

ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2022 • VOL. 61:3



Saint Meinrad

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Cover Photo: Deacons Nonso Ohanaka (facing camera) and Zach Samples embrace after the commencement ceremony on May 14. You can find more photos of Saint Meinrad events at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>

Monks' Personals

Fr. Christian Raab gave a Theology on Tap talk for young adults on the topic of “Encountering Christ in Prayer” at the Knights of Columbus in New Albany, IN, in May. He also attended the Academy of Catholic Theologians meeting in Washington, D.C.

Fr. Eugene Hensell gave a series of talks to the Clergy Convocation of the Diocese of Lexington on “The Parables of Jesus as a Paradigm for Priestly Ministry,” May 16-19.

Fr. Julian Peters directed the annual retreat for the permanent deacons of the Indianapolis Archdiocese at Fatima Retreat House June 2-5.

Fr. Guy Mansini extended his teaching and pastoral work at Ave Maria University near Naples, FL, until the conclusion of the 2024-25 academic year.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski preached a retreat for the priests of the Diocese of Springfield-in-Illinois at the Marianist Retreat Center in Eureka, MO, on June 6-10.

Fr. Harry Hagan spent the spring semester on sabbatical at The Catholic University of America working on a book on biblical poetry. This summer he spent a month at Einsiedeln, Switzerland, translating the poetry of Benedictine Sister Silja Walter.

Fr. Adrian Burke facilitated a day of study and reflection for the Ursuline Sisters in Louisville, KY, in June. He also preached the annual novena to the Carmelite sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Terre Haute, IN, in July.

Fr. Eugene Hensell was elected as a delegate to the General Chapter.

Fr. Tobias Colgan and **Fr. Luke Waugh** were elected to two-year terms on the Abbot's Council. **Fr. Adrian Burke** was elected to a one-year term.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner produced and directed a film for the final project in his digital history course at the University of Louisville. It is titled *New Einsiedeln: A Film*. Click the QR code to visit the page. Krista Hall served as assistant director. ✚



Smugmug

For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:

<http://saintmeinrad.smugmug.com>

Five Saint Meinrad monks celebrate jubilees



From left are jubilarians Fr. Matthias Neuman, Br. Maurus Zoeller, Br. Flavian Schwenk and Fr. Adrian Burke.

Five Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey observed anniversaries in May. Fr. Aurelius Boberek and Br. Maurus Zoeller reached their 70th anniversaries of monastic profession, while Fr. Matthias Neuman and Br. Flavian Schwenk marked their 60th anniversaries of monastic profession.

Fr. Adrian Burke celebrated his 25th anniversary of priesthood ordination. They were honored during Mass on Sunday, May 29.

Fr. Aurelius is a native of Brooklyn, NY. He professed his vows on August 1, 1952, and was ordained on May 3, 1957. Fr. Aurelius received a Master of Arts in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Arts in education and religious studies from Indiana University.

Fr. Aurelius was a professor and dean of students in Saint Meinrad College for many years. Following graduate studies at Indiana University, he was a professor, pre-theology dean and vice rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He was also master of ceremonies and assistant director of the oblate program for the Archabbey.

He taught at the American College in Belgium from 1997 to 2008, as director of liturgy and professor of homiletics, and was vice rector there from 1997-99. When he retired, he was awarded the college's first Archbishop Fulton Sheen Medal. He resides in the monastery infirmary.

Br. Maurus was born in Tiffin, OH, and professed his monastic vows on August 10, 1952. From 1951-58, Br. Maurus worked as an assistant in the Abbey Bakery. From 1958 to 1990, he assumed various roles at Abbey Press, including manager of the Printing Division, product development director and manager of the Abbey Press Gift Shop.

Since 1990, Br. Maurus has worked in various hospitality roles, as tour director, manager of the Guest House, guestmaster and retreat director. He has led numerous trips to Europe and the Holy Land. He is currently director of the retreat program and guestmaster.

Fr. Matthias is a native of Huntingburg, IN. He came to Saint Meinrad in 1955 to attend high school. He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Meinrad College in 1964, a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1967, and licentiate and doctorate degrees in systematic theology at Sant'Anselmo in Rome.

He joined the monastery in 1961, professing his vows as a Benedictine on August 15, 1962. He was ordained a priest on September 24, 1967. He taught theology at Saint Meinrad School of Theology from 1969 to 1981. He then served as director of the pre-theology program at Saint Meinrad College and as professor of theology for the College until it closed.

Other assignments have included director of the Summer Session Program, director of continuing education, and associate pastor and pastoral resource theologian for the Diocese of Nashville, TN. He retired in May as chaplain for Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, IN.

