know Janet for her consistent presence. Whether someone needed a favor, asked a question or simply wanted to talk, she was there.

Reflecting on her career, Janet looks back in gratitude. “Besides all the friends I have made, I’m grateful that I had the opportunity to work at Saint Meinrad. Saint Meinrad has a very important role in the training of priests, deacons and lay ministers to work in the Catholic Church. I was fortunate to be part of that important work.

“I’m also humbled and honored for the relationships that I have developed with

the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, as well as alumni and friends. My employment at Saint Meinrad – which has become my second family – was never a job, but a position that I have always enjoyed.”

During her 50th year of working for Saint Meinrad, Janet was named an Honorary Alumnus in 2017 – an honor bestowed only six times before. For this recognition, many former co-workers and supervisors spoke of how much Werne means to Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Warren Heitz, OSB, a past alumni director and one of Janet’s earlier supervisors, said, “The most important contribution Janet has made to the Alumni Association and to Saint Meinrad is her unique ministry to alumni over the years.

“I know that Janet, in her unassuming and quiet way, has served as a confidant and counselor to many alumni – counseling a spouse whose husband or wife had died, sharing the joy of someone whose niece was getting married or the joy of a priest or religious who had just received a promotion in the ranks of the Church.”

Paul Stabile worked with Janet when he was Saint Meinrad’s first alumni director. She “was, and still is, a human dynamo,

revered by all students, alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad. Her calm pursuit of the daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly projects needed someone dedicated, hardworking, intelligent, effective, industrious, and highly organized.”

Vice President for Development Mike Ziemianski knew Janet throughout his career at Saint Meinrad until his death in June 2019. When she was named an honorary alumnus, he said, “Her knowledge of Saint Meinrad is what got me through my first years in the Development Office. We had some very long nights working to get things out the door and she always did it with a smile.”

Werne hopes to be remembered fondly at Saint Meinrad. “I wish to be remembered for doing my job to the best of my ability, in particular by helping alumni and friends in whatever way was needed.”

Werne plans to stay connected to Saint Meinrad through some volunteer work. She hopes to enjoy fewer scheduled days and spend more time with family and friends, especially her great-nieces and great-nephews. ✝

## Students ready to make phonathon calls

The annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon will take place on seven evenings in February and March. The event offers alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad an opportunity to talk to a seminarian during the annual appeal.

Each of Saint Meinrad’s five formation houses will spend one evening making calls. This “team” concept sometimes results in a little unofficial, friendly competition that makes the evening fun. The remaining two nights will have students from all the formation houses calling non-alumni donors who have made gifts to Saint Meinrad in the past.

When students connect with an alumnus or friend, they have a chance to tell their story, bring them up to date on the latest news on the Hill, and thank them for their past support. Of course, they also invite them to make a gift or pledge to support the Seminary and School of Theology.

“Every seminarian participates in the Phonathon, and it has been interesting to hear how each one uses his unique gifts and talents,” says Associate Director of Annual Giving Brandon Hopf. “The student body is comprised of an eclectic group of guys who look forward to

conversing with benefactors who share their love of Saint Meinrad,” he adds.

Gifts from alumni and friends help make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, upkeep of buildings and grounds, wellness activities and many other day-to-day operations.

Alumni whose gifts qualify will receive this year’s premium, a 22-ounce black tumbler, imprinted with the Saint Meinrad Alumni logo in white, with a plastic straw. ✝

# Day of Service: Projects set for March 14

Locations and projects are finalized for the seventh annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service. This year, the event will be Saturday, March 14.

Organized by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association in partnership with the Alumni Office, the Day of Service is open to any participants, not just alumni.

“It’s one day for our alumni and friends to go out in the communities and be together in service,” says Joe Oliveri, Saint Meinrad’s director of alumni relations. “Many people already do so much. This day is to remind us we do it together for a common purpose.”

The Saint Meinrad Day of Service seeks to serve in the local communities of alumni and friends all over the country. Currently, 15 projects will be hosted in 14 different cities.

Since its inaugural year in 2014, the day’s theme is *Ora et Labora*, Prayer and Work.

