

ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2025 • VOL. 64:2



Saint Meinrad

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Cover Photo: The Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry held a live Via Crucis in St. Bede Theater on April 4. The role of Jesus was played by seminarian Joseph Lamontagne.

Monks' Personals

Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa gave a conference to the American Benedictine Academy on March 22 as a part of its Spring 2025 Liturgy Speaker Series.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski organized an international conference on the philosophy of St. Edith Stein at Catholic University of America, July 11-13.

Fr. Eugene Hensell conducted a Scripture program for laity and clergy in Nassau, Bahamas, April 6 -15.

Br. John Glasenapp published an epilogue, "Living the Hours" in *Books of Hours, Books of Hope: Medieval Readers and Their Books of Hours*, a volume accompanying an exhibition at the Groeningemuseum in Bruges, Belgium.

Fr. Adrian Burke preached a retreat for the permanent deacons of the Archdiocese of St. Louis in May, in St. Louis, MO.

Fr. Luke Waugh was appointed pastor of St. Augustine Parish in Leopold, IN, Holy Cross Parish in St. Croix, IN, and St. Isidore the Farmer Parish in Perry County in May.

Fr. Simon Herrmann gave a conference entitled "Hope through the Benedictine Lens" to the Bloomington oblates on March 6.

Fr. Harry Hagan wrote new hymns for St. Meinrad and St. Benedict which the community sang on their feast days.

Br. Martin Erspamer has been commissioned to design the stained-glass windows for the new Jesuit Residence at St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO.

Fr. Godfrey Mullen was elected diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Belleville, IL. He will be responsible for leading the diocese until Pope Leo XIV appoints the 10th Bishop of Belleville.

Br. James Jensen completed a graduate certificate in philanthropic studies and will begin coursework for the Professional Doctorate in Philanthropic Leadership (PhilD) this fall at the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy in Indianapolis.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak gave a study day on the Sacrament of Reconciliation to the priests in the Diocese of Des Moines, IA, in March.

Br. Jean Fish was a featured artist at Arrowmont Gallery & Marketplace in Knoxville, TN, in March.

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

Fr. Prior Bede Cisco began work as director of retreat programs for Saint Meinrad on July 1. ✚



Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, celebrates jubilee

The Right Reverend Kurt Stasiak, OSB, archabbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, observed his 50th anniversary of monastic profession during Mass on Sunday, May 25.

He was elected the 10th abbot and seventh archabbot on June 2, 2016. Archabbot Kurt, 72, served as prior, second in monastery leadership, of Saint Meinrad Archabbey from July 9, 2010, until his election as abbot.

Born in Rüdeshim, Germany, on October 9, 1952, Archabbot Kurt professed vows as a Benedictine monk on August 15, 1975, and was ordained a priest on April 27, 1980. He received a Bachelor of Science in biology from Saint Meinrad College in 1974 and a Master of Divinity in 1980 from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

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

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

From 1986-90, he taught sacramental theology in the School and was assistant to the novice/junior master in the monastery. Also during that time, he served as secretary to the archabbot (1986-89) and as vocation director for the monastery (1986-90 and 1992-98).

Archabbot Kurt taught sacramental/liturgical theology in the Seminary and School of Theology from 1986-2016. For 10 years, he also served as the director of spiritual formation.

Other assignments have included provost-vice rector of the School of Theology (2005-08) and chair of the Archabbey Church Renovation Committee (1993-97).

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

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

Smugmug

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

saint-meinrad.smugmug.com

Fr. Michael Reyes, OSB, ordained priest at Saint Meinrad Archabbey



Fr. Michael Reyes, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest on June 8, 2025, by the Most Rev. Charles C. Thompson, archbishop of the Archdiocese of

Indianapolis. The ordination was held in Saint Meinrad's Archabbey Church.

Fr. Michael, 48, is a native of Manila, Philippines. 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 received 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. In December 2024, he graduated with a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

He professed solemn vows as a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in a ceremony on January 25, 2023. He serves as director of Benedictine Oblates of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and director of Saint Meinrad Cultural Events. ✝

35 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 10. Dr. Clayton Jefford, professor of Scripture at Saint Meinrad, gave the address.