Br. Flavian is a native of Jasper, IN. After graduating from Ireland High School in 1960, he came to Saint Meinrad and entered the monastery in 1961. He took his monastic vows as a Benedictine monk on May 13, 1962.

He has served in various capacities at Saint Meinrad, including as an assistant plumber, monastery house prefect, mail and delivery driver, and caretaker for the monastery rock garden. He also is an artist specializing in woodburning creations.

Fr. Adrian entered the monastery as a novice in 1992 and professed his vows as a Benedictine monk in 1993. He professed his solemn vows in 1996.

Fr. Adrian earned a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1997 and was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, 1997. He also has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Indiana University.

From 1997 to 2000, Fr. Adrian was associate pastor of three rural parishes: St. Meinrad, St. Boniface in Fulda, and St. Martin in Siberia. He later completed graduate studies in spirituality at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, earning a license in sacred theology in 2003.

From 2004-2009, he served as pastor of the above three parishes, and in 2009, he was named assistant business manager for Saint Meinrad Archabbey. The following year, he was named treasurer/business manager and held the position for two years.

Fr. Adrian gives retreats at the Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center as well as at parishes, dioceses and religious communities. He serves as pastoral liaison for the Archabbey co-workers. In addition, he serves as a spiritual director and as a member of Abbey Caskets' advisory board. ✚

Two monks ordained priests at Saint Meinrad

Two monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey were ordained priests on June 5, 2022. Fr. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB, and Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, were ordained as Roman Catholic priests by the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The ordination was held in the Archabbey Church.

Fr. Nathaniel is a native of Grand Rapids, MI, and a 2011 graduate of the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He joined the monastic community in 2015 and professed his vows on January 20, 2016.

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

He will begin graduate studies in Scripture at The Catholic University of America this fall.

Fr. Kolbe, a native of Lansing, MI, joined the monastic community in 2015 and professed his vows on August 6, 2016. Previously, he worked for the State of Michigan as an insurance complaint

analyst in the Department of Insurance and Financial Services.

He earned an associate degree from Lansing Community College in 2009 and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University in 2010.

He has been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Paul Parish in Tell City, IN. He also will serve as a spiritual director at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Photos on next page. ✚

Monks receive new appointments

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, announced new appointments recently.



Fr. Godfrey Mullen

After nine years of service to the Diocese of Evansville, IN, as rector of St. Benedict Cathedral, **Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB**, will move to the Diocese of Belleville, IL, to be closer to his elderly parents and help with their care.

Belleville Bishop Michael McGovern has assigned Fr. Godfrey to be rector of Belleville's cathedral. His assignment becomes effective August 1.



Fr. Christian Raab

Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, begins a new assignment on June 29 as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Jasper, IN. He will continue to teach in the Seminary and School of

Theology.



Fr. Denis Robinson

Board of Trustees and accepted by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB. Fr. Denis' fourth term begins with the 2023-24 school year.

Newly ordained priests Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, and Fr. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB, also accepted new assignments.



Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski

Fr. Kolbe will be the spiritual director for the propaedeutic year in the Seminary and School of Theology. The propaedeutic year is a year of spiritual discernment that will be required

of any seminarians who have not attended college seminary, according to the new guidelines for priesthood formation approved by the U.S. bishops. He also will serve as parochial vicar at St. Paul Parish in Tell City, IN.



Fr. Nathaniel Szidik

Fr. Nathaniel will begin graduate studies in Scripture this fall at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.



Br. James Jensen

Br. James Jensen was appointed almoner for the monastery. As almoner, he oversees the requests for donations and assistance received from outside the community. He will continue his

work in the Development Office, the vestry, and with the One Bread, One Cup conferences. ✚

Priesthood Ordination



Starting top left, clockwise: Fr. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB, and Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, pose for a portrait on the Archabbey Church steps after the priesthood ordination on June 5.

Archbishop Charles Thompson of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis lays his hands on Fr. Kolbe and prays during the priesthood ordination.

Archabbey Sacristan Br. Kim Malloy, OSB, adjusts the pectoral cross for Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, before the ordination Mass.

Fr. Kolbe and Fr. Nathaniel lie prostrate on the floor while Archbishop Charles Thompson, priests, and parishioners recite the Litany of Saints.

Fr. Nathaniel blesses his mother and father after being ordained a priest.

Noteworthy:

Newsworthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events

The Saint Meinrad seminarian community and friends raised funds for **Ukraine relief**. By the end of the spring semester, \$25,552 had been sent to the House of Mercy in Ukraine, which is run by the Passionist Fathers and is now housing refugees. Stefan Kaniewski, a seminarian from the Diocese of Springfield, IL, and a native of Poland, helped make this possible.

