

# ON THE HILL

SPRING 2025 • VOL. 64:1



*Saint Meinrad*



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Editor: ..... Krista Hall  
Copywriters: ..... Emily Reisz & Tammy Schuetter

Send changes of address and comments to:

The Editor, The Development Office, Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary & School of Theology,  
200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577, 812-357-6501 • Fax 812-357-6759, [news@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:news@saintmeinrad.edu),  
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Br. Basil Lumsden, OSB, plays the organ in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on October 30.

Find more photos at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>.

## Monks' Personals

**Fr. Meinrad Brune** and **Br. James Jensen** attended the funeral wake and Mass of oblate James Merk, MD, in Lancaster, OH, on February 10. He and his wife, Rita, were the chapter coordinators of the Lancaster, OH, oblate chapter for over 25 years. Rita will continue as chapter coordinator.

**Fr. Adrian Burke** preached the community retreat for the Ursuline Sisters of Maple Mount, KY, on the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*; he also preached on that theme at a Lenten mission for St. Joseph Parish in Bradley, IL, and led the annual clergy retreat for the Archdiocese of Nassau (Bahamas) at the end of April.

**Br. John Glasenapp** was a guest lecturer at Columbia University as well as at the Boonshoft Planetarium in Dayton, OH, for a visualization of St. Hildegard of Bingen's story of the creation of the cosmos. Br. John also organized a concert

by the Grammy Award-winning Fisk Jubilee Singers with Dr. Karen Shadle and Archbishop Shelton Fabre in conjunction with the course Sacred Music and Race.

**Fr. Eugene Hensell** presented an all-day workshop for the Indianapolis and Louisville permanent deacons on the Parables of St. Luke's Gospel on November 9 and February 1.

**Fr. Godfrey Mullen** was assigned vicar general of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, in February.

**Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa** presented two academic papers at the North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL) conference at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN, on January 3, 2025 – one on the oldest prayers of the ordination of a bishop and another on liturgical inculturation.

**Fr. Julian Peters** gave a retreat for priests of the Diocese of Amarillo, TX, November 4-7. He gave a mini-mission for St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Townsend, TN, December 7-8. He also gave a parish mission for St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis, IN, March 22-25.

**Br. Stanley Rother Wagner** had an article published in the November 2024 issue of *Adoremus Bulletin*, titled "On Porters and Doors: Toward a Missionizing Theology of Hospitality." The editor-in-chief of *Adoremus Bulletin*, Chris Carstens, also interviewed Br. Stanley for the "Adoremus Interviews" podcast.

**Fr. Christian Raab** has published an article in the March edition of *American Benedictine Review*. The article is titled "Benedictines, Educators, Missionaries: Historical and Theological Reflections on the Missiological Identity of Saint Meinrad Archabbey." ✠

## Brother Gregory Morris, OSB, professes solemn vows

Brother Gregory Morris, OSB, professed solemn vows as a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in a ceremony on January 25, 2025, in the Archabbey Church.

Brother Gregory, 37, is a native of Ft. Thomas, KY, where his home parish was St. Catherine of Siena. After graduation from Newport Central Catholic High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and theology from Bellarmine University. In 2024, Brother Gregory

earned a Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies) degree from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Before Brother Gregory joined the monastery, he worked for The Kroger Co. for 18 years in a variety of positions. Since 2021, Brother Gregory has served as master of ceremonies II for monastic community liturgies, rites, and ceremonies and as the oblate novice mentor. He also assists the Oblate Office

with events and retreats and offers hospitality. During the 2024 "One Bread, One Cup" youth conferences, he served as a hospitality minister for college interns and presented the large group catechetical session on *lectio divina* for youth and adult participants.

In professing solemn vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and stability in the community at Saint Meinrad, he becomes a full and permanent member of the Benedictine community. ✚

## Brother Ambrose Brahm, OSB, professes temporary vows



Br. Ambrose Brahm,  
OSB

Novice Joshua Brahm professed his temporary vows as a Benedictine monk in a ceremony on January 20, 2025, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

He has completed his novitiate, a

year of prayer and study of the Benedictine way of life. As is the custom during the profession of vows, he was given a religious name. Novice Joshua is now Brother Ambrose.

Brother Ambrose, 37, is a native of Ferdinand, IN, where he was a member of Christ the King Parish. He attended Forest Park High School in Ferdinand.

Brother Ambrose serves as assistant sacristan for the monastery. Before

coming to Saint Meinrad, he worked at Kimball Electronics for five years where he served as utility, lower management/production support.

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

# Two novices join Benedictine community

In a brief ceremony, Novice Douglas Allison and Novice Patrick Barrett were clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19, 2025. They now begin a year of monastic formation, including study of *The Rule of St. Benedict* and monastic history.

Novice Douglas, 24, is a native of Perrysburg, OH, where he was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church. He attended St. Francis de Sales School in Toledo, OH, and earned the rank of Eagle Scout at age 18 from the Boy Scouts of America. In 2023, he graduated from Bowling Green State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance.

Before entering the monastery, he organized and helped provide communion for homebound individuals for over 10 years and worked for the Ohio Auditor of the State.

Novice Patrick, 20, is a native of Texico, IL, where he was a member of St. Mary Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mount Vernon, IL. He graduated from Mount Vernon Township High School in 2023.

Before entering the monastery, he worked as a lifeguard and did maintenance at a recreation facility and worked at an antique store. He served as a youth leader, master of ceremonies, and sacristan at his home parish in Mount Vernon.

Novices take a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a



*Novice Douglas Allison*



*Novice Patrick Barrett*

novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad. ✝

## Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, named director of monastery vocations



*Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB*

Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, has been appointed the new director of monastery vocations for Saint Meinrad Archabbey by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB. The assignment was effective on

December 14, 2024.

The role of the vocation director is to encourage young men in their discernment of monastic life, to share about monastic life in different capacities to various groups, to spread awareness of the Benedictine monastic vocation, and to ultimately help a young man with the next steps in joining the monastery.

Fr. Simon joined the monastic community of Saint Meinrad in January 2015 and professed his solemn vows in 2019. He was ordained a priest in 2021.

He is a former resident of Findlay, OH, and a graduate of the University of Dayton, where he earned a bachelor's degree in communication management in 2010. He earned a Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies) in 2017 and a Master of Divinity in 2021, both from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

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

In addition to his new role, Fr. Simon serves as the director of donor relations and young adult engagement in the Development Office at Saint Meinrad.