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

Mason Bailey, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN;
Aidan Hauersperger and Seth Hickey, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN;
Brother Stephen Johnson, OSB, Assumption Abbey, MO;
Brother Agustin Lopez Gonzalez, OSB, Prince of Peace Abbey, CA;
Lucas Nicholas III, Archdiocese of Mobile, AL;
Benjamin Seago, Diocese of Amarillo, TX;

Thanh Cong Tran and Thien Thanh Vu, Diocese of Hanoi, Vietnam;
Steven Wilson, Diocese of Little Rock, AR.

Receiving Master of Arts (Theology) degrees were:

Nicole Bakos, Birch Run, MI;
Christopher P. Collins, Independence, KY;
Jacob Christopher Condi, Diocese of Manchester, NH;
Amy L. Cox, Mt. Juliet, TN;
Alexander Guy French, Morganfield, KY;
Christopher John French, Bowling Green, KY;
Steven Kurt Hopf, Jasper, IN;
Tammy M. Kessler, Louisville, KY;
John Matthew Knight, Owensboro, KY;
Kristin Lynne Koehl, Evansville, IN;
Stephen Robert Lawrence, Reno, NV;

Deacon Byron Heath Newton, Diocese of Little Rock, AR;
Sister Becky Mathauer, OSB, Ferdinand, IN;
Bertha Alicia Melendres, Evansville, IN;
Daniel R. Ott, Diocese of Nashville, TN;
Patrick Owings, Diocese of Nashville, TN;
Deacon Mark Aloysius Preischel, Archdiocese of Louisville, KY;
James Roger Quinby Jr., Diocese of Nashville, TN;
James M. Rose, Diocese of Nashville, TN;
Elizabeth Schrader, Mt. Vernon, IN;
Adriana I. Sheridan, Petersburg, IN;
Kristen M. Templin, Albers, IL;
Joseph Michael Tuttle, Diocese of Springfield, IL;
Deacon Angelo Volpi, Diocese of Little Rock, AR;
Deacon Edward J. Walker, Diocese of Evansville, IN. ✝



Left: Kristin Koehl embraces her son after graduation on May 10. Right: Amy Cox, left, and Christopher French, right, converse with fellow graduates before processing to St. Bede Theater for commencement on May 10.

Conference on polarization scheduled for November

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology will present a conference on polarization, titled “Deepening Communion in a Polarized World,” at Saint Meinrad on November 4-6, 2025.

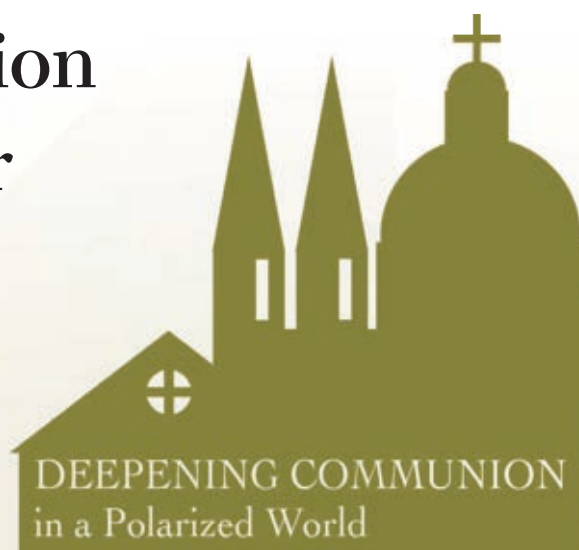
Designed for Catholic theologians, students of theology, and Church leaders, this convocation brings together recognized leaders from differing perspectives to model healthy discourse, seek common ground, and make recommendations for how to build unity in a deeply divided Church.

Among the workshop topics will be: Deepening Communion in the Catholic Hierarchy, Deepening Communion through Catholic Media, Deepening Communion in the Implementation of Vatican II, and Deepening Communion in the Liturgy.

The conference speakers will include:

- Fr. Aaron Wessman, GHM, Ph.D., Vicar General, 1st Vice-President, and Director of Formation for the Glenmary Home Missioners;
- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Archbishop of Newark;

- Most Rev. Paul Etienne, D.D., S.T.L., Archbishop of Seattle;
- Jeanette De Melo, Strategic Initiatives Director for EWTN News;
- José Manuel De Urquidi, Founder of the Evangelization Lab, Juan Diego & Co, and the Juan Diego Network;
- J.D. Long García, Senior Editor at America Media;
- Jennifer Newsome Martin, Associate Professor, Department of Theology and Program of Liberal Studies at University of Notre Dame;
- Richard Lennan, Ph.D., Professor of Systematic Theology at Clough School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College;
- Dr. William H. Johnston, Professor of Religious Studies at University of Dayton;
- Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, Ph.D., Theologian, Composer, and Missionary;
- Nathaniel Marx, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental



Theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The conference facilitators will be Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, and Amy Uelmen, SJD, Georgetown University Law Center.

