

ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2024 • VOL. 63:3



Saint Meinrad

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Cover Photo: Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology registrar, Donna Balbach, was presented with an honorary diploma by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, at the end of commencement on May 11.

Monks' Personals

Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski has been appointed sacristan and subprior of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Br. Jean Fish graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in May. He will oversee the vestry and will assist Br. Joel Blaize in the refectory. He will also begin teaching basket weaving workshops at the Guest House in July.

Br. Basil Lumsden returned home in May from a year in Trinidad. He is now responsible for arranging the readings for Vigils, as well as being one of the organists.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski was elected to a two-year term on the Board of Trustees.

Fr. Tobias Colgan is beginning the second year of his two-year term.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak and **Fr. Tobias Colgan**, as members of the Abbot

President's Council, traveled to Monastery of the Ascension, Jerome, ID, to join other councilors in discussing the monastery's future.

Br. James Jensen and Scotty Biggs, director of "One Bread, One Cup," attended Campference in Brown County, IN, a gathering of Catholic youth from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana for a weekend filled with discussion, prayer, challenges, fun, and food, from May 17-19.

Fr. Julian Peters directed an ordination retreat for the permanent deacon candidates in the Diocese of Gary, IN, at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House on May 6.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner published an essay in the May 2024 issue of *Adoremus Bulletin* titled "Divine Office and Divine Contentment: A Reflection on the Liturgy of the Hours and the Present Moment."

He also presented to the Bloomington Oblate Chapter on May 2.

Fr. Adrian Burke preached at a retreat on Christian Hospitality at the Lindenwood Retreat Center in Plymouth, IN, in June.

Br. John Glasenapp helped facilitate a workshop on liturgical manuscripts for American and Flemish graduate students at the Bruges Public Library (Openbare Bibliotheek Brugge) in Belgium on May 17.

Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa competed at the Washington Theological Consortium "Sermon Slam" on April 6 as the representative preacher for the Catholic University of America. His sermon won two awards: "Most Timely" and "Theologically Deepest." On April 17, he also presented at Catholic University's annual "University Research Day" Conference. His presentation was titled, "Theological Keys: The Introductory Words of Certain Liturgical Books." ✚

Four Saint Meinrad monks celebrate jubilees

Four Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey were honored for anniversaries during Mass on Sunday, May 26. Fr. Raymond Studzinski reached his 60th anniversary of monastic profession. Fr. Bede Cisco and Fr. Jonathan Fassero marked their 50th anniversaries of monastic profession. Fr. Pius Klein celebrated his 50th anniversary of priesthood ordination.

Fr. Raymond Studzinski, of Detroit, MI, professed vows as a Benedictine monk on August 15, 1964, and was ordained to the priesthood on September 28, 1969.

After graduating from Saint Meinrad College in 1966 and Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1970, he earned a master's in religious studies from Indiana University in 1973 and a PhD in historical theology from Fordham University in 1977.

He served as assistant professor at Saint Meinrad School of Theology from 1973-1977 and then as a chaplain in Colorado for two years.

In 1981, he began teaching at The Catholic University of America, where he currently is associate professor of spirituality in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. He is the author of two books and numerous journal articles.

Fr. Bede Cisco, of Indianapolis, IN, professed monastic vows on August 24, 1974. He was ordained a priest on April 30, 1978.

He earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy at Saint Meinrad College in 1973 and a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1978. He earned Ed.M and Ed.D degrees from Columbia University. He also received a Certificate in Spiritual Direction in 2013 from Aquinas Institute of Theology.

From 1979-1982 and 1987-1993, Fr. Bede was associate dean of students at Saint Meinrad College. He served as academic dean of the College from 1993-1998. He also taught theology in the College and was adjunct assistant professor of pastoral studies in the School of Theology from 1986-1992.

He was the director of Indianapolis Programs for the School of Theology from

1999-2006. Fr. Bede helped initiate the deacon formation program for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and served there as the director of deacon formation and director of deacons.

In the Seminary and School of Theology, Fr. Bede was an associate formation dean for seminarians from 2008-2011. He went on to serve as associate director of spiritual formation until 2013 when he was named director of spiritual formation.

Fr. Bede currently serves as prior, second in leadership, in the monastery and as a spiritual director in the Seminary and School of Theology. He has published several articles, written several *Catholic Perspectives CareNotes*, and co-authored the book *Lay Ministers and Their Spiritual Practices*.

Fr. Jonathan Fassero, of Mishawaka, IN, professed vows as a Benedictine monk on August 24, 1974. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 30, 1978.

He graduated from Saint Meinrad College in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He earned a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad in 1977, and a master's in religious studies from Indiana University the same year.

Fr. Jonathan served as administrative assistant to the president-rector of Saint Meinrad College from 1978-1980. During that time, he also served as director of admissions for the College and School of Theology and as associate coordinator of student life until 1985. He was an

administrator for the College from 1978-1997.

In 1985, he became associate director of recruitment. He also served as associate dean of freshman from 1991-1999.