The previous vocations director, Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB, served in that role for eight years. He will continue to serve the Vocations Office as vocations socius. In his new role, Br. Zachary will coordinate the visit of vocation guests to the monastery by making sure they know their way around the monastery, organizing their work assignments, and encouraging them in getting to know other monks. ✝



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# AbbeyGlow: old liturgical candles find new life

Old candles that have been used in liturgies in the Archabbey Church and in parishes are finding new life in Saint Meinrad Books & Gifts. Churches have a large number of unusable candles; some that are blessed. The Catholic Church teaches to properly dispose a blessed object, it should be treated with reverence and disposed of respectfully through burning or burying.

With candles, you can also melt them down and turn them into brand new candles. By melting the wax down and turning it into a new candle, the old candle that was blessed and the blessing no longer exist.

Fr. Subprior Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, researched ways to dispose of candles and decided to repurpose Saint Meinrad's supply of old wax into new candles. Once the project was off the ground, priests have contacted Fr. Kolbe to see if he could dispose of their old candles.

The new candles are available in seven scents for purchase in the Saint Meinrad Books & Gifts store. The store is located on the first floor of Newman Hall inside the Seminary and School of Theology and is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Central Time. ✚

## Jubilee Year of Hope

Archbishop Charles Thompson has designated the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln at Saint Meinrad Archabbey as a pilgrimage site for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during the Jubilee Year of Hope. The jubilee year began on December 24 with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica and will conclude on January 6, 2026, with the closing of the door.

Catholics may visit a pilgrimage site and participate in Mass or any other public prayer, time of adoration, a rosary, or pray the Way of the Cross while there to receive a plenary indulgence. A person seeking a plenary indulgence would also need to complete the ordinary requirements accompanying a plenary indulgence. Those requirements include being in a state of grace, having the interior disposition of

complete detachment from sin, even venial sin, sacramentally confessing your sins within 20 days before or after, receiving the Holy Eucharist within 20 days before or after, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father. An Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

A plenary indulgence is a full remission of the temporal punishment due for sins that have already been forgiven. Such an indulgence can be granted on behalf of the individual petitioner, another person designated by the petitioner or for departed souls.

Guests are welcome to join the Benedictine monks for prayer and Mass in the Archabbey Church. Mass is at 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday and at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays and feast days. Vespers is at 5 p.m. each day. Saint Meinrad operates on Central Time. ✚

## EVENTS ON THE HILL

### May

*Rosary pilgrimage at Monte Cassino Shrine each Sunday at 2 p.m. Central Time*

### May 10

*Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology*

### May 16-18

*Guest House Retreat: "The Rosary Zone" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB*

### May 18-27

*"10-Day Pilgrimage to Greece – Footsteps of Saint Paul" by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, and Corinna Waggoner*

### June 6-8

*Guest House Retreat: "Praying the Mass: Eucharistic Spirituality" by Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa, OSB*

### June 20-22

*Guest House Retreat: "Making 'Soma' from 'Sarx': The Transformative Power of the Gospel" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB*

### August 22-24

*Guest House Retreat: "Signs of the Time" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB*

### August 29-31

*Guest House Retreat: "Young Adult Retreat" by Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, (Young Adults ages 18-39)*

### September 10

*Guest House Workshop: "Bible Bootcamp: The Old Testament" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB*

### September 12-14

*Guest House Retreat: "Unpacking the Vocation of Marriage Through Scripture and Married Saints" by Josh and Angie Greulich (Married Couples Retreat)*

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



# THE HARMONY OF FAITH AND MUSIC:

inspiring the future through the Saint Meinrad tradition

By Br. Michael Reyes, OSB  
Director of Cultural Events

In our rapidly changing world, Saint Meinrad Archabbey stands as a bastion of hope, creativity, and community. As a monk deeply embedded in the rich tapestry of our faith, I am deeply moved by the amazing developments in our cultural events that not only celebrate our traditions but also nurture the future musical generations—our local elementary and high school students, seminarians, and local musicians. The spirit of the Saint Meinrad artistic tradition breathes life into these events, reminding us that our faith and culture are intertwined in a beautiful dance of inspiration.

*The Rule of Saint Benedict*, which has guided monastic life for centuries, offers profound insights that resonate with our modern context. In Chapter 4, St. Benedict writes, “Let all things be done with moderation.” This call for balance is particularly relevant when we consider how we can engage our youth in the musical arts while remaining firmly rooted in our faith. The cultural events we host serve as a vibrant platform where tradition meets innovation, allowing young minds to explore their musical creativity within the framework of our beliefs.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey has become a hub of artistic expression, where music and performance intertwine with the liturgical life. Through concerts and musical productions, Saint Meinrad

Archabbey Cultural Events provide opportunities for students and seminarians to showcase their musical talents and express their faith. These events not only enrich our community but also serve as a vital stepping stone for future musicians and artists. They learn that their creative gifts can be a form of worship, a way to connect with God, the congregation, and a means to inspire others.

In the Benedictine tradition, art is not merely about aesthetics; it reflects the divine. Each note played, each melody made, and each piece performed becomes a prayer. This understanding encourages our young artists to approach their craft with reverence and passion. When they engage in creating music, they are participating in a sacred dialogue that transcends time and space, echoing the beauty of God’s creation.

We have witnessed remarkable transformations in Saint Meinrad Archabbey Cultural Events, particularly through collaborations with local schools. Our concerts and masterclasses have become a source of inspiration for students, allowing them to learn from world-renowned and top caliber musicians and artists. These extraordinary experiences foster a sense of belonging and purpose, igniting a passion for music that aligns with their spiritual journeys. Through the initiatives of Saint Meinrad Archabbey Cultural Events, we emphasize that Saint Meinrad is not just a

place of worship but also a nurturing ground for musical talent and creativity. Moreover, the involvement of seminarians in these cultural events is invaluable. They bring a unique perspective, serving as mentors and role models for younger generations. Their passion for music and the arts can inspire younger students to see their own potential in the context of faith. By sharing their journeys, seminarians help demystify the vocation of a musician in the Church, showing that it is a calling intertwined with service and dedication to God’s people.

As Saint Meinrad Archabbey Cultural Events looks toward the future, it is essential to continue nurturing this artistic spirit within the community of Saint Meinrad. We must encourage our youth to explore their gifts, reminding them that each act of musical creativity can be an expression of their faith. The role of Saint Meinrad Archabbey Cultural Events is to provide a supportive environment where they can flourish, a place where their voices can be heard, and their musical talents resound.

The events of Saint Meinrad Archabbey Cultural Events are not merely programs; they are vital expressions of our faith that inspire and educate the next generation. By embracing the Benedictine artistic tradition, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering musical creativity grounded in spirituality. ✝



# 20 awarded Master of Divinity degrees

On December 6, 20 Fourth Configuration seminarians were awarded Master of Divinity degrees at a commencement ceremony in the Archabbey Church. The winter graduation is one of the changes at Saint Meinrad in response to the sixth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation. The graduates returned to their dioceses and religious communities for the Vocational Synthesis stage of formation.