To get more information about the program, fees, and registration, visit the website at <https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/graduate-theology/formation-workshops/conferences/>. ✚



[Meet the Student]

Michael Hickey

Hometown: Fort Wayne, IN

Diocese: Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

What first attracted me to the priesthood was watching the priest at Mass when I was a kid. I always wondered what he was doing up there. I began altar serving in seventh grade and was able to get closer to the altar and see for myself what was happening.

Additionally, being surrounded by many great priests as role models made the priesthood attractive. I remember seeing their love for Jesus, the Mass, and the people. I saw something there that I desired, and it was rooted in Jesus.

I was also attracted to the priesthood because of its service aspect. I have always enjoyed helping people, and it gives me life to do so. I saw all this in the priesthood, and the question popped into my head: *Could I do that someday?*

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

I have two distinct moments—what I call my “first loves”—when I had clarity that, *yeah, maybe this priesthood thing really could be for me.*

The first moment was at my home parish, St. John the Baptist in Fort Wayne. I was in a side room of our adoration chapel when a woman walked in. The only words out of her mouth were, “I am lost.” After some time talking, she revealed that she had been going through a very low point in her faith (she was not Catholic). I invited her to Mass and walked her over to the church, where she sat in a pew while I ran up to go serve for Mass.

I couldn’t tell you anything about that Mass because I was

consumed with a burning desire to invite her to become Catholic. After Mass, I met her again and extended the invitation. She broke down crying, and I introduced her to Father so they could talk. Then, Father handed me his stole. Maybe it was just for me to take back to the sacristy, but I saw it as a symbol of the priesthood. Inviting people to the faith is what priests do.

The second moment happened when I was working for a hospital police department. One evening, a woman came into triage having a psychotic break. She was crying and yelling, clutching her service dog so tightly that it began yelping. More officers arrived as we tried to take control of the situation and free the dog from her grasp.

She was scared and crying out, “Will you pray with me?” No one responded—then she looked at me and asked if I would pray with her. She wanted to pray the Our Father. As we began praying out loud together, she became calm and docile. We freed the dog and brought her back to the ER. I held her hand as we slowly walked to her room, praying the Our Father while the other officers followed.

Once in the room, she became agitated and scared again. I asked if she knew the

Memorare prayer. She didn’t, so I prayed it over her, slowly and prayerfully. She told me not to stop because it was soothing to hear the words. I can still see her radiant, peaceful face in my mind—the power of prayer is real. She was then moved to another unit to receive treatment.

In both situations, I felt a deep openness and attraction to the priesthood. Just as a police officer is called to protect and serve, so too is a priest. I saw that parallel in my experiences, and it ultimately led me to seminary.

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

Before entering seminary, I was a public safety officer for Parkview Health Police Department, working evening and night shifts. My role involved helping visitors, patients, and staff in any way that contributed to a safe and effective healing environment.

Whether it was comforting families during difficult moments, responding to a crime in progress, cleaning vomit from a wheelchair, or handcuffing a suspect, my day was never short of thrilling!

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

There are so many to choose from! Besides the Blessed Mother, I would say my favorite is St. Thérèse of Lisieux. She knocked down the door to my life during a retreat in my first year of seminary. Before that, I hadn’t thought much about her, but her life story is so compelling – it makes her a great role model. She is so awesome! I love her “Little Way” and her model of love and charity in the midst of life’s challenges.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

1 Peter 1:6-9. This passage reminds me that we will still have challenges to face in our lives, but we should rejoice in them. For

through the challenges, we are tested, just like fire-tried gold. Our faith is more precious than gold, and through our challenges, we attain the goal of our faith: our salvation!

Q. Hobbies?

I enjoy listening to music and playing the bass guitar. I also really enjoy stargazing and astronomy (science in general). Additionally, I also like spending time with friends and family, target shooting, and watching sci-fi movies and documentaries.