Fr. Jonathan currently serves as associate director of spiritual formation and director of diocesan relations in the Seminary and School of Theology. He also serves as associate spiritual director at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, IN.

Fr. Pius Klein, of Aurora, IN, professed vows on April 19, 1959, and was ordained to the priesthood on March 31, 1974.

He worked in Saint Meinrad's tailor shop and in the infirmary until he was assigned to Saint Meinrad's priory in Huaraz, Peru. He served there from 1964-1984, except for the years he returned to the Archabbey to complete priesthood studies. In Peru, his assignments included school principal, English and religion teacher, and seminary disciplinarian.

After his priesthood ordination, he served as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Lima. From 1978-1984, he served as the superior of the priory.

He returned to Saint Meinrad in 1985 and served as chaplain to the sisters at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN, and was director of food service in Saint Meinrad's monastery. Fr. Pius was pastor of St. Mary Parish, Huntingburg, IN, from 1987-2008. ✠



From left are Benedictines: Fr. Raymond Studzinski, Fr. Bede Cisco, and Fr. Jonathan Fassero. Fr. Pius Klein was unavailable for the portrait.

Father Aurelius Boberek, OSB,

71-year jubilarian, dies on May 27

Father Aurelius Boberek, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on Monday, May 27, 2024, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey. He was 94 years old, in his 72nd year of monastic profession, and 68th year of priesthood.

Father Aurelius was born in Brooklyn, NY, on February 12, 1930, to John G. and Ann (Driscoll) Boberek and received the name Francis Ambrose at his baptism. He attended St. Peter's Elementary School in Staten Island, NY, and then Cathedral Preparatory School and Seminary in New York City.

A dedicated student throughout his life, Father Aurelius received a bachelor's degree in philosophy and classics from Saint Meinrad College in 1954. He went on to receive a Master of Arts in classical languages in 1961, and a Master of Arts in liturgical studies in 1962, both from the University of Notre Dame. In 1966, he earned an Ed.D. from Indiana University, and in June 2001, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Sacred Theology by the American College of Louvain.

Father Aurelius was invested as a novice at Saint Meinrad in 1951. He professed his simple vows on August 1, 1952, and his solemn vows on September 8, 1955. He

was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1957.

He taught Latin and religion and served as 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. For the monastery, he served as master of ceremonies from 1971-1978, on several liturgy committees, and on the renovation committee for the Archabbey Church from 1993-1997.

In August 1983, he became director of liturgical formation at the American College of Louvain, Belgium, a position he held until 2005. He also served as professor of homiletics, as well as two years as vice rector. When he retired, he was awarded the college's first Archbishop Fulton Sheen Medal.

Father Aurelius loved sharing with his students the "inside stories" of the blossoming of the liturgical movement following the Second Vatican Council. He knew much about the players, problems, and promises involved and enjoyed educating—and sometimes shocking—those who believed liturgical history was smooth, uncomplicated, and safe. Bi-ritual,



Father Aurelius demonstrated a presiding and preaching style in both rites that was lively, sparkling, engaging, energetic—and unpredictable. Stories, illustrations, and one-liners from his homilies, classes, and conversations enjoy an abiding place in the oral tradition of Saint Meinrad.

The Office of the Dead was held on Friday, May 31 in the Archabbey Church. The funeral liturgy was celebrated on Saturday, June 1 in the Archabbey Church with burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. †

New history museum tells Saint Meinrad's story

The Saint Meinrad Archabbey History Museum opened its doors on July 1, 2024. The museum showcases Saint Meinrad Archabbey, its Seminary and School of Theology, the Abbey Press, the Oblate Community, and the monastic community's influence in the history of the Church, Indiana, the United States, and around the globe.

The first exhibit titled "The Evolution of Tradition: A Brief History of Saint Meinrad Archabbey" runs until November 29, 2024.

The exhibit tells the story of how Benedictine monks from Switzerland made their home in southern Indiana in the 1850s and learned quickly to adapt to a vastly different and fast-changing American landscape. The History Museum also features a permanent exhibit of decorative plates from the Abbey Press.

The History Museum is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Central time, or by appointment. It is located on the lower level of the Archabbey Library in room L126, across from the Institute for Sacred Music.

For more information, contact the Archabbey Archives at archives2@saintmeinrad.edu or call (812) 357-6756. †

Permanent Deacon Formation Program Celebrates 25 Year Anniversary

Since 1999, Saint Meinrad has partnered with dioceses to offer a comprehensive program for the education and formation of permanent deacons across the country. Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, developed the Permanent Deacon Formation Program as a solution to the challenge that many dioceses faced when looking for academic resources for deacon formation.

Building on the resources and experience of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, while considering the specific needs of each diocese, this program provides the academic component for ordained ministry, but schedules coursework, practica, and workshops in collaboration with each diocese to address specific diocesan needs.

In the first five years of the program, Fr. Denis was able to partner with eight dioceses. The Diocese of Richmond was the first diocese to partner with Saint Meinrad for deacon formation, ordaining 49 deacons in 2003.

Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, would later lead the program, expanding the group of

lecturers and creating summer gatherings at Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, led the program for five years, adding diocesan deacon formation directors to the summer gatherings. He also developed a pathway for deacons who completed formation, as well as their wives (if the diocese permitted it), to earn a master's degree in theology if they chose to further their academic studies.

Since 2021, Dcn. Ron Pirau has been the director of Permanent Deacon Formation, leading the program and helping develop ways to expand and improve. The program is currently working on offering formation to deacons entirely in Spanish, as well as expanding the program for ongoing formation.

When asked what makes Saint Meinrad's program unique, Dcn. Ron says, "It's the Benedictine spirituality of prayer [and] work... and the quality of our instruction." Saint Meinrad's program is designed to foster the charism of the diaconate and its unique ministry, integrating it into every activity of formation.

Candidates meet one weekend each month for ten months at the diocesan location. Throughout their formation, they will also attend an annual retreat, meet with a spiritual director, and take on ministry assignments within their parish or diocese. During the last year of formation, candidates attend a week-long homiletics workshop at Saint Meinrad to learn how to preach. Upon completion of the program, candidates receive a certificate.

Over the last 25 years, 25 dioceses have partnered with Saint Meinrad in the formation of their permanent deacons. Many are located close by, such as Louisville, KY, Indianapolis, IN, Evansville, IN, Memphis, TN, and Nashville, TN. However, the program extends throughout the country from Cheyenne, WY, Manchester, NH, Richmond, VA, Green Bay, WI, to Little Rock, AK, and even internationally to Nassau, Bahamas. ✝

Br. Michael Reyes, OSB, named director of Benedictine Oblates of Saint Meinrad Archabbey



Br. Michael Reyes, OSB

Br. Michael Reyes, OSB, has been appointed the new director of Benedictine Oblates of Saint Meinrad Archabbey by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB.

The assignment was effective on

April 1, 2024. The previous director, Janis Dopp, passed away on October 12, 2023, after serving in that role for six years. As oblate director, Br. Michael will

oversee and develop Saint Meinrad's oblate community and program.

Br. Michael, 47, is a native of Manila, Philippines. He professed solemn vows as a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in a ceremony on January 25, 2023. He is studying full time for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He also serves as director of Saint Meinrad Cultural Events and is an organist for the monastery.

He earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of the Philippines and a master's degree in music composition

and theory from the University of Nevada. He earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music composition from the University of Illinois in 2019. His work in the music field has received numerous awards in international competitions and concerts.

An oblate is a Christian person, lay or ordained, who wishes to live by the *Rule of St. Benedict* and deepen their relationship with God. Oblates are affiliated with a specific Benedictine monastery and share a spiritual union and human friendship with the monastic community there. ✝

55 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 Saturday, May 11. Dr. Kimberly Baker, associate professor of patristics at Saint Meinrad, gave the address.

Receiving Master of Divinity degrees were:

Deacon Anthony Armbruster, Deacon Samuel Rosko, and Deacon Justin Bobby Vogel, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN;

Deacon Donald Bocephus Beaty, Deacon Daniel Herman, and Deacon Michael Willey, Diocese of Knoxville, TN;

Deacon Cody Eveld, Diocese of Little Rock, AR;

Deacon Kyeongbeom Lee, Diocese of Busan, South Korea;

Joseph Muithi Maundu and Cavine Odiwuor Okello, Glenmary Home Missioners;

Deacon Alex McCullough, Deacon Bruce Scott, and Deacon Jayke White, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois;

Deacon Matthew Millay, Archdiocese of Louisville, KY;

Hung Van Nguyen, Archdiocese of Hanoi, Vietnam;

Deacon Eric Ouellette, Diocese of Manchester, NH;

Deacon Jose Rolando Perez and Deacon Kacper Wojcieszko, Diocese of Memphis, TN;

Deacon Seth Reed, Diocese of Nashville, TN;

Deacon Phillip Rogier and Deacon Caleb Scherzinger, Diocese of Evansville, IN;

Deacon Joseph Schultz, Archdiocese of Mobile, AL;

Deacon Ryan Winger, Diocese of Amarillo, TX.

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

Jacob Condi, Diocese of Manchester, NH;
An Hong Dinh, Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD;



Theology graduate Deacon James Dodge of Springfield, IL, sings the Saint Meinrad school song with the other graduates at the end of commencement in St. Bede Theater on May 11.

Anthony Maurice, Diocese of Burlington, VT;

Conor McClure, Archdiocese of Louisville, KY;

Brother Gregory Morris, OSB, Saint Meinrad Archabbey;

Phillip Necessary, Diocese of Little Rock, AR;

Joseph Tuttle, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois.