Those who received Master of Divinity degrees were:

Brother Elias Bar-Shimon, Brother John Black, Brother Paul Marie Castieau, and Brother Seraphim Mary Heffernan, Carmelite Monastery of Wyoming;  
Deacon Nicholas Biever, Deacon Keith Hart, Deacon Aaron Herrenbruck, and Deacon Clint Johnson, Diocese of Evansville, IN;

Deacon Joel Brackett, Diocese of Little Rock, AR;  
Deacon Thomas Day and Deacon Isaac Siefker, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN;  
Deacon Charles Delano, Diocese of Springfield, IL;  
Justin Farr, Diocese of Nashville, TN;  
Deacon Alexander J. Houston, Diocese of Knoxville, TN;  
Conrad Jaconette, Diocese of Owensboro, KY;  
Andre Nadeau, Diocese of Manchester, NH;  
Deacon Richard Perkins, Diocese of Mobile, AL;  
Brother Michael Reyes, OSB, Saint Meinrad Archabbey;  
Deacon Luan Van Tran, Diocese of Burlington, VT;  
Giang Dinh Vu, Diocese of Tulsa, OK.

The mission of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology continues to be the initial and ongoing formation of priests, permanent deacons, and laity to minister together effectively in the service and evangelization of the Roman Catholic Church and the world. ✝

## Smugmug

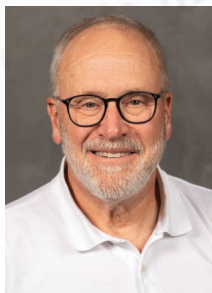
*For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:*

[saint-meinrad.smugmug.com](http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com)

## Noteworthy:

*News-worthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events*

Two members of the Board of Overseers were recognized in November for their generosity and service.



**Dr. John Lechleiter** and his wife Sarah received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals,

Indiana Chapter. The award honors individuals for their extraordinary generosity and commitment to philanthropy, significantly impacting a wide range of organizations in Indiana and beyond. Their

contributions to early childhood education, the arts, and mental health services reflect their dedication to uplifting their community and supporting those in need. John is a retired CEO of Eli Lilly and Company, and a former board member for Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, Nike, Inc., and Ford Motor Company.



**Dr. Kyle King** received the Indiana University School of Optometry Foley House Basement Key Award. The award recognizes significant contributions by an individual given to the IU School of Optometry. Kyle has

been active in the IU School of Optometry's Alumni Board since he was student president. Since its inception in 2013, he has chaired the IUSO Alumni Golf Outing, which raises money for student scholarships. In 2017, he joined the IUSO Dean's Development Council to help identify and prioritize topics and challenges affecting the field of optometry and IUSO's alumni. In 2020, he joined the IUSO's Bicentennial Gala Committee, which helped raise funds to create the IUSO Bicentennial Scholarship. He is also committed to community services and plays an active role in several organizations in the Evansville community. Kyle is an optometrist and owner of Evansville Eyecare Associates. ✝



# Propaedeutic Pilgrimage

Seminarians Deepen Faith and Cultural Awareness on Montgomery Pilgrimage.

A pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama, in October allowed 19 Propaedeutic seminarians to explore the variety and richness of the Catholic faith while deepening their understanding of Catholic social teaching and building community.

According to the sixth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation, human formation for the Propaedeutic Year should allow the seminarians to be in an intentional community and build fraternity and relationships with one another.

“What better way to do that than with a field trip,” explains Fr. Mateo Zamora, OSB, director of pastoral formation. “It’s not just traveling together, it’s eating together, it’s working together, praying together. And this group has done an excellent job doing that.”

The four-day trip, led by Fr. Mateo and Formation Dean Fr. Hyeonggyu Lee, included stops at the Equal Justice

Initiative sites, the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. At the Legacy Museum, the seminarians walked through the history of slavery and racism in the United States, and at the memorial, they reflected on the lives of Black victims of lynching.

The group also visited the City of St. Jude Parish, Resurrection Catholic Missions, St. Bernard Abbey, and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. Harold Purcell founded the City of St. Jude in 1934 as a Catholic mission for African Americans. It was the final stop for the Selma-to-Montgomery marchers before they arrived at the State Capitol on March 24, 1965. Resurrection Catholic Missions, established in 1943, grew from collaboration between the Congregation of the Resurrection and Fr. Purcell. Today, it runs programs in education, evangelization, healthcare, social services, and advocacy.

“Taking the seminarians to the Legacy Museum as well as the memorial was a good lesson in how our country has dealt with the life and dignity of the human person and the culture of racism that is part of our history,” says Fr. Mateo.

The pilgrimage took place after the Propaedeutic seminarians completed a class on the life and dignity of the human person. The experience gave a face to what the students learned in the classroom.

“It’s one thing to talk about it in the classroom. It’s another thing to be in the place where those attacks on the dignity of the human person occurred and to see the pictures and the memorial with those hanging iron boxes that depict the lynching,” explains Fr. Mateo. “Black Catholics have a vibrant community, and they have something to contribute to the Church.”



A benchmark of the Program of Priestly Formation includes seminarians gaining an awareness of multicultural ministry in the Catholic Church. The students experienced this firsthand by volunteering at the City of St. Jude's parish picnic, SoulFest, and sharing a meal with the Resurrection Catholic Missions community after Mass. They interacted with the local community, learned about their backgrounds, and attended Mass together.

"These two parishes are positive and successful responses of the Catholic Church in which they celebrate our Catholic faith, but they also celebrate the tradition, identity, and culture of Black Catholics," says Fr. Mateo.

D'Angelo Marazita, a Propaedeutic seminarian studying for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, came away from the trip with a deeper recognition of the universality of the Catholic Church and an understanding that a person's culture and

background shapes their understanding of God and how they celebrate their faith.

"We should be ready to welcome the whole church with open arms, and recognize that everyone comes from a different background, they come from different cultures, and they come with different customs," he says. "We should meet them in the middle to incorporate that beauty and give life to the Church. There's not just one type of flower; there's many types of flowers. And only with many types of flowers can you have a very, very beautiful field."

The pilgrimage widened the seminarians' horizons culturally, liturgically, and geographically. The group witnessed and participated in four different ways of praying. Worship at the City of St. Jude was traditional gospel, and Resurrection Catholic Missions was contemporary in their worship. They also visited St. Bernard Abbey, a monastic setting, and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, which is a very contemplative site.

The Propaedeutic Year is a time of discernment. The trip provided an opportunity for the students to consider what ways of worship work for them and what doesn't work.

"That's part of the discernment," says Fr. Mateo. "Because they will have to in the future, God willing, deal with people who have different ways of praying."

For D'Angelo, the pilgrimage was a reaffirmation of his vocation to the priesthood.