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

The most rewarding aspect of seminary life is sharing it with a great group of guys who are all working for the same thing! It has been a great pleasure to share this seminary journey with these men and continue that into my priesthood. A close second would be our ministry days, because they allow us

to “go out into the world” and practice what we preach.

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

The most challenging aspect is probably the academics. It is not a bad thing, but it challenges us to dive deeper into our faith. While challenging, the academics have often been rewarding, providing opportunities for contemplation and reflection during my Holy Hour.

One of my favorite things is going from a great class straight to Mass. We get to study the truths of the faith and then see it in practice in the Holy Mass!

Q. Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?

Don’t rush seminary. We may be eager to get out into the parish right now, but we are not in seminary to be ordained tomorrow.

The seminary is a seedbed. Just as a seed takes time to be nourished and developed, seminary is a place to cherish the experiences, prayer, relationships, events, and yes—even the classes. Take time to embrace seminary and really enter into it, because how you are here is how you will be as a priest.

Q. Other comments?

I spent two years of my formation at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, and was surprised to be sent to Saint Meinrad (I didn’t even know where it was!). I absolutely loved my time at the Mount, but since being here at Saint Meinrad for two years, I have really experienced the Benedictine spirituality that has formed so many great priests. I would like to thank all the priests, formators, teachers, monks, staff, and seminarians who make this place so special. ✚

Stay Connected: Resources and Support for Saint Meinrad Alumni

The Archabbey Library:

The Archabbey Library continues to make valuable literary resources available to Saint Meinrad alumni.

Two large databases of journalistic literature, AtlaSerials Plus and JSTOR, provide a wide array of articles from journals and magazines on every imaginable topic relating to religion, theology, and biblical studies.

The Archabbey Library also makes e-book collections available for alumni. Two collections are from Cambridge University Press: Cambridge Companions Collection (religion and philosophy) and the Cambridge Religion e-book collection. The Cambridge Companions Collection contains about 250 reference works, with essays by leading scholars on figures and topics in religion, theology, and philosophy. The Cambridge Religion collection features more than 2,700 e-books on a wide variety of topics and figures in church history, theology, ethics, and more.

The Cambridge collections are complemented by collections from Project MUSE and Oxford. Project MUSE includes a collection of e-books and theology journals. The Oxford Handbooks in Religion and Philosophy collection contains surveys of current scholarship on figures and problems in religion and theology written by leading scholars.

Also available is the New Catholic Encyclopedia. It contains articles on all aspects of Catholic history, theology, and practice.

All library resources can be accessed through links on the Library Resources page of the alumni website: <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/resources/library-resources/>.

If you have any questions for the library, please email the library staff at library@saintmeinrad.edu.

The Indianapolis Zoo:

The Saint Meinrad Alumni Office is now partnering with the Indianapolis Zoo to offer our alumni discounts on parking and admission to the zoo year-round. To view the rates and purchase tickets, visit https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/wp-content/uploads/zoo_discount.pdf.

Other alumni benefits include:

- Access to the Saint Meinrad Alumni Directory at <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/directory/>
- Access to a jobs board at <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/job/>
- 10% off books and gifts at Saint Meinrad Books & Gifts
- 10% off all purchases from Abbey Caskets, www.abbeycaskets.com
- 10% off purchases of CareNotes, www.carenotes.com ✚

The Emmaus Program:

A Program of Support

In the United States, Saint Meinrad is at the forefront of developing the Vocational Synthesis stage of formation. The Emmaus Program, which began in January 2025, works with dioceses, parishes, and transitional deacons during this critical stage.

Vocational Synthesis is the final stage of priestly formation laid out in the *Program of Priestly Formation (6th Edition)*, in which seminarians spend the final semester as transitional deacons in a parish before being ordained as priests. Seminarians complete their studies during the fall semester at Saint Meinrad and graduate in December, receiving their Master of Divinity degree.

Saint Meinrad helps seminarians transition into the final stage of formation by equipping both the transitional deacon and the parish community with a model of co-responsibility, accountability, and mutual support that can lead to a fruitful and happy priesthood. In the fall semester,

before seminarians leave Saint Meinrad, Agnes Kovacs, director of vocational synthesis, along with the faculty and staff, prepare the students for life in a parish. Kovacs expresses that, “Vocational Synthesis is integrating everything that they have learned here in the seminary into the actual ministry work that they are called to do.”