Receiving Master of Arts (Theology) degrees were:

Deacon James Dodge, Springfield, IL;

Ryan Ecken, White House, TN;

Bradley Gehlhausen, Jasper, IN;

Todd Goodsell, Bountiful, UT;

Deacon Philip Hanrahan, Lexington, KY;

Brother Joseph Mary Harp, Maryville, TN;

Kathleen Heidler, Fishers, IN;

Tyler Huber, Floyds Knobs, IN;

Deacon James King, Ferdinand, IN;

Deacon Todd Lovas, Shepherd, MI;

Donald Paul Maddox III, Mobile, AL;

Joseph Muithi Maundu, Glenmary Home Missioners;

John McCarthy, Fort Myers, FL;

Rebecca Naas, Evansville, IN;

Fredrick Ochieng, Nairobi, Kenya;

Spencer Payton, Newburgh, IN;

Kerry Powers, Las Cruces, NM;

Deacon Seth Reed, Diocese of Nashville, TN;

Nicholas Rivelli, Indianapolis, IN;

Brandon Routt, Richmond, KY;

Bruce Sander, Tulsa, OK;

Emily Schmid, Urbandale, IA;

Deacon Kevin Templin, Albers, IL;

Deacon Jay VanHoosier, Newburgh, IN;

Andrew Wentworth, Mobile, AL;

Sister Amy Westbrook, Jackson, KY;

Wesley Wheatley, Hawesville, KY;

Deacon Jayke White, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois;

Deacon Michael Willey, Diocese of Knoxville, TN;

Deacon Kacper Wojcieszko, Diocese of Memphis, TN.

Donna Balbach was presented with an honorary diploma by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, at the end of the Seminary and School of Theology commencement. She began work as registrar in 2006, but has worked for Saint Meinrad in the School and at Abbey Press for 46 years. She retired as registrar on May 28 and began work part-time for the Permanent Deacon Formation Program in June. ✝

Seminary and School of Theology announces changes to programs and staff



Agnes Kovacs



Morgan Simon



Br. John Glasenapp, OSB

At the end of the spring semester, Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, dean of School of Theology Programs, announced changes to Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The Continuing Formation Program was discontinued this spring. The graduate certificates will return to the Graduate Theology Program. The Spanish Parish Catechetical Leadership Institute will move to the Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry, and Saint Meinrad's sponsorship of the English PCLI program will be discontinued.

Agnes Kovacs is the new director of the vocational synthesis stage for the seminary in addition to the coordinator of the spiritual direction and reflective practices certificates.

Morgan Simon has filled the position of registrar following Donna Balbach's retirement after 40+ years of service. Donna will continue to

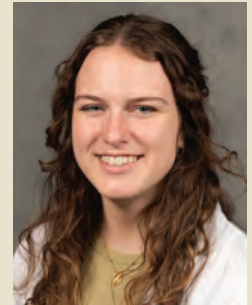
work part-time for the Permanent Deacon Formation Program.

Br. John Glasenapp, OSB, has been appointed assistant professor of medieval studies and liturgical music in addition to his current role as director of the Institute for Sacred Music.

In February, Children's Revival of Participation at Sunday Mass hired **Kelly Gallagher** as program director and **Grace Soellner** as program assistant. To read more about the program, see page 12. ✚



Kelly Gallagher



Grace Soellner

Noteworthy:

News-worthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events

The Seminary and School of Theology held a fundraiser during Lent for Colegio Católico Padre Aplás, the school founded by Blessed Stanley Rother in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala.

Last Lent, a **fundraiser** was held to purchase new desks, computers, and a tuba for the music room of the school. In January, the Second Configuration seminarians made a pilgrimage to Guatemala and spent time at the parish and school. They were able to

see first-hand the results of the fundraiser; the new computers, desks, two projectors, and the band played music featuring the tuba.

The goal this year was to raise enough money to purchase **10 computers** to complete the computer lab, 150 desks, and if possible, some projectors for the classrooms.

The school is the only Catholic school in the area and has recently seen an increase in enrollment. Students are admitted regardless of economic status and tuition

is frequently subsidized so families can afford a Catholic education.

At the conclusion of the fundraiser, **\$13,302.72 USD** was raised.

"This is truly remarkable and speaks well of the community of faith that so generously responded to the needs of the less fortunate," says Fr. Jim Schimelpfening, S.M., associate director of spiritual formation at Saint Meinrad. "I am so very grateful for what we have accomplished together." ✚

Three join the Development Office

Three new co-workers recently joined Saint Meinrad's Development Office. In March, Saint Meinrad alumnus, **Brian Doyle**, began work as director of planned giving and foundation relations. He replaces Dcn. Michael Shumway, who retired on March 1.

In this position, Doyle will administer a comprehensive program of planned giving. He will identify, cultivate, and invite major gifts and be responsible for helping to build foundation relations to support Saint Meinrad's various programs through partnerships and grant opportunities.

Doyle attended Saint Meinrad College and received a bachelor's degree in English and communications with a minor in philosophy in 1995. He went on to study sacred theology at Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum, Rome, Italy, pursuing a Bachelor of Sacred Theology in Systematic Theology. He furthered his studies at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C., in pursuit of the Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

Doyle previously served as the mission advancement officer for the Diocese of Toledo, OH, from 2020-2023, establishing the new development office and growing philanthropic giving throughout the diocese. From 2014-2020, he served as the director of development for the Diocese of Palm Beach, FL, and executive director of Catholic Community Foundation of Southeast Florida. He worked in the Department of Stewardship for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as the associate director from 2007-2014. He also worked at the USCCB for six years in the departments of Education and Catechesis and Migration and Refugee Services in Washington, D.C.