"If we are discerning a call to lay down our lives for the Church and to minister, we need to learn how to love as Christ loves. I'm coming to recognize a deeper love for the Church every single day and growing in that love," he says. "If you're not loving the Church more and more day by day, then you're going backward. It's a confirmation that I'm going in the right direction." ✠

If we are discerning a call to lay down our lives for the Church and to minister, we need to learn how to love as Christ loves.





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

# Day of Service: A way to give back

**Greg Ernstberger, C'75 ('71-75)**, has had a close connection to Saint Meinrad his whole life, with his father attending high school and uncle, Bishop Emeritus Gerald Gettelfinger, attending seminary. Greg attended college at Saint Meinrad with the class of 1975 and served two terms on the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors.

He was on the Board in 2014 when the Day of Service was initiated. The Day of Service is an opportunity for alumni of Saint Meinrad—as well as oblates, friends, and area residents—to set aside time to serve their communities. Since its inaugural year, the day's theme has been *Ora et Labora* (pray 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.

In 2016, Greg felt moved to become a site leader in the New Albany Deanery and has organized two New Albany sites for the past nine years.

He said, “To me personally, it’s a way of giving back to the community here where we live and serving people who are in need. It’s also important for me to give back to Saint Meinrad as it has been a large part of my life.”

Greg encourages others to be site leaders in their communities. Leaders can identify needs in organizations like churches and charities where volunteers can help. They work closely with the Alumni Office at Saint Meinrad to help recruit volunteers.

Greg has built strong relationships with St. Mark’s United Church of Christ and St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany as well as a core group of volunteers who help from year to year. The Day of Service allows the regular volunteers to have a break at those locations.

In New Albany, many homeless individuals benefit from food at the Saturday Café and clothing from the Clothes Closet. In winter, providing coats, hats, and gloves are particularly helpful.

St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities assists women and children who have been in abusive relationships by providing an emergency shelter, a domestic violence shelter, and short-term affordable housing. By serving in these facilities, Day of Service volunteers help the homeless as well as women and children in need.

There are many communities like New Albany with similar needs, and it’s Saint Meinrad’s commitment to care for those in need.

The Saint Meinrad Alumni Association hosted its 11th annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service on Saturday, March 8, with 254 volunteers, and 14 service projects in 10 communities: Bloomington, IN; Copley, OH; Denver, CO; Evansville, IN; Indianapolis, IN (two projects); Louisville, KY (two projects); New Albany, IN (three projects); New York, NY; St. Meinrad, IN; and Toledo, OH. If interested in volunteering as a site leader in 2026, contact Erinn Evans, [eevans@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:eevans@saintmeinrad.edu). ✝



# Alumni Reunion set for August 4-6

Saint Meinrad welcomes ALL alumni back on the Hill for the 97th annual Alumni Reunion from August 4-6, 2025. This year the reunion is packed full of worship, entertainment, and fellowship, featuring praise and worship with Steve Angrisano, a presentation on synodality by Fr. Joe Friend, and a session on “Loneliness and Community” with Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.

Alumni who arrive on Sunday, August 3, are invited to join the monastic community in the Archabbey Church for Vespers. Steve Angrisano, Catholic composer, speaker, and music missionary, will lead worship and praise in the St. Bede Theater that evening, ending with Compline. A reception will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Commons.

Monday morning reunion events will kick off with a campus tour or a networking and discussion opportunity for catechesis, evangelization, and parish ministry leaders. This is a great chance for our alumni who work in ministry to share their practices and ideas and learn from each other. Alumni will then be able to join the annual golf scramble or attend a presentation by Steve Angrisano titled “Rich Ritual.”

Fr. Joe Friend will present in the afternoon, “Synodality: A country priest’s journey to meeting the Pope.” Fr. Joe is the pastoral administrator for Holy Cross Church in Crossett, AR, Holy Spirit Church in Hamburg, AR, and Our Lady of the Lake Church in Lake Village, AR.

Mid-afternoon, alumni can take an art tour led by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, as well as a tour of the Archabbey Library and Institute for Sacred Music.

The day will conclude with the anniversary class banquet, celebrating the classes of 1965 (60th anniversary), 1975 (50th), 1985 (40th), 1995 (30th), 2000 (25th), 2015 (10th), and 2020 (5th). The Alumni Commons and UnStable will be available for socializing after dinner. On Tuesday, Morning Prayer will take place in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.



Then, Br. Zachary will lead the Day of Recollection with a session on “Loneliness and Community.” Br. Zachary served as the director of monastery vocations for the past eight years and recently became the vocations socius, coordinating visits of vocation guests to the monastery.

In the afternoon, there will be an opportunity to tour the Abbey Caskets workshop, followed by confessions in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.

Archbishop Patrick Pinder, from the Archdiocese of Nassau, Bahamas, celebrating his 50th anniversary with the College Class of 1975, will preside over the Alumni Reunion Mass. Archbishop Pinder graduated from St. Augustine’s College (Nassau) in 1971 and entered seminary at Saint Meinrad the same year. He was ordained a priest in 1980. In 1988, he completed his Doctor of Sacred Theology at The Catholic University of America and later that year was appointed rector of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Archbishop Pinder was appointed Moderator of The Curia and Vicar for Pastoral Affairs in 1997 and was invested

as a Chaplain of His Holiness with the title ‘Monsignor’ in 1999. In 2002, he was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese. His episcopal ordination took place on August 15th, 2003; the same date he was ordained a priest in 1980. He was appointed Archbishop by Pope John Paul II and installed as Archbishop of Nassau on May 4, 2004.

During the reunion banquet, Fr. Denis will present the Distinguished Alumnus Award, honoring Dan Conway, O’76, (’67-’75), of Louisville, KY. See page 14 to read more about Dan.

On Wednesday, guests attending the Louisville Bourbon Experience will depart at 7:45 a.m. Transportation from Saint Meinrad will be provided. They will be touring the following: Kentucky Peerless Distilling Co., Evan Williams Bourbon Experience, and Kentucky Artisan Distillery.

Reunion details and updates can be found at <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu> and on the alumni Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni). ✚



[Meet the Student]

# Felix Pesce

Diocese: Diocese of Memphis, TN

Hometown: Memphis, TN

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

The source of my attraction is Jesus Christ. It wasn't until I began going to daily Mass in 2017 that I really started discerning God's will for my life. When I was younger, I suffered from depression and severe anxiety. I tried to escape through reckless living and working long hours. I was investing my energy into gaining earthly rewards, receiving only cycles of despair in return. I realized God was calling me to use my struggles to help those who are less fortunate find peace and a path to eternal happiness. With the grace of God, I hope that I can demonstrate the eternal rewards to be more attractive, so they can find peace through Jesus Christ.