The monastery, through an initiative with Sant' Anselmo in Rome, also made a **generous gift** to assist those suffering in Ukraine.

Faculty member Dr. Ryan LaMothe delivered the **Frederick Neumann Memorial Lecture** at Princeton Theological Seminary on April 7 on "Dwelling, Sovereignty, and Theology in the Anthropocene Age: A Proposal." He also wrote an article, "Hope in the Anthropocene Age," for *ROOM* magazine's February 2022 issue.

Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, was invited by Indianapolis Archbishop Charles Thompson to serve on the planning committee for the archdiocesan response to the U.S. Bishops' **Eucharistic Revival**, which will run from Corpus

Christi 2022 through Pentecost 2025. Indianapolis will host the National Eucharistic Congress July 17-21, 2024. Sr. Jeana is the dean of School of Theology Programs and director of the Graduate Theology Program at Saint Meinrad.

Author and poet Mallory Nygard of Tennessee was a **guest speaker** for the Holy Orders class taught by Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, on April 29. She spoke about her book, *Pelican: Poems*, which was written partly in response to the Church's sex abuse crisis. ✚

Five seminarians ordained deacons at Saint Meinrad Archabbey



From left, José Neri, Jack Wright, Br. Deodatus Satu, OSB, Br. Gregory Sambu, OSB, and Br. Fraternus Fidelis, OSB, stand before Archbishop Charles Thompson during the deacon ordination in the Archabbey Church on April 23, 2022.

Five seminarians received the order of deacon from the Most Rev. Charles Thompson, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church on April 23.

The newly ordained deacons are José Neri and Jack Wright, for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; Brother Fraternus Fidelis, OSB, for Hanga Abbey in Tanzania; and Brothers Gregory Sambu, OSB, and

Deodatus Satu, OSB, for Mvima Abbey, also in Tanzania. All 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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Successful ‘Forward Together’ campaign raises \$11.15 million

Saint Meinrad’s three-year, \$10 million “Forward Together: For the Life of the Church” campaign reached its goal six months early and went on to raise \$11,154,319 before it officially ended on June 30.

The funds will establish two new initiatives, the Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization and the Institute for Sacred Music, as well as pay for renovations to St. Anselm Hall and the Archabbey Library – the buildings where the new programs will be housed.

“What could be more important to the ‘life of the Church’ than to provide opportunities for our youth and young adults to grow stronger in their faith?” asks Pam Schwenk. She, her husband Mike, along with Tom and Linda Weintraut, served as co-chairs for the campaign.

Saint Meinrad has offered the “One Bread, One Cup” program for the last 28 years and the Young Adult Initiative for the last five. “Both of these programs have been very successful,” Pam says. “However, Saint Meinrad saw the need to provide additional programs for those beyond the high school and college years.”

The Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization will offer a youth ministry degree program, ongoing formation, workshops, and other resources for young adults and those who minister to them.

And with Saint Meinrad’s expertise in chant and sacred music, it’s essential to

continue this work and reach a broader audience. Mike says, “The Institute for Sacred Music will provide opportunities to continue the research on the history and theory and provide a central resource center for those seeking to learn more about sacred music.”

Workshops, study tours, performances and other events will make sacred music available to musicians, scholars and those in parishes. “It is so important not to lose our history of sacred music and chant,” he says.

The campaign was not without challenges, however. “Before we got too far into the campaign, we lost Mike Ziemianski, the vice president of development for Saint Meinrad,” recalls Tom Weintraut. “Fortunately, Duane Schaefer quickly assumed the vice president role, and he and the Development Office kept the process on track.”

Then COVID hit. Linda remembers the campaign leadership assessing whether the campaign should continue. “This was a very trying period for everyone, including the volunteers on the Campaign Cabinet and the Regional Committees. There was so much uncertainty about the impact of the coronavirus on our society. We had concerns as to how we would contact prospective donors.”

Key to the campaign’s success was the support from volunteers. “Right from the start, it became apparent that the existence of dedicated volunteers and the loyal

donors was very real,” Tom and Linda agreed. “There was warm welcome for the project and pledges quickly came in.”

“The fact that this campaign met its goals, earlier than projected, reflects how well the campaign was received,” says Tom and Linda. “And it demonstrates the special relationship that exists between Saint Meinrad and so many loyal and dedicated volunteers and supporters.”

Renovation work began in May in St. Anselm Hall. The work includes a new water main, an upgraded HVAC system, new electrical panels, energy-efficient lighting, upgraded elevator controls and an improved fire suppression system.

Empire Contractors of Evansville, IN, is doing the work on St. Anselm Hall, while Krempp Construction of Jasper, IN, is responsible for the library renovation. Total cost of the construction bids is \$10,782,000.