He is married to Donna Kay, his wife of 21 years, and is father to their seven children; Blase, Cecilia, Xavier, Finnian, Gemma, Juliana, and Kateri.

Erinn Evans joined the Development Office as director of alumni relations on



Brian Doyle



Erinn Evans



Emily Reisz

April 1. She replaces Tim Florian, who was promoted to director of annual giving for the Development Office of Saint Meinrad in August 2023.

Evans will oversee the planning, execution and evaluation of activities and programs designed to address the needs of Saint Meinrad alumni. She will serve as the principal liaison between Saint Meinrad and the 6,700+ members of the Alumni Association.

She attended the University of Cincinnati, OH, and graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in health sciences with a focus in sports and biomechanics. She became a certified personal trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine. She went on to earn a master's degree in exercise physiology from the University of Kentucky in 2013.

For the last 11 years, Evans worked at Owensboro Health. She served as an exercise physiologist for the first two years and as a wellness coordinator since 2015. In that role, she planned and facilitated the wellness program for Owensboro Health employees, about 4,900 individuals.

She lives in Santa Claus, IN, with her husband and four children. They are members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Emily Reisz began work as associate director of communications in February. She replaces Krista Hall, who was promoted to director of communications in October 2023.

As associate director of communications, Reisz is responsible for writing, photography, and proofreading for a variety of projects for the Communications division of the Development Program.

She studied visual communication design at University of Evansville and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2016. She worked as a graphic artist at Touch of Class from 2016-2018. For the last five years, she worked as a creative services artist for Berry Global. She also works part time as a wedding photographer.

Reisz lives in Dale, IN, with her husband and two daughters. They are members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. ✝

Abbey Woodworking
A Work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey

**Handcrafted furnishings
custom made for you.**

800.987.7380
www.abbeywoodworking.com

The advertisement features the company name in a stylized red font, followed by the tagline 'A Work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey'. Below this, the text 'Handcrafted furnishings custom made for you.' is written in a bold, red, serif font. A photograph of three dark wood chairs with light-colored seats is centered in the lower half. At the bottom, a dark red banner contains the phone number '800.987.7380' and the website 'www.abbeywoodworking.com' in white text.

EVENTS ON THE HILL

July 29-August 2

Guest House Retreat: "Summer Chant Workshop: Chant Pedagogy and Vocal Technique" by Br. John Glasenapp, OSB.

August 23-25

Guest House Retreat: "Discipleship According to the Gospel of Mark" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

September 9-October 7

Guest House Workshop: "Sculptural Basket Weaving: Object Form and Ornamentation" by Br. Jean Fish, OSB.

September 13-15

Guest House Retreat for young adults 20-40 years old: "Letting Holy Leisure Be Our Way" by Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB.

September 19

Dolle Lecture by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, 7:00 p.m., St. Bede Theater.

September 20-22

Guest House Retreat: "Navigating Difference: Serving in Multicultural Communities" by Dr. Daniela Abraham.

October 11-13

Guest House Retreat: "A Rosary Retreat" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.

October 14-18

Guest House Retreat for Priests: "The Gospel of Mark: Lessons in Rejection" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

November 1-3

Guest House Retreat: "Integrating Catholic Faith and Patient Care in Today's World" by Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, and Dr. David Freyer.

November 8-10

Guest House Retreat: "Spiritual Poverty and the 'Magisterium of Frailty'" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

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



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

Saturday, September 21, 2024
at 8:30 a.m. CT

Get details and register online at:
wellness.saintmeinrad.edu





Starting from top, left to right: Seminarian Anthony Maurice is congratulated after commencement on May 11. He earned a Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies) degree.

Camila Perez paints seminarian Guillaume Temkkit's face during a soccer tournament between the Saint Meinrad seminarians and members of the local community hosted by the Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry on April 13, 2024.

Sarah and Aaron Augustine, right, and Rob and Greta Stock discuss how their parish practices hospitality during breakout sessions on April 27 of the spring Young Adult Initiative gathering at Saint Meinrad. They are from YAI partner parish Cathedral of Saint Peter in Belleville, IL.

Susan Hall holds her husband Bill's hand, as she prays during Mass in the Archabbey Church on the Solemnity of St. Benedict in March. They are oblate novices from Newburgh, IN.

Graduate Theology graduates process to St. Bede Hall for commencement on May 11.



[Meet the Student]

Becky Naas

Hometown: Evansville, IN

Degree: MA Theology, Specialization Certificate in Scripture

Q. *When did you begin your studies?*

Summer 2018.

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

My journey to Saint Meinrad began with a desire to know more about my faith. I desired to dive deeper into Catholicism than "YouTube catechesis" could take me. The next logical step in my personal growth was to officially study theology to grow in intimacy with the faith I passionately profess and in turn, to grow in intimacy with Christ.

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

I took private vows in 2021, consecrating myself to Our Lord and becoming the bride of Christ. My family consists of my parents, my five brothers, their spouses, 18 nieces and nephews, and five super nieces and nephews who help me see the world through the eyes of a child.