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

There is a priest in my diocese who always reminded me of his prayers for my vocation. In 2013, when I started bringing communion to shut-ins and the sick, I was often told that I would make a great priest. Not feeling worthy and thinking self-indulgence was the key to a good life, I ignored them. In 2016, I made an Italian pilgrimage called "La Via Di Francesco" where I backpacked from Assisi to Rome visiting all the significant places concerning St. Francis. I was intrigued by the way he gave up everything he had to follow Christ by serving others. The St. Francis pilgrimage showed me that a purposeful life was the key to a life well-lived.

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

I was born and raised in Memphis, TN, where I attended Catholic schools with my three siblings. After graduating from the University of Memphis, I ran my family's neighborhood grocery store, Granny's Market. It was a fitting career for me because I had always thrived on hard work and long hours, mainly to escape from having to deal with what a mess I was on the inside. The economy tanked in 2006, and by 2012, we were forced to close the store. With the free time I suddenly had, I began to volunteer for ministries at my parish. My favorite ministry was (and still is) bringing the Eucharist to shut-ins and those sick in the hospital. I also did volunteer work at Catholic Charities for a few years. In 2014, I started my own personal training business, "Personal Training by Felix," until I entered the seminary in 2020.

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

Oh my gosh, there are so many GOATs it's hard to pinpoint a favorite. I really love St. Augustine and Pope John Paul II, but the one I have really been connecting with lately is Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini. She was an Italian immigrant like my dad and grandparents. Her unfailing persistence, strength, determination, and courage to rise against all of the social mores of her time and fight to save immigrants from being decimated really put her on a pedestal for me. The scope of her work reached all corners of the world, starting hospitals, missions, and schools for the underserved communities. Truly amazing!

**Q.** *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*  
Psalms 118:8-9

"Better to take refuge in the Lord than to put one's trust in mortals. Better to take refuge in the Lord than to put one's trust in princes."

In the last decade or so it seems that we have made politicians into veritable demigods. We have handed them power over our emotional well-being, and they always end up disappointing us. Putting our trust in the Lord is guaranteed to never disappoint. He may not always give us what we want, but he will always give us what we need. And the rewards are eternal.

**Q.** *Hobbies?*

My hobbies are weight training and reading.

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

Being affiliated with a good group of men that share a positive vision of where I want my life to go. The more I learn about my faith, the more I fall in love with my faith.

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

The obvious answer one might expect is that I'm twice the age of most of the other seminarians. But alas, no! We are all on the same journey supporting one another. If anything, academics are challenging, but in a good way. It motivates me to know that I can use my seminary education to better defend my faith.

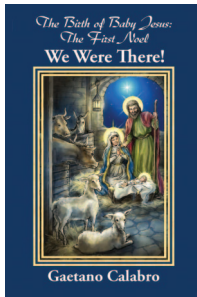
**Q.** *Best advice you've heard in seminary?*

Own your own baggage. If you don't own it, then you can't fix it. ✝



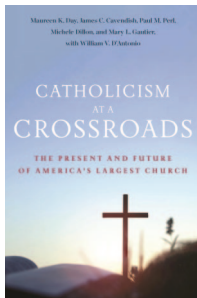
# Turning the Page: A Showcase of Alumni Authors

Several members of the Saint Meinrad alumni community recently published books. From children's books to daily devotionals and research driven works, these authors have shared their unique perspectives and talents with readers.



**Mr. Guy Calabro, O'63 ('51-53)**, published *The Birth of Baby Jesus: The First Noel – We Were There!*, a unique retelling of the birth of Jesus Christ in the town of Bethlehem from the perspective

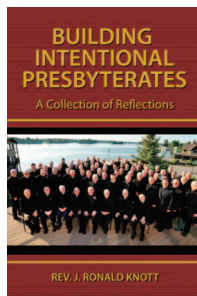
of the angels and animals present for the first Noel. The book is available on Amazon.



**Mr. James Cavendish, C'89 ('85-89)**, co-authored *Catholicism at a Crossroads: The Present and Future of America's Largest Church*. The latest in a series of important sociological

overviews drawing on nation-wide surveys administered every six years, *Catholicism at a Crossroads* charts a new era of Catholic worship, belonging, and identity in America today. Augmenting the survey data for the first time with over 50 interviews with lay and ordained U.S. Catholic leaders, the book illustrates how the Church has adapted to Pope Francis' modern papacy, the rise of religious non-affiliation, and various demographic

changes including an increasing Hispanic population. The book is available on Amazon.



**Rev. J. Ronald Knott, O'70 ('64-70)**, published *Building Intentional Presbyterates: A Collection of Reflections*.

*Presbyterates: A Collection of Reflections*, in December. The book is a collection of presentations, published magazine articles, and addresses given by Father Knott to various presbyterates and Church organizations in the United States and abroad expanding on the subjects discussed in his first book, *Intentional Presbyterates: Claiming our Common Sense of Purpose as Diocesan Priests*. The book is available on Amazon.



**Major John Schubring, C'82 ('79-82)**, published a book titled *Fight for the Heart of Westpoint: Duty and Honor vs. NCAA Football* on November 7, 2024.

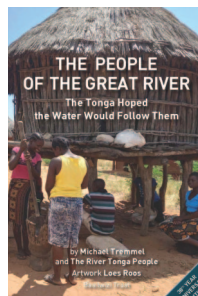
This book attempts to answer the question: How does NCAA college football affect honor, character, and academic rigor of cadets and their long-term service as officers in the U.S. Army? It is available on Amazon.



**Mr. Alfred Smith, O'58 ('50-54)**, published a daily devotional titled *Up Against the Wall: A Daily Devotional Shining Light on Your Dark Times*. You will find stories of hope and prayers of power

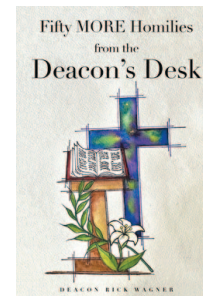
that will shine light on your dark times. All of us face seemingly impossible situations. And yet, a subtle reminder of God's strength or a prompt to reflect on

His faithfulness is all it takes to keep us moving forward. The book is available on Amazon.



**Mr. Mike Tremmel, O'78, ('70-74)**, of Atlanta, GA, was a missionary in

Zimbabwe from 1986-94 and wrote a book, *The People of the Great River*, to document the stories of 17 elders who were among those displaced from their village along the Zambezi River. He also started a nonprofit called the Tonga Literacy Project ([tongalp.org](http://tongalp.org)) to publish books and raise funds to educate young people in Zimbabwe.