The library renovation began in early June, after the books, materials and staff offices were relocated. The work includes expanding the space for the archives and the Rare Book Room. Other improvements include updated electrical systems and elevator controls; an upgraded heating, ventilation and air conditioning system; and energy-efficient lighting. A slanted roof will be built to replace the flat roof. ✚



48 earn master's degrees

from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

Graduates of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology were awarded master's degrees at the commencement ceremony on May 14. Dr. Robert Alvis, academic dean and professor of Church history at Saint Meinrad, gave the address.

Receiving Master of Divinity degrees were:

Deacon Gregory Caldwell, Diocese of Burlington, VT;
Deacon Michael Clawson and Deacon Matthew Perronie, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN;
Deacon Benjamin Horn, Diocese of Lexington, KY;
Deacon Dustin Hungerford, Archdiocese of Louisville, KY;
Deacon Paul Lesupati and Deacon Zachary Samples, Diocese of Springfield, IL;
Deacon Ma Na Ling, Diocese of Owensboro, KY;
Deacon Sejin (Joseph) Nam, Diocese of Busan, South Korea;
Deacon Chukwunonso Ohanaka and Deacon Brent Thayer, Diocese of Nashville, TN;

Br. Aloysius Sarasin, OSB, St. Anselm Abbey;
Br. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB, and Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, Saint Meinrad Archabbey;
Deacon Roarke Traynor, Diocese of Manchester, NH.

Receiving Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies) degrees were:

Lance Tony Antony Samy, Diocese of Palayamkottai, India;
Andrew Cipolla, Diocese of Saginaw, MI;
Daniel Cooper and Robert Denne Jr., Diocese of Knoxville, TN;
Stephen McClain, Diocese of Tulsa, OK;
Felix Pesce, Diocese of Memphis, TN;
Reilly Swanson, Diocese of Crookston, MN.

Receiving Master of Arts (Theology) degrees were:

Kenneth Bennett and Deacon Brett Mills, Owensboro, KY;
Br. Joel Blaize, OSB, and Willy Kyagulanyi, GHM, St. Meinrad, IN;
Lisa Crutcher, Louisville, KY;

Daniel Eby, Jasper, IN;
John Fridley, New Baden, IL;
Dean Giulitto, Elizabethtown, KY;
Thomas Hosty and Sonia-Maria Raposo, Indianapolis, IN;
Kenneth Johanning, Westerville, OH;
Lauren Johnson, Hawesville, KY;
James Krupka, Maunaloa, HI;
Rosemary Merah and Anne Stofleth-Martin, Evansville, IN;
Vineeta Naskar, Wise, VA;
James Olson, Charleston, WV;
Christine Pacheco, Clarksville, TN;
Juan Carlos Ramirez Aranda, Columbus, IN;
Raymond Sheldon, Downs, IL;
Deacon Timothy Stout, Georgetown, KY;
Beth Van Der Burgt, Richmond, IN;
Wayne Weiler, Swansea, IL;
Andrew Williams, Daphne, AL;
Jason Winkle, Morgantown, IN;
Eli Yandow, Swanton, VT. ✝



Sam Rosko directs the schola during the graduation Mass on May 14.



Lauren Johnson helps Willy Kyagulanyi with his graduation cap before the commencement ceremony on May 14.

Archabbey gets new Director of Health Services



Melissa deWolfe

Melissa deWolfe of Richland, IN, began work as the director of health services at Saint Meinrad in May. In this role, deWolfe leads the team of co-workers who staff the Health Service Clinic and the Monastery

Infirmiry. She ensures that patients receive quality, professional, and compassionate care, and provides leadership and effective management of day-to-day clinical and administrative functions.

For deWolfe, working at Saint Meinrad is a dream come true. "I am a convert into Catholicism of six years," she explains. "Throughout my studies in this faith, I have learned so much. The Benedictine way has

taught me even more about the love and care for others that we all should strive for."

She began her career in healthcare as a medical secretary and went on to work as a phlebotomist while she studied for her RN degree. Since receiving her degree, deWolfe has worked in many different units of healthcare as a float RN, including the ICU, (cardiac) telemetry, rehab, surgery/oncology, and medical/surgical. She has 10 years of experience in bedside nursing.

"I feel like all of these positions were steppingstones in preparation for where I am today," she says. "I have spoken to my team here in the infirmiry about how much it means to me to be given this opportunity to lead and be here for all of them. It is important to me to always convey that we are all here to do God's work." ✝



*Join us for the IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL
On The Hill 5K*

Saturday, September 17, 2022
at 8:30 a.m. CT

Get details and register online at:

www.saintmeinrad.org/onthehill5k

EVENTS ON THE HILL

August 10

Guest House Workshop: "Devotional Dispatch: How to Create a Parish Publication" by Kevin J. Spence.