I work at OneMain Financial in the insurance department as a supervisor in customer and vendor relations, to put it simply.

I have volunteered in various capacities at local parishes. My favorite volunteer roles

are proclaiming the readings at Mass, visiting shut-ins, and taking communion to them. I also enjoy volunteering with St. Jude Research Hospital's ALSAC Foundation.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

I cannot just choose one saint. I have a saintly prayer army that is led by St. Joseph and our Blessed Mother. I prayed for St. Joseph's intercession

for years, but it was not until I took private vows on the memorial of St. Joseph the Worker that he was solidified as my spiritual father and protector. Both Mary and Joseph are powerful intercessors and models of the power of silent witness. I hope to grow in these areas so I can bring others to Christ just as they did.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

Scripture is Christ's way of dialoguing with me, so I don't have just one favorite scripture verse. John 15, Jesus' discourse on the vine and the branches, has stayed with me throughout my studies, in particular John 15:16, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain." It speaks deeply to my heart because it is a reminder that faith is not of my own volition, but Christ choosing me. My choice comes with remaining attached to the One who chose me and to accept the invitation of our Blessed Trinity to enter into the divine dance of His undying love.

Q. *Hobbies?*

Studying theology has been my hobby for several years. I enjoy traveling, photography, and collecting religious art. Currently, I am into collecting icons for my icon corner and sharing my love of icons with others.

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

I think growing in relationship with Our Lord by growing in greater understanding of the Church He established has been the most rewarding part of this journey. Coursework is not easy, but as a quote attributed to St. Catherine of Siena states, "Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring."

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

Juggling a full-time job, life's demands, and keeping up with coursework are the most challenging aspects of studying theology part time. Studying while working full time was more difficult than I initially anticipated, but the rewards definitely outweighed the challenges.

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

I graduated with my MA Theology in May, and this is my Pentecost. Only God knows where my degree will take me. I am docile and excited for the next adventure. I am not finished studying at Saint Meinrad. I began working towards a Specialization Certificate in Scripture as part of my coursework and plan to finish it.

This summer, I will be a catechist for the first session of Saint Meinrad's youth conference, "One Bread, One Cup."

Q. *Other comments?*

When I began my studies, I stood at the foot of a mountain and the climb seemed daunting. The summit was nowhere in sight. Now that I have reached the summit and have graduated, I anxiously await the next mountain our Lord asks me to climb. My advice for anyone interested in studying theology is to go for it. You will never know what God has in store for you if you don't take the risk. ✚

Parishes chosen for Children's Revival of Participation at Sunday Mass



Thirteen parishes have been chosen to participate in The Children's Revival of Participation at Sunday Mass of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The five-year initiative is funded by a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer Initiative, to enhance children's engagement in worship and prayer during regular Sunday Masses.

The key objectives of the program are: preparing the environment, singing and moving, proclaiming the word and hearing it explained, leading and listening to spoken prayer, and going forth from worship to witness.

Through an application process, Saint Meinrad has chosen the following parishes to be partners in this initiative:

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Cicero, IN

Resurrection Catholic Church, Evansville, IN

All Saints Catholic Church, Knoxville, TN

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, Indianapolis, IN

St. Benedict Cathedral, Evansville, IN

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Evansville, IN

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Bowling Green, KY

St. Patrick Catholic Church, Louisville, KY

St. Bernard Catholic Church, Clementsville, KY, and Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Liberty, KY

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Haubstadt, IN

Holy Spirit Parish at Geist Catholic Church, Fishers, IN

Saint John Paul II Catholic Church, Sellersburg, IN

St. Mary of the Knobs Catholic Church, Floyds Knobs, IN

Liturgy, catechesis, and child development experts will collaborate with the partner parishes, who will implement their first Children's Revival efforts in 2024. This aligns with the National Eucharistic

Revival's transition from its Year of Parish Revival to a Year of Mission.

Dr. Nathaniel Marx, project supervisor and faculty member at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, emphasizes the importance of intergenerational worship, "Our eucharistic faith shines forth when children are seen, heard, and valued in the Church's central act of corporate worship."

Saint Meinrad is one of 33 organizations participating in the Nurturing Children Initiative, reinforcing our commitment to religious education, formation, and the vitality of Christian congregations.

For more information or to inquire about resources and developments within the Children's Revival project, please contact Kelly Gallagher, program director, at kgallagher@saintmeinrad.edu. ✝



Renewable energy: investments for the future

Sustainability and care for the environment have been an important part of Saint Meinrad for a long time. Over 1,400 acres of the 2,025-acre Archabbey property are enrolled in the Classified Forest Program. Some of those acres have been enrolled since the 1920s when the program was first developed. The Archabbey has converted 384 acres into new forest land which is enrolled in the Wetland Reserve Program through the United States Department of Agriculture, to sustain wildlife, soil conservation, and water purity.

“Caring for nature is very Benedictine,” explains Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB. “It’s taking our gifts and continuing to be good responsible stewards.”

This spring, Saint Meinrad kicked off the second phase of a renewable energy project, building on previous projects that have been successful. A geothermal project was completed in 2016 to provide heating and cooling for the monastery.