**Dcn. Rick Wagner, PDF'12 ('08-12)**, published *Fifty More Homilies from the Deacon's Desk* in 2024. Dcn. Rick believes Scripture-based homilies should focus on one or more of the following:

instruction, inspiration, or practical application. His homilies capture the joys and challenges of being a husband, father, and educator. He embraces his role as an evangelist and encourages all the faithful to do the same. *Fifty More Homilies* is available at [www.deaconrickbooks.com](http://www.deaconrickbooks.com) and on Amazon. ✚



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# DISTINGUISHED

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## Alumnus

Dan Conway

### From a Benedictine Foundation to a Mission of Stewardship

**Dan Conway, O'76 ('67-75)**, stepped on the Hill for the first time as a college freshman in 1967. Over the next 20 years, the Benedictine community, its traditions, the education he received, and the people he encountered would shape the course of his life and career.

On August 5, Conway will be recognized at the Alumni Reunion banquet as this year's Distinguished Alumnus. His career has been dedicated to supporting and advancing the Church's mission, particularly in Christian stewardship. He has worked as a development officer, consultant, speaker, and author, primarily serving dioceses, religious communities, seminaries, and Catholic institutions. Since 2019, he has continued this work as an independent consultant and freelance writer.

"He has not only worked in Christian stewardship for nearly 50 years; he has taught it, written about it, counseled

others about it, and most importantly, lived it," says Dan Schipp, former vice president for development at Saint Meinrad.

Before Conway became a leader in Christian stewardship, he was a young college freshman studying English at Saint Meinrad. He went on to spend time in the monastery and School of Theology before working in the Development Office for eight years.

"Even though it became clear during my time at Saint Meinrad that I did not have a monastic vocation or a vocation of the priesthood, the way of life that's lived there really did form me," he says. "Everything that I have, and everything that I've done or accomplished since I left Saint Meinrad, was made possible by the formation there."

The literary and liberal arts education he received in the College taught him how to

think critically and write. The education he received in the School of Theology was equally formative, but in a specialized way, so that his whole career has been focused on the Church. And his work in the Development Office taught him planning and discipline, skills he later used while working with dioceses, religious communities, and seminaries across the country.

"You could say that I work in secular fields—the development and communications fields—but my emphasis, and certainly all of my writing, is strongly influenced by the studies I did at Saint Meinrad in theology," he explains.

In his work for the Development Office, he served as director of planned giving, director of development, and as vice president for development when his predecessor, John MacCauley retired. He carried on MacCauley's vision of



development that integrated communications.

“[Conway] institutionalized a ‘philosophy of development’ based on articulating a vision, communicating Saint Meinrad’s values-centered story, and inviting support that has continued to serve Saint Meinrad well to this day,” says Schipp.

The idea of stewardship was first introduced to Conway by colloques at other seminaries while serving on the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) Development and Institutional Advancement Program Committee.

In 1988, he began working as the chief planning and development officer for the

carrying the stewardship message,” he says.

Conway is unique among those who teach stewardship because he also has a professional fundraising perspective. Throughout his career, he has taught that the spirituality of stewardship needs to be integrated with the practice of professional fundraising.

“The more we understand that everything we have and everything we are is a pure gift from God, and the more we recognize that our role is to share generously the gifts that God has shared generously with us, the happier we are, and the less we are burdened by obligations, anxieties, and fears,” he says. “Stewardship is a form of

writer of *Stewardship and Development in Catholic Parishes and Dioceses*, a resource manual for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Conway’s lifelong dedication to teaching and promoting Christian stewardship is deeply rooted in the formation, education, and Benedictine influence he received at Saint Meinrad—a place that shaped his understanding of mission and prepared him to be sent out into the world.

“Although I would say I loved it at Saint Meinrad, I wasn’t called to stay there,” explains Conway. “I was called to go there and be formed so that I could be sent out. It’s very much like the Mass. We come together, we experience the body

*“I was called to come here and be formed here so that I could be sent out. It’s very much like the Mass. We come together, we experience the body and blood of Christ, we receive Christ, and then He sends us out.”*

Archdiocese of Louisville. As he met with pastors in the diocese, they told him they wanted a stewardship program. Conway created a committee of priests and laypeople in the diocese to research what was being done in other locations. From that research, he developed a stewardship education program. He went on to do the same in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Archdiocese of Chicago before being hired at a national consulting firm and creating stewardship programs for dioceses nationwide.

In the late 1980s, early 1990s, Conway served as an advisor to an ad hoc committee created by the U.S. bishops to study the issue of stewardship, working closely with Archbishop Thomas Murphy of the Archdiocese of Seattle, who was passionate about stewardship. They traveled across the country and gave talks together on the subject.

“When I did my own consulting work, in my own way, and since then, I’ve tried to carry on what Archbishop Murphy began,

spirituality that’s particularly appropriate for us laypeople, and it gives us a way to live that experiences the joy of the Gospel.”

In addition to speaking engagements, Conway has taught stewardship as an internationally recognized author, publisher, and freelance writer. Since 1988, he has written more than 200 articles and published four books on the theology and practice of Christian Stewardship: *Advancing the Mission of the Church*; *What Do I Own and What Owns Me?: A Spirituality of Stewardship*; *Stewardship in America*; and *Stewards of Joy*. He has also published *A Communion of Saints: Dreams of Happiness on the Road to Life*, *The Benedictine Way*, and four books of historical fiction centered on the life and ministry of a Sicilian American priest in St. Louis, Monsignor Salvatore E. Polizzi (aka Fr. Turiddu).

He helped develop *The Case for Investment in Theological Education*, an ATS publication, and was the principal

and blood of Christ, we receive Christ, and then He sends us out.” ✚

## Save the Date! Alumni Dinners

**August 12**

**Fort Wayne/South Bend**

Swan Lake Resort and Conference Center –  
Plymouth, IN

**September 4**

**Evansville**

The Bauerhaus – Evansville, IN

**September 9**

**Louisville**

The Foundry – Jeffersonville, IN

**October 14**

**Indianapolis**

Ritz Charles – Carmel, IN

**November 13**

**Local**

Saint Meinrad Archabbey – St. Meinrad, IN







*Photos, opposite page, from top, left to right: Br. John Black, Dcn. Nick Biever, Br. Elias Bar-Shimon, and fellow graduates sing during graduation Mass on December 6; Ronald Romm of The Romm Trio band talks about having a musical career and gives trumpet tips to Taylor Hagman during a workshop for musicians at Saint Meinrad on September 14; A snow and ice storm hit southern Indiana on Sunday, January 5, 2025, leaving a blanket of snow over Saint Meinrad; Alison Altstatt sings from a large 17th-century manuscript during the winter chant workshop on January 23; Br. Ambrose Brahm, OSB, watches the sunset from the slype before processing into the Archabbey Church to profess his simple vows on January 20.*