Along with the service activities, prayer is planned into the day through celebrating Mass or praying the Liturgy of the Hours, including a special prayer written by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB.

For details about projects in your area and to register as a participant, visit the Day of Service event page at: <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/home/day-of-service/>

There is no cost to participate and each volunteer receives a free Day of Service t-shirt, courtesy of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

Volunteers are asked to register by March 7 to ensure an accurate count for those planning the project.

If you have questions about the Day of Service, contact the Alumni Office at (812) 357-6501 or email Joe Oliveri at [joliveri@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:joliveri@saintmeinrad.edu). ✝

## Save the Date!

*January 24-26, 2020*  
Saint Meinrad Alumni Retreat

*March 14, 2020*  
Saint Meinrad Day of Service

*April 20, 2020*  
Graduate Luncheon

*August 2-5, 2020*  
92nd Annual Alumni Reunion

*Saint Meinrad*  
**DAY OF  
SERVICE**

### *2020 Locations:*

Alexandria, LA  
Bloomington, IN  
Dayton, OH  
Denver, CO  
Evansville, IN  
Indianapolis, IN  
Greenwood, IN  
Kankakee, IL  
Louisville, KY  
New Albany, IN  
St. Louis, MO  
Southern California  
Toledo, OH  
Tulsa, OK

**Register by March 7, 2020!**



▲ Projects for this year’s Saint Meinrad Day of Service include work at food banks and soup kitchens as well as projects cleaning, painting or helping with yard work.

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Mr. David L. Beckman O'63 ('51-57)**, of Louisville, KY, died on October 30, 2019. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1969-70.

**Mr. Paul A. Beckmann C'83 ('79-81)**, of Denver, CO, died on July 13, 2019.

**Fr. Charles R. Brooks O'65 ('59-65)**, a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, died on October 15, 2019.

**Fr. Benedict DeLeon S'97, MTS '99**, a priest of the Diocese of Sacramento, CA, died on August 18, 2019.

**Mr. James P. Desmond O'61 ('49-50)**, of Toledo, OH, died on November 16, 2019.

**Sr. Rebecca Endres, CSA, SS'76 ('72-76; '79)**, of Fond du Lac, WI, died on October 26, 2019.

**Fr. Thomas E. Fox O'60 ('54-60)**, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, died September 27, 2019. ✠

**Mr. Gerry A. Gorman O'72 ('60-62)**, of Evansville, IN, died on November 23, 2019.

**Fr. David Gosnell O'65 ('59-65)**, a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died on August 30, 2019.

**Mr. William Halter O'56 ('44-46)**, of Lawrenceville, IL, died on October 25, 2019.

**Mr. James E. Hunt O'59 ('51-54)**, of Fort Collins, CO, died on September 21, 2019.

**Mr. Glenn J. Keinsley O'58 ('46-49)**, of New Albany, IN, died on September 29, 2019.

**Mr. John "Jack" Larkin O'60 ('48-52)**, of Severna Park, MD, died on September 4, 2019.

**Mr. Donald T. McGrogan O'60 ('54-60)**, of Urbana, IL, died on November 21, 2019.

**Mr. Jerome Moeller SPH'54 ('50-54)**, of Evansville, IN, died on September 25, 2019.

**Mr. Robert A. Mohrhaus O'58 ('51-58)**, of Terre Haute, IN, died on November 6, 2019.

**Mr. Thomas A. Northenor O'72 ('60-69)**, of Stone, ID, died on August 20, 2019.

**Ms. Emileen Norris SS'74 ('69-73)**, of Lacey, WA, died on December 5, 2014.

**Mr. James S. O'Brien O'83 ('79-80)**, of Natchez, MS, died on April 19, 2018.

**Fr. Jack W. Porter O'75 ('72-74)**, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on November 12, 2019.

**Mr. Charles A. Reising O'63 ('51-58)**, of Evansville, IN, died on October 24, 2019. He was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1968-73 and 1974-86.

**Mr. Rodger S. Ruzanka Sr. O'66 ('60-66)**, of Louisville, KY, died on July 23, 2019.

**Mr. William Joseph Schafer Jr. O'57 ('45-50)**, of Towne and Country, MO, died on October 21, 2019.

**Fr. Alonzo Smithhisler O'57 ('51-57)**, a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, KS, died on September 20, 2019.