In 2021, Saint Meinrad partnered with Johnson Melloh, who has been bought by

Veregy, a National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO) accredited decarbonization company, for the first phase of the project. Johnson Melloh did an audit of Saint Meinrad’s energy usage and suggested some opportunities to reduce it. A 1,180-kilowatt solar array was completed on about four acres along Indiana 545 and LED lighting was installed campus-wide.

Energy costs continue to rise. Phase two of the project will result in a significant reduction in utility costs, give Saint Meinrad more control over the impact of rising energy costs, and further protect the environment by reducing the institution’s carbon footprint by 1,129 tons of carbon dioxide annually.

“We’ve been very pleased with the savings that we have experienced so far, and want to continue to build on that,” says Archabbot Kurt. “These are investments for the future.”

Saint Meinrad brought Veregy back for phase two planning. The project will expand both the geothermal and solar

projects. A recreation field on the southwest side of campus will have 273 wells installed for the geothermal field. The field will tie into the property’s central powerplant that will receive upgraded equipment.

A 704 kW solar array will be installed adjacent to the existing solar field along Indiana 545. These two projects are projected to be complete by the end of the year and will generate enough electricity to reduce purchased electricity by 59% and natural gas consumption by 32%.

“Saint Meinrad has always had the earth at heart. We really want to do what we feel is best for the community itself, but also for the earth,” says Mark Hoffman, director of Physical Facilities for Saint Meinrad. “Renewable resources provide an opportunity where we can accomplish both. It reduces our energy costs as well as does wonderful things for the environment.” ✝

“Caring for nature is very Benedictine...It’s taking our gifts and continuing to be good responsible stewards.”

— Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB



ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. John J. Albert Jr., O'74 ('69-74), of Piqua, OH, died on April 30, 2024.

Mr. John Raymond Bigelow, PD'12 ('08-12), of Sheridan, WY, died on December 7, 2023.

Fr. Aurelius Boberek, OSB, O'57 ('49-58), of St. Meinrad, IN, died May 27, 2024.

Fr. Clyde Albert Bonar, T'84 ('80-84), of Winter Park, FL, died on April 14, 2024.

Mr. Harold J. Carie, O'55 ('43-45), of Washington, IN, died on April 27, 2024.

Fr. James "Jim" Curtin, O'70, ('57-70), of Naperville, IL, died on April 22, 2024.

Mr. Donald Francis Denu, C'71, ('63-64), of Rockport, IN, died on February 27, 2024.

Mr. Gregory Dolan, O'74 ('62-63), of Ave Maria, FL, died on January 16, 2024.

Mr. Ronald Louis Flesch, O'60 ('52-53), of Monument, CO, died on May 4, 2024.

Mr. Leo J. Foley, O'69 ('67-69), of Naperville, IL, died on July 22, 2023.

Mr. Michael "Pappy" Joseph Thomas Foster, O'70 ('58-63), of New Albany, IN, died on May 13, 2024.

Fr. Daniel F. Gowen, C'85, ('82-85), of Hamilton, NJ, died on March 9, 2024.

Mr. Robert G. Hayden, O'65, ('59-60), of San Antonio, TX, died.

Fr. J. Norbert Howe, O'56 ('50-52), of Lima, OH, died on September 11, 2023.

Mr. Kevin Joseph Karl, O'80, ('76-80), of Louisville, KY, died on April 5, 2024.

Mr. Christopher Kessler, O'77 ('69-70), of Evansville, IN, died on May 25, 2024.

Mr. Edward Owen McCarthy, O'64 ('52-56), of Carmel, IN, died on March 21, 2023.

Fr. James J. Reymann, O'58 ('51-52), of Wellington, OH, died on June 12, 2022.

Mr. Steven Paul Sauerland, O'76, ('64), of Brookville, IN, died on September 24, 2023.

Dcn. Joseph J. Seibert, O'60, ('49-53), of Newburgh, IN, died on March 31, 2024.

Mr. Darby J. Shaw, C'81 ('77-79), of New Smyrna Beach, FL, died on April 18, 2024.

Mr. Edward Howard Streyle, C'71, ('63-71), of Cary, NC, died on January 19, 2024.

Mr. Jim Wirth, O'69 ('63-69), of Hollister, MO, died on March 24, 2024.

A key to the initials behind the names of alumni:

C: College

GTP: Graduate Theology Programs

HS: High School

MAT: Master of Arts (Theology)

MAPT: Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology)

MTS: Master in Theological Studies

O: Ordination

PD: Permanent Deacon Formation Program

S: Sabbaticant

SPH: St. Placid Hall

SS: Summer Session

T: Theology ✝

Alumni Annual Giving Program supports future Church leaders

Alumni donors to Saint Meinrad understand and appreciate the role Saint Meinrad has in preparing future leaders for the Church. Their gifts support education, pastoral formation, spiritual formation, and many other facets of the quality theological education that Saint Meinrad provides for its seminarians, permanent deacon candidates, and lay students.