The Emmaus Program was created at Saint Meinrad as a way for the seminary to help shape awareness about the important role that the parish community plays in forming priests. Kovacs describes the Emmaus Program as “a program of support. Just like Jesus accompanied the disciples on the road to Emmaus to help them make sense of all that has happened, we would like to accompany both the transitional deacon, the pastor, and the parish community in this process of integration.” Kovacs is helping develop the program and hopes that Saint Meinrad will become a resource to dioceses and

those responsible for Vocational Synthesis at the diocesan level.

She is establishing relationships with the parishes as well, to prepare them to receive the transitional deacons so that the experience is mutually enriching for both the parish and the deacon.

Deacon Keith Hart, of the Diocese of Evansville, has experienced the Vocational Synthesis stage of formation firsthand, having graduated in December 2024. He has had a positive experience at St. Joseph in Jasper, IN, sharing, “I’ve gotten to experience the life of the parish I’m at, and now I can engage in the ministry that I have felt called to and prepared for these past several years.” Deacon Hart is part of the first class at Saint Meinrad to experience these new changes in formation. He encourages future seminarians to, “Be excited for it! If you are in seminary, you should be excited about getting to meet and interact with the people God is calling you to serve.” ✝

Noteworthy:

News-worthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events



Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, published *Receiving the Gaze: Praying with Icons* with Behold Visio Divina. The booklet guides the reader through

how to pray with icons. Included in this companion is a brief explanation of the traditions of the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches, along with differences and similarities with their art and prayer approaches. Each lesson includes an explanation of the icon, Scripture, and reflection questions.

Behold booklets aim to help people pray with religious art, and are geared toward being used with small groups. *Receiving the Gaze: Praying with Icons* can be purchased at Saint Meinrad Books & Gifts, at the Monastery Gift Shop at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, or from the Behold website at www.beholdvisiodivina.com/shop.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey has been named as **Veregy's 2025 Project of the Year**. In 2021, Saint Meinrad partnered with Veregy, a National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO) accredited decarbonization company, for Phase Two planning of its renewable energy project. The effort expanded both the geothermal

and solar projects previously completed. Both systems have been fully operational since the end of May.

These initiatives reduce the Archabbey's carbon footprint by 2,250 tons and overall energy usage by 48% annually. They are projected to generate an annual guaranteed savings of \$513,079, along with a \$300,000 utility rebate and a potential federal rebate exceeding \$6 million. Together, these efforts are expected to save more than \$19 million over the next 20 years—while positioning Saint Meinrad Archabbey as a model of sustainability and environmental responsibility. ✝



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

Saturday, September 27, 2025
at 8:30 a.m. CT

Get details and register online at:
www.saintmeinrad.org/oth5k



EVENTS ON THE HILL

August 22-24

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

August 29-31

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

September 6

Cultural Event: A Little Night of Mozart by Saint Meinrad Archabbey's Arete Orchestra, St. Bede Hall Theater, 7:30 p.m. Central Time

September 10

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

September 11

Dolle Lecture on Church Art and Architecture: "Parish Renovations" by Nick Ring and Fr. Tony Hollowell, St. Bede Hall Theater, 7 p.m. Central Time

September 12-14

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

September 19-21

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

September 26

Cultural Event: The Oberlin Trio, St. Bede Hall Theater, 7:30 p.m. Central Time

October

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

October 1

John S. and Virginia Marten Lecture in Homiletics: "Preaching with Children." by Dr. Ann Garrido, St. Bede Hall Theater, 9 a.m. Central Time

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



Seville, Spain

Holy Week Pilgrimage



The Semana Santa Pilgrimage to Seville, Spain, is a 10-day trip over Holy Week for the Second Discipleship seminarians. The pilgrimage allows the seminarians to experience Seville's Holy Week traditions and culture, learn about Church history outside the classroom, build community together, and have time for reflection and prayer.





“

The dedication of the people was particularly impactful for many of us ... to see an entire city come together like that to mark the leadup to Easter was encouraging. It gave me a hope for the future of the Church, and inspiration for what community could look like in any future parish I'm assigned to post-ordination.

Steven Wilson





“

Sometimes to really experience something we think we already know well, we must find it in a new light, in a different culture, even speaking a new language. That is the beauty of Seville in Holy Week. It is a 700-year-old tradition that is as new as the smallest participant in every procession.

Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB



ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Lawrence “Joe” Beardsley Jr., O’65, (’53-57), of Omaha, NE, died on August 29, 2023.