August 16-18

Guest House Retreat: "Praise and Worship in the Fine Arts" by Br. Michael Reyes, OSB.

August 21

Forward Together Campaign Celebration

September 2-4

Guest House Retreat: "The Power of Intercession" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

September 16-18

Guest House Retreat: "Being Humble, Being Holy" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

September 23-25

Guest House Retreat: "Listening to the Great Stories of Luke's Gospel Again for the First Time" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

September 30-October 2

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

October 7-9

Guest House Retreat: "Growing in the Love of Christ" by Fr. Colman Grabert.

October 12

Guest House Workshop: "Praying All Ways: Exploring Prayer through the Multiple Intelligences" by Agnes M. Kovacs.

October 21-23

Guest House Retreat: "Contemplative Christianity: God's Call to Holiness" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

October 29

Abbot Martin Marty Guild and Einsiedeln Society Day of Recollection.

For more information, call (812) 357-6611 or visit our website www.saintmeinrad.org

[Meet the Student]

Rosemary O. Merah

Hometown: Evansville, IN

Degree: MA Theology

Q. *When did you begin your studies?*

January 2021, with graduation in May 2022.

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

It is a requirement for the chaplaincy profession, which is what I am doing now.

Q. *What else are you doing besides seeking a master's degree (work, family, volunteer work)?*

I am working at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville, and I also volunteer at the food kitchen of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Evansville.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

St. Anthony, patron of lost things, apart from others. He almost always answers my prayers when sought for assistance to find things I am looking for with lightning speed.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

Psalm 23. I find the psalm motivating, participatory, soothing, consoling and powerful. I encourage as many people as I can to use the prayer always, not only in times of trouble or fear.

Q. *Hobbies?*

Reading, cooking, watching movies, dancing.

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

It has given me in-depth knowledge about the Bible, and the Pauline literature in

early Christianity was rewarding, as well as Catholic moral ethics. However, I found everything interesting and worthwhile, from the lectures and caring lecturers to the participatory class activities and camaraderie, the spiritual exercises, Masses, socializing and more.

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

I did not find any aspect most challenging. It is the fact that I took three courses per semester, with a total of four twice when I added one-credit workshops, which also required writing papers. I was also working at a part-time position that quickly turned into a full-time position. I also drove to Saint Meinrad twice a week from Evansville for over three months for a class I took with the seminarians. I thank God, though. It has definitely been a rewarding period.

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

I will formally begin a full-time job at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital.



Q. *Other comments?*

I am grateful for the opportunity Saint Meinrad gave me to acquire the MA degree in such a lovely, God-abiding atmosphere. The food was great as well as the third-floor accommodations in St. Bede Hall. A lot was learned, both spiritually and academically. ✚

Photos from opposite page, starting top left, clockwise: The Liturgical Arts formation group stands with the candles they made during the One Bread, One Cup conference on June 17.

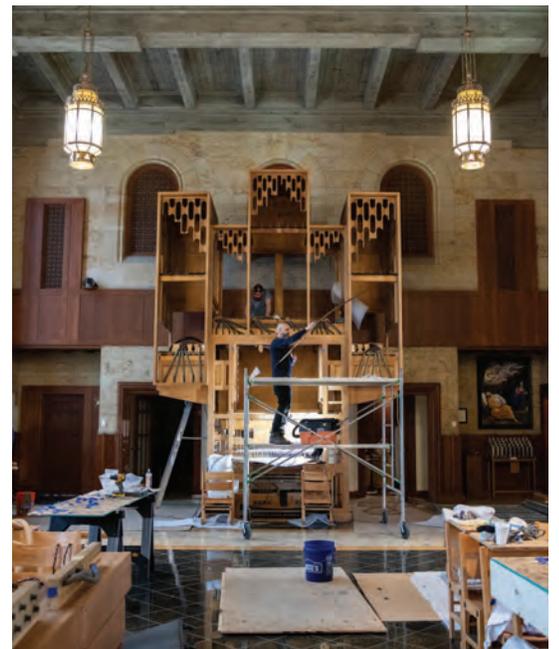
Archbishop Charles Thompson of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis lays his hands on José Neri's head during the deacon ordination on April 23.

Graduate Theology students pray Morning Prayer together in the St. Theodore Guerin Chapel on June 11.

A 1980 Gabriel Kney organ is assembled in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on April 1, 2022. The organ was previously at First Community Church in Dallas, TX.

Dr. Chris Hackett runs for home base during the annual seminary softball tournament on April 29.