As in years past, alumni showed their commitment to supporting their alma mater with gifts totaling \$980,050.01 through the 2023-24 Alumni Annual Giving Program – an impressive 21.68% response rate.

“We are grateful for the support of and continued connection with alumni,” says

Erinn Evans, Saint Meinrad’s director of alumni relations. “Once you are part of the Saint Meinrad family, you always have a home here. Our alumni demonstrate that connection with their generosity.

Giving to the Alumni Annual Giving Program continues a long tradition of our alumni partnering with Saint Meinrad to prepare priests, permanent deacons, and lay women and men to serve the Church.”

The 2024-25 Alumni Annual Giving Program is currently underway. Alumni wishing to participate can do so by making a gift online, calling the Development Office, or by mail, in response to the kickoff appeal which will go out in late August.

Those who make a gift of \$200 or more to this year’s program, or are first-time donors making a gift of \$100 or more, will receive a magnet featuring artwork of St. Meinrad by Dom Gregory de Wit. ✝



ALUMNI NEWS

Mr. David Bower, C'71 ('67-71), has retired from the University of Southern Indiana and the USI Foundation after 30 years of service.

Dr. John Carr, C'91 ('87-88), of East Lansing, MI, published a book for evangelization called *An Existential Pathway to God for Atheists*. It is available on Amazon.com.

Mr. Robert Feduccia, C'91 ('89-91), of Nolensville, TN, will be presenting a paper at the European Academy of Religion 2024 conference in Palermo, Sicily entitled, "Engaging Adolescents in Worship at the Eucharistic Liturgy."

Fr. Joseph Friend, T'20 ('16-20), of the Diocese of Little Rock, AR, was selected as one of five priests from the U.S. to attend "Parish Priests for the Synod: An International Meeting," in Rome in the spring of 2024.

Fr. Silas S. Henderson, SDS, T'10 ('06-08; MTS'11), was ordained a priest at the Basilica of Saint Josaphat in Milwaukee, WI, on June 24.

Mr. John Kelly, C'71 ('63-65), of Indianapolis, IN, has published seven thriller novels since retiring in 2019. These are available on Amazon under his pen name, J.T. Kelly.

Dcn. James Krupka, GTP '22 ('20-22), of Honolulu, HI, celebrated his 25-year anniversary as a permanent deacon during

the annual Jubilarian Mass at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa in Honolulu.

Fr. Ignatius Mazanowski, GTP'04 ('02-03), of Sedona, AZ, will be an instructor for the 2024 summer symposium on Christian spirituality at the Institute of Catholic Theology in Phoenix, AZ.

Mr. Michael Pawlik, C'92 ('89-92), of Madison, MS, is a volunteer instructor for Holmes Community College Information Systems Technology and was named Vex Robotics Volunteer of the Year at the State Vex Robotics competition on March 6, 2024.

Mrs. Melanie-Prejean Sullivan, GTP'03 ('00-03), of Louisville, KY, has been named the chair of the Margaret Beufort Association, the community of friends, benefactors, and current and former faculty and students of the Margaret Beufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge, England.

Sr. Fidelis Rubbo, SS'82 ('76-82), of Sylvania, OH, published a book entitled, *Called Forth: Haiti and the Sylvania Franciscan Mission Story*, which is available through the All Good Things Gift Shop (419-824-3749).

Mr. Paul Stokell, C'95 ('92-95) GTP '03 ('99,'02-03), of Sunbury, OH, recently presented a webinar on "Small Groups: Big Impact - How to Move from

Encounter to Missionary Discipleship" for the Divine Renovation Ministry. He has been the evangelization director at St. John Neumann Church for almost ten years.

Mr. Steven Thomas, C'87 ('83-85), has published a book entitled, *Catholic Joe: Superhero that is making a wave in the Catholic world*. This book can be purchased at www.catholicjoesuperhero.com. ✝

Saint Meinrad
DAY OF SERVICE

has been set for
March 8, 2025
Watch for more details!

Saint Meinrad alumnus named Bishop for Diocese of Roseau, Dominica



Fr. Kendrick John Forbes

Saint Meinrad alumnus, Fr. Kendrick John Forbes, T'02 ('94-02), has been named bishop of the Diocese of Roseau, Dominica, by Pope Francis. His installation is scheduled for July 25.

Bishop-elect Forbes graduated from Saint Meinrad College with a bachelor's degree in history in 1998. He went on to earn his Master of Theology in 2000, and his MDiv in 2002, both from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He also completed a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Nassau, Bahamas, in June 2002.

He has served as the judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Nassau since 2004, vicar

general of the Archdiocese of Nassau since 2015, and as the parish priest of Saint Paul in Nassau, Bahamas since 2009.

Bishop-elect Forbes succeeds Archbishop Gabriel Malzaire, who is now Archbishop of Castries, St. Lucia. ✝



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Solar Eclipse 2024



From left, Dr. John Schlachter and Br. Michael Reyes, OSB, watch the solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 at Saint Meinrad. Right, a photo of the eclipse taken by Fr. Gueric DeBona, OSB. Saint Meinrad was in the path of totality for the eclipse.