*Photos, this page, from top, left to right: Thirty-five alumni and friends helped make beds at Sleep in Heavenly Peace in Evansville during the Saint Meinrad Day of Service on March 8; Mason Bailey and Br. Agustin Lopez, OSB, learn how to make a Mediterranean salad during a cooking class on January 9; Joseph Tuttle and fellow seminarians enjoy the snow by sledding on the hills at Saint Meinrad on January 8; Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, sprinkles holy water on the graves in the Archabbey Cemetery on All Souls Day. Br. Michael Reyes, OSB, assists.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Mr. T. Michael Egan, C'71 ('63-69)** and **Mr. Paul Gabonay C'71 ('67-71)** are pleased to announce the kickoff event of All Things Spiritual (ATS), an initiative begun in 2023 to honor the Rev. Noah J. Casey, a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis who died July 10, 2015. A prayer service, luncheon, and free concert by singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer with pianist Gary Walters is slated for Friday, June 27, 2025, at Marian University in Indianapolis. For details on ATS and how to make a reservation for this tenth anniversary program, contact Mike or Paul at [egan3912@att.net](mailto:egan3912@att.net) and [gabonay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gabonay@sbcglobal.net).

**Mr. Mark Erdosy, MTS'95, ('93-95)**, gave two retreat talks for the parish

volunteers of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Indianapolis, IN, on February 8, 2025. The talks were titled, "Bread of Life: How the Eucharist is the Beginning of a New Life in Christ" and "Becoming Eucharistic People: 7 Steps to Become What You Receive."

**Mr. Mike Magre, GTP'23, ('19-23)**, of Louisville, KY; a counselor, teacher, and coach at Trinity High School, received the Irene Casey Catholic Inclusion Award.

**Dcn. Tony Peters, PD'23, ('19-21)**, was appointed by Missouri's four Catholic Bishops to the Public Policy Committee of the Missouri Catholic Conference.

Over the next three years, he will serve as a consultant on public policy in the Missouri State Legislature, working closely with the bishops to advocate for policies that align with the teachings and values of the Catholic Church.

**Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, O'82 ('78-82)**, of Indianapolis, IN, was named the Distinguished Alumni Honoree on October 25, 2024, at the Marian University Gala.

**Sr. Rita Ann Wigginton, OSU, MTS'04 ('98-03)**, of Louisville, KY, was inducted into the Holy Cross High School Hall of Fame in November 2024. ✚

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Dr. W. Nicholas Abraham, PhD, O'82 ('78-81)**, of Baton Rouge, LA, died on September 28, 2024.

**Mr. Gerald "Jerry" R. Apple, O'61, ('49-50)**, of Jasper, IN, died on September 11, 2024.

**Mr. Philip D. Bellini, O'70 ('58-66)**, of Rock Falls, IL, died on September 1, 2024.

**Mr. Lee C. Berg Jr., T'90, ('85-87)**, of Owensboro, KY, died on January 11, 2025.

**Mr. August J. "Gus" Blaxton, O'82, ('77-82)**, of Evansville, IN, died on October 22, 2024.

**Mr. Francis G. Boone, O'69, ('63-64)**, of Howardstown, KY, died on April 6, 2013.

**Mr. Joseph E. Brian, O'54, ('50-52)**, of Louisville, KY, died on November 9, 2022.

**Fr. Michael O. Brown, O'74, ('70-74)**, of Toledo, OH, died on October 27, 2024.

**Fr. Richard "Dick" Brunskill, O'83, ('78-83)**, of Piper City, IL, died on January 18, 2022.

**Mr. Clarence B. Buechler, O'56, ('44-48)**, of Celestine, IN, died on January 19, 2025.

**Fr. James A. Coriden, O'58, ('52-54)**, of Washington, D.C., died on February 7, 2025.

**Dcn. Carl C. Crump, PD'04, ('00-04)**, of Baltimore, MD, died on January 20, 2023.

**Br. Charles M. Cully, C.F.X., S'96**, of Catonsville, MD, died on January 11, 2021.

**Dcn. William E. Curry Jr., DP'22, ('18-22)**, of Fayetteville, AR, died on October 28, 2024.

**Mr. Charles Daczkowski, O'69, ('57-59)**, of Irwin, PA, died on September 20, 2022.

**Fr. Frederick J. Denison, O'73, ('61-73)**, of Brandenburg, KY, died on May 18, 2024.

**Mr. James "Jim" E. Dowling, O'60, ('48-51)**, Indianapolis, IN, died on January 25, 2023.

**Mr. Edward C. "Charles" Eckman, O'55, ('43-47)**, of Fishers, IN, died on September 24, 2024.

**Mr. William H. Eisenbart, O'69, ('57-58)**, of Bethel, AK, died in 2021.

**Mr. John R. Engbers, O'64, ('52-57)**, of Margate, FL, died on August 9, 2024.

**Mr. John M. Findley, O'60 ('48-50)**, of West Lafayette, IN, died on March 15, 2024.

**Dr. Eric J. Fitch C'81, ('77-81)**, of Marietta, OH, died on June 24, 2024.

**Mr. Roger Gerdes, C'72, ('64-65)**, of Griffith, IN, died on December 4, 2023.

**Mr. James D. Gilbert, O'57, ('51-57)**, of Madison, MS, died on November 11, 2019.

**Fr. Thomas J. Gorman III, O'59, ('53-55)**, of Grand Rapids, OH, died on November 12, 2023.

**Mr. Vincent Grenough, O'57, ('53-57)**, of River Falls, WI, died on January 10, 2025.

**Mr. Michael C. Griswold, O'57, ('49-50)**, of Toledo, OH, died on October 12, 2017.

**Dcn. Donald M. Hammond, PD'04, ('00-04)**, of Radford, VA, died on December 31, 2022.

**Mr. Paul Louis Harpenau, O'61, ('49-62)**, of Louisville, KY, died on October 19, 2024.

**Sr. Jane K. Hassett, CSJ, S'96**, of St. Louis, MO, died on December 29, 2024.

**Mr. Terrance G. Hawkins, T'97, ('92-94)**, of Weatherford, OK, died on December 30, 2024.

**Fr. Thomas Heier, CMM, O'58, ('51-58)**, of Dearborn Heights, MI, died on May 6, 2023.

**Mr. Erwin "Paul" Hoeing, O'68, ('56-61)**, of Winston Salem, NC, died on January 16, 2024.

**Mr. Gary Allan Jerde, C'76, ('72)**, of Ottawa, IL, died on October 27, 2021.



**Dcn. Wesley H. Jones, PD'08, ('04-08)**, of Albuquerque, NM, died on June 23, 2024.

**Fr. Kenneth W. "Ken" Kelly, O'79, ('71-79)**, of Olathe, KS, died on August 21, 2024.

**Dr. Sylvester "Sy" Kreilein, O'65, ('53-61)**, of Wauwatosa, WI, died on June 19, 2024.

**Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" Kulas Jr., O'69, ('57-59)**, of West Mifflin, PA, died in January 2001.