**Mr. Patrick Sobczak O'78 ('70-74)**, of Durham, NC, died on November 12, 2013.

**Mr. David R. Specht O'68 ('56-58)**, of Fort Branch, IN, died on November 6, 2019.

**Mr. Robert Tolle O'62 ('56-57)**, of Fairfax, VA, died on April 23, 2019.

**Mr. Cyril M. VanHeeswyk O'57 ('51-57)**, of Casa Grande, AZ, died on November 23, 2019.

✠ - Member of The Einsiedeln Society

### 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 ✠



▲ *The sun begins to rise in the Archabbey Cemetery on All Souls Day.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Sr. Jane Becker, OSB, SS ('79-81; '85)** recently completed a six-year term as subprioress of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN. She is a clinical psychologist and adjunct staff member of Saint Luke Center, Louisville, KY.

**Dr. Bob Breen O'79 ('75-79)**, of Rockwall, TX, had an article titled "Running into Fall" published in *Living Magazine* that highlighted his last three years of long-distance running. Among his 24 runs was a marathon and eight half-marathons.

**Mr. Jeremiah Carter T'16 ('10-14; '15)** has accepted a position as director of campus ministry at Chaminade University of Honolulu, HI.

**Dr. Michael F. Conrad O'66 ('55-66)** received his final profession as a lay Cistercian from Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, GA. He offers seminars on contemplative practices and writes a blog, <https://thecenterforcontemplativepractice.org/>.

**Fr. James Endress O'60 ('48-56)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, was featured in a story in the diocesan newspaper *The Message*. He is the second oldest priest in the diocese and served 17 years as an Army chaplain.

**Dr. Joseph Favazza O'80 ('73-76)** began his work as president of St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH, on July 15, 2019. The college is sponsored by St. Anselm Abbey.

**Mrs. Rachel Forbes Kaufman MAT ('11-14)** co-authored with Dr. Malcolm B. Herring a chapter in a newly released book. The chapter, "New Practice Assimilation: the Role of Mentoring," describes their multi-year study of a pilot program to reduce rates of medical practitioner burnout and suicide.

**Deacon Michael Jones MTS'86 ('82-85); PD ('01-04)** is chaplain at St. Vincent Dunn Hospital in Bedford, IN.

**Fr. Douglas Hunter T'16 ('09-16)**, Catholic chaplain for the Indianapolis Colts football team, spoke at the 15th anniversary celebration of Catholic Radio Indy on August 27.

**Mr. Mike Killebrew O'81 ('73-76)**, director of liturgy and music ministry at St. John the Baptist Parish in Newburgh, IN, wrote an article on "Music as a Faith-sharing Tool" for *The Message*, the newspaper for the Diocese of Evansville, IN.

**Sr. Lorraine Lautner, OSU, MTS'97 ('90-96)**, is co-founder of Water With Blessings, which has launched a campaign to eradicate cholera in Haiti through the use of donated water filtration systems. So far, three communities are cholera-free.

**Sr. Anna Corrine O'Connor, OSB SS'90 ('86-90)**, a member of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN, has been appointed to oversee and manage the sisters' Benedictine Hospitality Center. Previously, she taught theology at Presentation Academy in Louisville, KY.

**Fr. Dominic Petan T'12 ('06-12)** has been named co-vicar for clergy for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

**Mr. Dan Rupert O'69 ('61-65)** was inducted into the Delphos St. John's Hall of Fame on December 1 in Delphos, OH. He is a 1961 graduate of Delphos St. John's High School and has worked as a teacher, school counselor, coach and administrator at several Ohio high schools.

**Deacon Emilio Ferrer-Soto PD'08 ('04-08)**, who ministers at St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis, IN, took part in a listening session on racism held at Marian University on September 30.

**Fr. David Sanchez T'02 ('99-02)**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Butchertown, KY, was elected vice-president of The National Association of Hispanic Priests during the group's annual convention in October.