Pilgrims participate in a rosary procession during the Monte Cassino pilgrimage to honor the Blessed Mother on May 1.





SR. PATTY LASHER

Counselor says goodbye after 25 years

By Jennifer Lindberg

The retirement of Sr. Patty Lasher, OSB, comes like all things in her life: at the right moment.

Or as Sr. Patty explains, more like an evolution that sees her retiring after 25 years as associate director of counseling services for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

“I’ve never had a job I didn’t like,” said Sr. Patty, who was also a schoolteacher, vocation director, and parish minister.

Her role as counselor at Saint Meinrad was filled with joyful expectations as she helped prepare men for the priesthood by developing their gifts.

“I see people at their best,” said Sr. Patty. “I’ve loved every minute working here. Every morning, I’d rather go to work than not.”

It might seem like a strange comment coming from a counselor helping people through problems, concerns, stress or anxiety, but Sr. Patty doesn’t think so.

“Seminary is about trying in a conscious way to grow spiritually, to grow as a human person,” she said. “That’s when we are at our best – when we are trying to be honest with ourselves. When we are looking at all areas of our life, we really want to grow. I don’t see any negatives in that.”

It’s Sr. Patty’s own gifts that will be missed, said Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Those gifts are the gift of presence, the gift of stability, and a “very calm demeanor,” said Fr. Denis. “She was really present to everyone,” he said. “Not just to those she counseled, but to anyone at work, meals, or in chapel. You could always perceive her presence of prayer.”

Fr. Denis witnessed the “beautiful peace” Sr. Patty brought to her job. “Every time I gave a talk or a presentation, there was always a handwritten thank you note, and

that means so much to me. It will be greatly missed,” he said.

When speaking with Sr. Patty, one senses a deep trust in God for every moment that comes her way. Her devotion to the Blessed Mother has also guided her.

“She took all that happened to her and lived the mystery,” said Sr. Patty. “It wasn’t what she was expecting, but she was able to search for what it all means, pondering it all in her heart, and that is inspiring to me.”

Sr. Patty’s life mirrors those words of pondering. It was while teaching that her evolution began, she said. “I looked around the parish and thought there needs to be more than teachers in the school, and I have something to offer the parish at large.”

While she was serving as a parish minister in Arizona, people started asking her to counsel them. “I felt unprepared,” she said. A master’s degree in counseling, at Santa Clara University, gave her the skills she needed.

“Life is not that easy, and being a priest is not that easy,” she said. “There has to be a strong relationship with God and a reliance on faith. You have to trust that relationship because God only gives us good things.”

Then she uses the word “evolves” again to describe God’s work in our lives.

“We need to trust that wherever we are, God wants us to be. We can’t plan all that. We have no idea what our vocation will really look like; it evolves. I think the secret to living is that we take one day at

a time and let God work. We need to believe that God is working in whatever moment presents itself to us.”

Her favorite Bible passage from John 17:21 is marked in her own Bible as she reads, “May they all be one.”

“That is the ultimate call to arrive and understand how we are all one with God,” she said. “Too often we only look at our differences.”

While Sr. Patty doesn’t have any plans for retirement, except returning to her motherhouse, Monastery Immaculate Conception of the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, IN, she is sure of one thing: “There’s lots of places (where) counseling comes in handy.” ✝

“Seminary is about trying in a conscious way to grow spiritually, to grow as a human person. That’s when we are at our best – when we are trying to be honest with ourselves. When we are looking at all areas of our life, we really want to grow. I don’t see any negatives in that.”

— Sr. Patty Lasher, OSB

Hometown: Evansville, IN

Monastery Entrance Date: August 25, 1966

First Profession Date: June 8, 1968

Perpetual Profession Date: August 7, 1971

Educational Background:

- Bachelor’s degree in elementary education, St. Benedict College
- Master’s degree in elementary education, Indiana State University
- Master’s degree in counseling, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California

Work Background:

- Teacher at St. Mary’s School in Washington, Indiana, and St. Bernard School in Rockport, Indiana
- Parish Minister in Apache Junction, Arizona
- Vocation Director for Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana
- Temporary Professed Director for Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana
- Associate Director of Counseling Services at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Roy Billman, O'80 ('72-74), of Sandusky, OH, died on December 13, 2021.

Mr. Victor Bloemer, O'59 ('47-48), of St. Peters, MO, died on June 16, 2012.

Fr. Francis Bryan, O'62 ('50-62), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on March 23, 2022.

Mr. John Bucher, O'76 ('64-65), of Sellersburg, IN, died on April 27, 2022.

Mr. F.J. "Duke" Buckley, O'56 ('48-49), of Hartford, CT, died on July 28, 2013.