**Fr. James J. Lambert, O'80, ('76-80)**, of Port St. Joe, FL, died on July 18, 2023.

**Mr. Thomas G. Lauck, C'69, ('65-67)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 28, 2024.

**Mr. Ronald G. Lebangood, O'68, ('62)**, of Louisville, KY, died on May 4, 2023.

**Br. Mark Ligett, OFM, SS'90, ('85-90)**, of Easton, PA, died on January 21, 2025.

**Mr. Stephen Ludwig, O'72, ('60-70)**, of Cedar Grove, IN, died on September 27, 2024.

**Mr. Ronald J. "Ron" Magness, O'67, ('55-56)**, of Prospect, KY, died on November 18, 2024.

**Fr. Ramon Marrufo, O'76, ('72-76)**, of Fallbrook, CA, died on November 15, 2023.

**Dcn. Michael Moro, PD'03, ('99-03)**, of Virginia Beach, VA, died on February 23, 2020.

**Mrs. Patricia Norris, SS'89, ('89)**, of Louisville, KY, died on October 25, 2024.

**Fr. Robert Ponticello, O'82, ('79-82)**, of Bartlett, TN, died on October 28, 2024.

**Mr. Eugene P. Poulin Sr., O'56, ('45-50)**, of Downers Grove, IL, died on February 16, 2024.

**Mmgr. Bernard A. Powers, O'52, ('41-46)**, of Owensboro, KY, died on October 25, 2024.

**Fr. Richard W. Puetz, O'45, ('39-44)**, of Delphi, IN, died on November 18, 2024.

**Mr. Michael D. Roberts, O'69, ('57-63)**, of Lacey, WA, died on May 18, 2022.

**Dcn. Robert E. "Bob" Russell, PD'16, ('12-16)**, of Jackson, TN, died on January 15, 2024.

**Mr. David B. Rust, T'04, ('99-04)**, of Cave City, KY, died on September 10, 2024.

**Mr. Kevin P. Ryan, C'93, ('89-92)**, of Worcester, MA, died on August 9, 2024.

**Fr. Adam Schmitt, O'57, ('51-57)**, of Fort Wayne, IN, died on November 4, 2024.

**Mr. Branden W. Schrader, PD'23, ('19-23)**, of Mount Vernon, IL, died on January 26, 2023.

**Mr. Frank J. Shepherd Sr., O'75, ('68-70)**, of Dubuque, IA, died on November 6, 2024.

**Mr. Joseph P. Sponn, O'66, ('54-55)**, of Washington, IN, died on September 24, 2023.

**Mr. Thomas J. Tucker, O'67, ('55-58)**, of Washington, IN, died on October 20, 2024.

**Mr. Cyril De Vlieghe, O'58 ('52-57)**, of Mishawaka, IN, died on December 17, 2024.

**Dr. J. Barry Weber, O'67, ('59-63)**, of Wataga, IL, died on December 6, 2020.

**Mr. Philip L. Wichman, O'71, ('59-61)**, of Washington, IN, died on January 6, 2025.

**Mr. Randall D. Wiesemann, C'71, ('68-71)**, of Lindenhurst, IL, died on August 22, 2021.

**Dr. John W. Williams, GTP'03, ('00-02)**, of Greenfield, IN, died on October 13, 2020.

**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 ✝

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## Alumni Outreach: A New Approach, A Stronger Connection

This year, Alumni Outreach, formally known as the Phonathon, looked a little different. Previously, all seminarians would man the phones for a few hours of calling alumni over six evenings in February and March.

The outreach program was redesigned this year to give seminarians an option of calling alumni or connecting with alumni through personally written letters. Phone calls were made over two evenings in February.

The result was a very successful inaugural Alumni Outreach. Students spoke with

more than 182 people and received gifts and pledges totaling more than \$32,365. In addition, alumni made 29 pledges of unspecified amounts. Gifts in response to the seminarians' letters are continuing to come in.

Throughout the two evenings, the students talked with alumni from all over the country. The seminarians left phone messages with those they couldn't reach and on days following both call evenings, a good number of alumni returned calls to Saint Meinrad to make a gift.

"I am always encouraged by the generosity of our alumni, and more than that, I am grateful to see our seminarians connect with our alumni over their appreciation of Saint Meinrad," said Tim Florian, director of annual giving.

Gifts to the Alumni Outreach help fund classroom instruction, financial aid, spiritual formation programs, ministry opportunities, library resources, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Alumni can make gifts to the 2024-25 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit [donate.saintmeinrad.edu](https://donate.saintmeinrad.edu). ✝

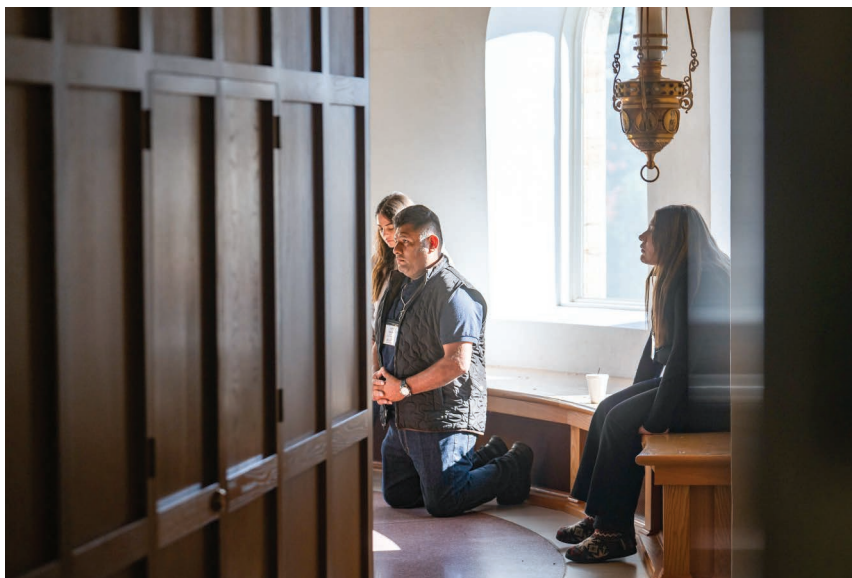


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*Photos, from top, left to right: Fr. Martin Estrada led Holy Hour after Mass in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel during the Catechist Formation in Spanish event on October 26; Young adults pray in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Archabbey Church during the Young Adult Initiative Fall Gathering. Photo taken by Keys and Cross Media; Ana Perez, director of the Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry, leads a cooking class in the St. John Vianney Center on November 16; Br. Gregory Morris, OSB, hugs his mother during the sign of peace after professing his solemn vows on January 25.*