**Fr. John Schipp O'64 ('52-64)**, retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, was honored on September 15 when the Father John Schipp Annex at the Minor Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Vincennes, IN, was dedicated. The annex has been repurposed as a bridal reception and restroom facility for St. Francis Xavier Parish. Fr. Schipp served the parish for more than 20 years.

**Fr. Harold "Harry" Schneider O'74 ('70-74)**, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, spent September 2019 on the English-speaking ministry team at Lourdes in France, celebrating daily Mass and hearing confessions for four to six hours daily. He now helps priests, as needed.

**Fr. Frank Torres O'81 ('74-76)** was featured in the *NWI Catholic*, newspaper for the Diocese of Gary, IN, in a story about his four years of service in the U.S. Navy before studying for the priesthood. Also featured was a story about **Fr. Keith Virus T'92 ('80-88)**, who served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army.

**Dr. Bernard Verkamp O'64 ('52-60)**, of Vincennes, IN, published "Thinking about the Laws of Nature" in the Marquette University journal *Philosophy and Theology* and "Philosophical Perspectives Impacting Darwin's Practical and Contemplative Attitudes" in the University of Illinois' *American Journal of Theology & Philosophy*. †

## Richardson joins Alumni Office

Shaina Richardson has joined the Saint Meinrad Development Office as administrative assistant for Alumni Relations. She will assist with the work of the Alumni Office and with the Saint Meinrad Sunday program.

Most recently, she worked as the administrative assistant for the Perry County Convention & Visitors Bureau in Tell City, IN, and as a part-time sales clerk at Derby General Store.

Richardson has a Bachelor of Arts in advertising and strategic communications from Indiana University Southeast. She also worked as a marketing assistant for American Rental. She resides in Tell City.



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# Alumni Reunion

will feature Steve Angrisano, honor Mike Ziemianski



The 92nd annual Alumni Reunion will give former Saint Meinrad students the opportunity for fellowship with classmates, relaxation, spiritual renewal, and learning. The 2020 event is planned for August 2-5 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

“The reunion is the perfect time to celebrate one another,” says Joe Oliveri, director of alumni relations. “Even more so, the workshops and tours you can take part in will enrich you intellectually and spiritually.”

This year’s reunion will include a golf scramble, workshops, tours, time for prayer and socializing, and the awarding of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The reunion kicks off on Monday, August 3, with a golf scramble at

Christmas Lake Golf Course in nearby Santa Claus and a workshop presented by Steve Angrisano, world-renown Catholic musician, speaker, and worship leader. He is also an alumnus of the Graduate Theology Class of 2019.

Angrisano has been featured at six World Youth Days, the National Pastoral Musician Conference, the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference, National Catholic Youth Conference, and many other international events. He has served at Saint Meinrad’s “One Bread, One Cup” Program for several years. His work is featured in OCP publications *Spirit and Song* and *Breaking Bread*.

The anniversary banquet will be held Monday evening, honoring the classes of 1970 (50th anniversary), 1980 (40th), 1995 (25th), 2010 (10th) and 2015 (5th).

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, will give a workshop. Fr. Denis is the president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. In the afternoon, alumni can attend a workshop given by Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, on her

work with iconography. Sr. Jeana is the director of the Graduate Theology Program and dean of School of Theology Programs at Saint Meinrad.

Alumni can also attend a workshop given by Dr. Kimberly Baker on her water project with a community in Togo, Africa. Dr. Baker is an associate professor of Church history at Saint Meinrad.

Bishop J. Mark Spalding C’87, of the Diocese of Nashville, TN, will preside and preach at Tuesday afternoon’s Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church. Bishop Spalding was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 1991 and most recently served as vicar general of the archdiocese from 2011 to 2018. Pope Francis appointed him to be the 12th bishop of the Diocese of Nashville on November 21, 2017.

At the banquet on Tuesday evening, the Distinguished Alumnus Award will be posthumously awarded to Mike Ziemianski C’87. He worked in Saint Meinrad’s Development Office for more than 25 years, most recently as vice president of development. He died on June 25, 2019.

Details of the reunion will be available on the alumni website, <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>, and the alumni Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni). ✝