Mr. Francis Becht, O’57, (’45-47), of Jacksonville, FL, died on January 23, 2018.

Mr. Don Terry Buche, O’70, (’58-60), of Arma, KS, died on April 4, 2025.

Mr. Clifford Christy, PD’25, (’21-25), of Memphis, TN, died on February 25, 2025.

Mr. William Victor Daming, O’58, (’47-50), of Ellisville, MO, died on February 21, 2025.

Mr. Albert Thomas Dillard, O’79, (’71-74), of Belle Mead, NJ, died on October 24, 2016.

Fr. Jim Dougherty, O’68, (’62-68), of Belleville, IL, died on February 12, 2024.

Mr. George Dominic Effinger, O’56, (’52-55), of Louisville, KY, died on February 19, 2025.

Mr. James Fadgen, O’69, (’57-62), of McKees Rocks, PA, died on March 4, 2025.

Deacon Paul Fisherkeller, PD’17, (’13-17), of Greenwood, IN, died on February 23, 2025.

Mr. Robert Joseph Flanagan, O’56, (’52-53), of Mascoutah, IL, died on June 21, 2021.

Mr. Joseph L. Gibson, SPH (’52-54), of Birmingham, AL, died on March 2, 2025.

Msr. George Hancock, O’47, (’38-41), of Owensboro, KY, died on November 8, 2021.

Mr. Raphael “Ralph” Herrera, O’57, (’51-57), of Mora, NM, died on March 16, 2025.

Mr. Michael David Jones, O’74, (’66-68), of West Columbia, SC, died on February 9, 2025.

Mr. Philip K. Jones, O’60, (’48-60), of Indianapolis, IN, died on March 1, 2025.

Mr. Robert James “Bob” “R.J.” Kahle, O’71, (’63-66), of Sandusky, OH, died on January 16, 2025.

Mr. Donald Eugene Kieffer, O’67, (’61-64), of Mt. Carmel, IL, died on March 23, 2025.

Mr. Michael J. McCullough, O’72, (’60-63), of Evansville, IN, died on March 11, 2025.

Mr. Francis J. Miller, O’70, (’58-62), of Southaven, MS, died on May 14, 2024.

Mr. John T. Miller Jr., O’73, (’65-67), of Camp Hill, PA, died on August 16, 2020.

Mr. David L. Nath, O’70, (’58-62), of South Park, PA, died on February 23, 2019.

Mr. Michael Eugene Nolen, O’64, (’52-53), of Springfield, VA, died on March 25, 2025.

Deacon Michael P. O’Keefe, O’74, (’65-74), of Clinton Township, MI, died on February 11, 2023.

Mr. Phillip Michael Parks, O’70, (’66-68), of Shorewood, IL, died on December 22, 2024.

Mr. Walter B. Poff, O’57, (’45-46), of Lutz, FL, died on January 24, 2025.

Dr. Lawrence A. Ratchford, O’51, (’40-41), of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, died on August 20, 2004.

Fr. Samuel R. Saprano, O’70, (’63-66), of St. Clairsville, OH, died on March 12, 2025.

Mr. Thomas J. Schramm, O’52, (’46-51), of Highland, IN, died on June 2, 2019.

Fr. Simeon Bruce Sibenik, O’80, (’73-80), of Warren, OH, died on March 17, 2025.

Dr. William T. Teare Jr., O’69, (’57-58), of Evansville, IN, died on November 30, 2021.

Mr. Stephen “Steve” Eugene Wathen, C’69, (’61-62), of Rockport, IN, died on April 1, 2025.

Fr. Bruce W. Wilkinson, O’81, (’75-78), of Smyrna, GA, died on March 24, 2025.

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 NEWS

Mrs. Tammy Becht, GTP’16, (’13-16), of Floyds Knobs, IN, is a mentor for four Notre Dame graduate students in the “Strong Foundations for Catholic Leaders” program, a McGrath Institute program funded by the Lilly Endowment. Tammy serves as the chair for the planning team of the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) held in November 2025 in Indianapolis. She also reads annual reports for the “Thriving in Ministry Initiative” Lilly Endowment each spring.

Mr. Jared Bryson, C’97, (’94-96), president and CEO of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, was named to the inaugural edition of St. Louis Magazine’s Business 500. The St. Louis Business 500 highlights some of the metro area’s most impactful, innovative, and inspirational leaders.