Mr. Michael Corcoran, O'64 ('52-53), of Indianapolis, IN, died on November 10, 2021.

Sr. Mary Core, OSB, SS'84 ('80-84), died on March 27, 2022, in Rock Island, IL.

Mr. Victor Eckstein, O'63 ('51-54), of Jasper, IN, died on April 25, 2022.

Fr. William Fichteman, O'81 ('77-81), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on May 17, 2022.

Mr. Paul G. Fox, GTP'02 ('02), of Indianapolis, IN, died on May 30, 2022.

Mr. Victor Higdon, O'55 ('44-45), of Louisville, KY, died on January 20, 2019.

Fr. Donald Hill, T'94 ('91-94), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on May 11, 2022.

Mr. William Janney, O'68 ('59-64), of Toledo, OH, died on April 22, 2022.

Fr. Michael Kettron, O'57 ('51-57), a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, died on June 14, 2022.

Msgr. Rev. Paul Koetter, O'77 ('73-77), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on May 16, 2022.

Fr. Laurier "Casey" Labreche, O'59 ('57-59), a priest of the Diocese of Norwich, CT, died on October 1, 2019.

Mr. Joseph McGeehan, O'66 ('54-63), of Fort Wayne, IN, died on April 16, 2022.

Mr. Patrick McNamara, O'73 ('61-62), of San Diego, CA, died on May 22, 2022.

Mr. Michael O'Brien, O'71 ('67-68), of Cleveland, OH, died in 2021.

Mr. Frank Parsons, O'52 ('41-43), of Beech Grove, IN, died on August 28, 2018.

Mr. John Purdie, O'69 ('57-58), of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 24, 2022.

Fr. Joseph Rascher, O'81 ('77-81), a priest of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died on June 15, 2022.

Fr. James Reymann, O'58 ('51-52), a retired priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, OH, died on June 12, 2022.

Rev. Carl Roos, O'68 (56-64), SS'72, of Indianapolis, IN, died on April 3, 2022.

Fr. Jorge Stanfield, CP, O'68 ('65-68), a priest of the Passionist order, died on September 8, 2021, in Louisville, KY.

Mr. Mark Tweedall, O'70 ('58-59), of Newburgh, IN, died on April 12, 2022.

Mr. Francis Vogrin, O'70 ('58-65), of Gibsonia, PA, died on December 18, 2021.

Fr. Albert Wilson, O'51 ('47-51), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on June 9, 2022.

Fr. David Zimmerman, T'95 ('90-95), a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, died on February 24, 2022.

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 †

Saint Meinrad

**DAY OF
SERVICE**

has been set for
March 11, 2023

Watch for more details!

Alumni Board members approved

Five alumni were approved to join the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors.

- **Very Rev. J. Michael Clark, T'95 ('89-95)**, is serving as the pastor of Blessed Mother Church in Owensboro, KY,
- **Mr. Stephen Flynn, C'87 ('84-87)**, of Greenwood, IN, is retired as operations manager at FedEx.

Three current board members will serve a second term on the board:

- **Fr. Matthew Gerlach, T'96 ('92-96), C'92 ('89-92)**, is pastor of St. Anne Parish in Broken Arrow, OK.
- **Mrs. Angie Greulich, MTS'13**, is the director of major gifts for the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, IN.
- **Fr. Nicolas A. Ajpacajá Tzoc, T'16 ('11-16)**, is pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, IN.

ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Garrett Braun, T'21 ('15-21), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, was awarded the Bronze Pelican Emblem for significant service in youth ministry through scouting. The award was presented March 5 during the Scout/Venturer Retreat held by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting.

Mr. Jared Bryson, C'97 ('94-96), is the new president of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, MO. Previously, he was system vice president, mission and church relations, for Mercy Health System.

Mr. John Buche, O'61 (49-55), of Washington, D.C., has published a memoir, *My Career in the U.S. Department of State*. He served for 33 years in the Foreign Service, including assignments to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Geneva, Switzerland; and Vienna, Austria.

Fr. James Coriden, O'58 ('52-54), a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, celebrates his 65-year priesthood jubilee this year. He was ordained on December 15, 1957, in Rome.

Mr. Brian Dunne, GTP'97 ('95-97), of Fort Wayne, IN, wrote an article for the May/June 2022 issue of *Touchstone: A Journal of Mere Christianity*. The article is titled "Of Myths & Men: James Lindsey's Search for Love & Meaning Without God."

Sr. Ruth Gehres, OSU, S ('96-97), is celebrating 70 years as an Ursuline Sister.

Currently, she is an English tutor for Vietnamese sisters living at Maple Mount, KY. She taught English and assisted with liturgy and spiritual direction at Saint Meinrad College from 1996-98.