Sister Suzan Foster, SSJ, SS’79 (’75-79), of St. Augustine, FL, presented “Whatever A Woman is Capable of Doing: The

Extraordinary History of the Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Augustine” on May 8 at the Peña-Peck House Museum and Gift Shop as part of the St. Augustine History Festival.

Fr. Joseph T. LaBelle, OMI, T’87, (’82-84), of San Antonio, TX, published a book titled, *Firm Footsteps: Seven Timeless Christian Practices for Journeying Disciples* (Wipf & Stock, 2025), for new and nominal Christians seeking to incorporate faith with daily life. It is available on Amazon.

Mr. Mike Magre, GTP'23, ('19-23), of Louisville, KY, was recognized as the 2025 Trinity High School Honor Alumnus by the Trinity High School Alumni Association. The award is presented to a Trinity graduate who is committed to living his life based on Gospel values; is a

recognized leader in his community and/or chosen career; and who values his Trinity education and remains loyal to his alma mater.

Dr. Walter Rinderle, O'66, ('54-62), of Vincennes, IN, recently completed talks

for the Traveling Holocaust Museum at Vincennes University called "Extraordinary Heroes in the Nazi Era" about thousands of nuns, priests, and laity who gave up their lives. For a copy, email Dr. Walter at wrinderle@yahoo.com. ✚

Alumni Annual Giving Program supports future Church leaders

With a steadfast devotion to Saint Meinrad, alumni benefactors joyfully share in our mission of preparing future Church leaders. Through their gifts, they support a rich tapestry of transformative pastoral opportunities, spiritual formation, and theological education, all of which make Saint Meinrad a world-class institution for ministers dedicated to the Church and God's people.

In keeping with the spirit of this tradition, alumni demonstrated their heartfelt commitment to their alma mater by contributing \$908,119.31 this fiscal year through the 2024-25 Alumni Annual Giving Program – a remarkable 21.62% response rate.

"The Alumni Association has been in existence for over 130 years, and throughout that time, our alumni have continuously shown their dedication to Saint Meinrad in many ways," says Erinn Evans, director of alumni relations for Saint Meinrad. "One of the many ways

our alumni show their support is through the Alumni Annual Giving Program, ensuring that we can continue to live out our work of preparing priests, permanent deacons, and lay people for the Church.

I am immensely grateful for their gracious and generous support."

The 2025-26 Alumni Annual Giving Program is now underway, and we invite all alumni to join in this ongoing tradition by responding to the kickoff appeal, which will be sent out in late August. Whether you choose to give online, contact the Development Office by phone, or send your gift by mail, know that your support will have a lasting impact.

Alumni who make a gift of \$200 or more to the Alumni Annual Giving Program, or are first-time donors making a gift of \$100 or more, will receive a magnet featuring artwork of the Christus by Dom Gregory de Wit. ✚

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

Help Shape the Future of Saint Meinrad Communications

As part of an ongoing effort to improve how Saint Meinrad communicates with its community, we are conducting a comprehensive Communications Assessment, led by Saint Meinrad alumnus **Dan Conway, O'76 ('67-75)**, and we want to hear from you.

This assessment is designed to help us understand what's working, what's not, and how we can better connect with those who care about Saint Meinrad's mission. It includes individual interviews, small group listening sessions, and an online survey.

We invite you to take a few minutes to complete the online survey. Your feedback will help us focus our communication efforts more effectively, ensuring that we're reaching the right people, with the right messages, in meaningful ways.

To take the survey, visit <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8268498/Saint-Meinrad-Archabbey-and-Seminary-School-of-Theology-Survey> or scan the QR code.

Your voice matters. Together, we can strengthen how Saint Meinrad tells its story. ✚





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From left to right: Saint Meinrad's Arete Baroque Orchestra made its debut in St. Bede Theater on April 25, 2025. They brought Antonio Vivaldi's iconic masterpiece, The Four Seasons, to life using Baroque-era instruments and tuning. Musician Tracy Mortimore is pictured playing the double bass; Seminarian Wes Wheatley played football alongside Joey Dubon at St. Joseph's Holy Family at God's Country in Perry County, IN, during Sunday Ministry on April 27; The Grammy Award-winning Fisk Jubilee Singers perform a concert in St. Bede Theater on February 27; Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, speaks prior to a Byzantine Liturgy in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on April 26.