Fr. Mark Lawlor, T'95 ('90-95), a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, has published a book, *Lessons & Stories from the Journey: Reflections from the Life of a Joyful Priest*. The book is available from Amazon. Fr. Mark is pastor of the Parish of St. Therese in Mooresville.

Mr. Michael Mueller, T'85 ('81-85), of Columbia, MD, retired at the end of 2021 after two years with the Melbourne (FL) Fire Department, four years with the Orange County Sheriff's Office in Orlando, FL, 22½ years as a commissioned officer in the Navy, and seven years in nonprofit organization management and wealth management. He is currently operations manager for BOLO Books.

Sr. Anna Corrine O'Connor, OSB, SS'90 ('86-90), of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN, celebrated her golden jubilee in May.

Sr. Mary Jo Polak, OSB, SS'87 ('82-87), of St. Mary Monastery in Rock Island, IL, and **Sr. Roberta Bussan, OSB, SS'85 ('80-85)**, of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD, are co-directors of the Association of Benedictine Retreat

Centers, which supports Benedictine retreat centers in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Robert Rivers, T'02 ('96-00), of Brookhaven, GA, recently earned a Master of Science degree in educational leadership from Creighton University. He is assistant principal for academics at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School.

Mrs. Jane Rush, GTP'20 ('10-20), of Cambridge, OH, has started a blog, Catholic Wonder, at www.catholicwonder.com. She invites readers into a "conversation that will encourage us to walk together and listen deeply to one another as Church into the third millennium."

Fr. Terry Steffens, O'82 ('76-82), a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, celebrates his 40-year anniversary of priesthood this year. In an article on the diocesan website, he recalls Saint Meinrad's Fr. Rupert Ostdick as one of his most memorable mentors.

Mr. Paul Tugwell, T'84 ('82-83), of Pensacola, FL, retired last summer after working for 30 years for the Florida Department of Revenue.

Dr. Bernard Verkamp, O'64 ('52-60), of Vincennes, IN, professor of philosophy at Vincennes University, was honored recently with the establishment of the Bernard J. Verkamp Scholarship for Philosophy and Religious Studies. ✚

Saint Meinrad alumnus named bishop



Bishop Erik Pohlmeier

philosophy in 1994. His installation is scheduled for July 22.

Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Erik Pohlmeier as the next bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, FL. He is an alumnus of Saint Meinrad, earning a bachelor's degree in

For the past 24 years, Bishop-elect Pohlmeier has served as a pastor in the Diocese of Little Rock, most recently at Christ the King Parish, the largest parish in Little Rock.

He attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. After graduating from Saint Meinrad, he received a bachelor's degree in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University (1997) and a diploma in pastoral theology at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in 1998.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Little Rock on July 25, 1998. Since then, he has served in several parishes, as director of formation for the permanent diaconate since 2015, as director of the diocesan Catechesis Office since 2016, and as director of continuing education of clergy since 2019. In addition, he was a member of the Presbyteral Council and the Clergy Personnel Board.

Bishop-elect Pohlmeier succeeds Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, who served the St. Augustine Diocese for 11 years and retired at the age of 76. ✚



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Alumni Annual Giving Program supports the future leaders of the Church



By making gifts to support ministry opportunities, spiritual formation, and world-class theological education, alumni donors to Saint Meinrad continue to help prepare the future leaders of the Church.

As in years past, alumni showed their passion for supporting their alma mater with gifts totaling \$1,161,375 during fiscal year 2021-22 – an impressive 23.8% response rate.

“I am incredibly grateful to see the ongoing ownership that our alumni take in Saint Meinrad,” says Tim Florian, director of alumni relations. “Their love for Saint Meinrad is evident not only in their support, but in their meaningful involvement with Saint Meinrad as well.”

Giving every year continues a long tradition of alumni supporting the formation of future ministers of the Church.

Alumni can give to Saint Meinrad online, by phone, or by mail in response to the kickoff of the 2022-2023 Annual Alumni Giving Program that will be mailed in late August.

Those who make a gift of \$200 or more to the Alumni Annual Giving Program, or are first-time donors making a gift of \$100 or more, will receive a 20-can, insulated cooler, imprinted with the Saint Meinrad Alumni logo. ✚

Save the Date!

August 9, 2022

Louisville Alumni & Friends Dinner

September 13, 2022

Evansville Alumni & Friends Dinner

September 26, 2022

Indianapolis
Alumni & Friends Dinner

October 20, 2022

Jasper and Lincoln Hills Area
Alumni & Friends Dinner

November 10, 2022

Little Rock
Alumni & Friends Dinner