

ON THE HILL

FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF SAINT MEINRAD

WINTER 2011 • VOL. 50:1



Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he is studying sacred theology.

Upholding a tradition of monastic educators

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology has a long tradition of monk teachers. While lay men and women and other religious also teach in the School, formation primarily has been the work of monks and is integral to Saint Meinrad's mission of preparing priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers for service to the Church.

While many of those who teach in the School received their early formation at Saint Meinrad, continued education usually takes place at a variety of other institutions. This year, three Saint Meinrad monks are away from the Hill working toward advanced degrees with the intent of, one day, teaching in the Seminary and School of Theology.

Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, is in his second year of studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he is

working on a Licentiate in Sacred Theology in the area of historical and systematic theology. Once finished in 2011, he hopes to work toward a doctorate and later teach in the Seminary and School of Theology.

"Fr. Cyprian (Davis, OSB, a confrere and seminary professor) has driven home to me numerous times the importance of scholarship in the history of Benedictine life," says Fr. Christian. "So I am glad that my studies are one small part of carrying on that long tradition. Personally, I find that studying theology is enriching. I believe it helps me grow closer to God. I also like the idea that, by teaching, I can contribute to the mission of the universal Church."

The opportunity to live in an eclectic city like Washington, DC, and live in a house of studies with priests from all over the world has given



Saint Meinrad



Continued on page 4

Published authors of our faculty and staff.....3

Ceramics help to bring balance to monastic life.....6

Four join Saint Meinrad Board of Overseers.....8

School renovations under way.....9

Events in the School.....11

Alumni Eternal.....12

Alumni News.....14

New Alumni Board president.....15

On the Hill is published four times a year by Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary and School of Theology. The newsletter is also available online at: www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill

Editor: Mary Jeanne Schumacher
 Copywriters: John Farless
 Tammy Schuetter
 Fr. Simeon Daly, OSB

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
www.saintmeinrad.edu
 © 2011, Saint Meinrad Archabbey



Monks' Personals

Fr. Anthony Vinson attended a vocation seminar sponsored by the J.S. Paluch Company Inc. in Rosemont, IL, on August 16-18.

Fr. Prior Cassian Folsom was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as a consultant to the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments on November 3.

Archabbot Justin DuVall attended the annual Alliance for International Monasticism USA board meeting in Erie, PA, on October 11-13. He also attended a meeting in Denver sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men on the topic of "The Gift of Religious Priesthood" on October 17-18.

Fr. Paul Nord was presented with the Distinguished Young Alumni Award from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on October 4.

Fr. Samuel Weber has written *The Office of Compline* published by Ignatius Press. It includes a foreword by Archbishop Raymond Burke. This volume contains the office of Compline for every day of the year, in Latin and English. +

Daily 'Chapter' postings now on Facebook

Saint Meinrad Archabbey's Office of Monastery Vocations has launched a new venture on Facebook called "Chapter." Aimed primarily at young Catholics, "Chapter" posts daily on the popular social networking website a brief teaching about the Catholic faith: its people, places, customs and beliefs.

Postings so far have provided information on liturgical feasts and seasons, specific prayers, important places in the Catholic Church, and Catholic artists such as Flannery O'Connor, Giselbertus and Palestrina.

Written by different monks of Saint Meinrad, each message or posting includes "Saint Meinrad Archabbey Vocations" in its label and invites users to the website with a direct link. "It has been a wonderful way of getting monks

living on the Hill, in parishes, away at school, and even in the infirmary to assist in the work of promoting and fostering vocations and the life of young people in the Church," says Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, monastery vocations director.

Br. John Mark chose Facebook to launch "Chapter" because of its popularity and pervasive presence among young people. "It is also free technology and, without spending a cent, we have already attracted more than 163 men and women who have signed on and are receiving daily messages," he explains. "Chapter" also can be accessed from Internet-capable cell phones.



SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY
 VOCATIONS

The Office of Monastery Vocations hopes "Chapter" will serve young Catholics in a number of ways. "We hope this project will provide catechesis about the Church and our faith to a group that is often underserved and under-catechized," he says. "Secondly, 'Chapter' is a great way to reinforce a young person's Catholic identity on a daily basis. Finally, 'Chapter' helps us remind people each day about Saint Meinrad Archabbey and invites them to consider joining us for a lifetime of seeking God and serving the Church."

To read the daily postings or have them sent to your Facebook page, search for "Saint Meinrad Chapter" on Facebook. +

WEBSITE

On The Hill is also available on the Web:

www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill

Faculty and staff unveil variety of new books

In recent months, five new books written by faculty or staff of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology have been published.

FOR THE RECORD VIII



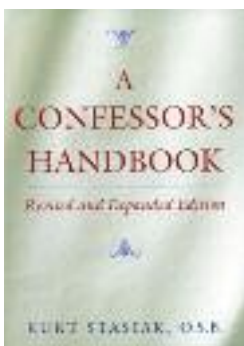
For the Record VIII: Ongoing Encouraging Words for Ordinary Catholics is Fr. J. Ronald Knott's eighth book in his series. The book features the weekly columns he writes for *The Record*, the

newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville. This series provides readers with a thoughtful, encouraging and spiritual-based commentary on living their faith today.

For the Record VIII is published by Sophronismos Press and is available for \$12.95 at The Scholar Shop bookstore and through the store's website: www.saintmeinrad.edu/shop

Fr. Knott is the director of Saint Meinrad's Institute for Priests and Presbyterates.

A CONFESSOR'S HANDBOOK: REVISED AND EXPANDED EDITION



For many years, *A Confessor's Handbook* has been the indispensable guide for priests and seminarians on the sacrament of Reconciliation. In the revised edition, Fr. Kurt

Stasiak, OSB, focuses specifically on the priest's ministry as confessor. The book is not limited to general principles, but offers practical examples drawn from the

author's decades of experience as a priest and confessor.

This new edition also addresses the challenges of hearing confessions in the 21st century. It includes a new appendix on Reconciliation for priests, and contains the whole text of the Pontifical Council for the Family's *Vademecum for Confessors*.

Published by Paulist Press, *A Confessor's Handbook: Revised and Expanded Edition* is available for \$16.95 at The Scholar Shop bookstore and through the website: www.saintmeinrad.edu/shop

Fr. Kurt is the prior (second in leadership) of the monastery and professor of sacramental-liturgical theology in the Seminary and School of Theology.

FILM ADAPTATION IN THE HOLLYWOOD STUDIO ERA



Film Adaptation in the Hollywood Studio Era, by Fr. Gueric DeBona, OSB, analyzes the intertextuality, cultural value and authorship of four films from the 1920s to the 1950s based on British

and American novels. The films are "David Copperfield" (1935), "Heart of Darkness" (1939), "The Long Voyage Home" (1940), and "The Red Badge of Courage" (1951).

Emphasizing the historical and cultural contexts as well as political and economic filmmaking decisions, DeBona reveals how high-minded source material from literary luminaries Charles Dickens, Joseph Conrad, Eugene O'Neill and Stephen Crane did not necessarily translate to prestigious or credible films during the studio era. He also considers how such films led to a new set of industry standards and audience expectations in film after World War II.

The book is available for \$22.50 at www.barnesandnoble.com. Fr. Gueric is subprior in the monastery and professor of homiletics and communication in the Seminary and School of Theology.

SHE LAID HIM IN A MANGER



She Laid Him in a Manger presents the birth of Jesus as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. With Scripture text

translated by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, and woodcut reproductions from a 16th-century missal, this small volume retells the Christmas story and reminds readers of the great tradition and unsurpassable promise celebrated in the mystery of Christ.

Published by Abbey Press, *She Laid Him in a Manger* is available for \$9.95 at The Scholar Shop bookstore and through the store's website:

www.saintmeinrad.edu/shop

Fr. Harry is associate professor of Scripture in the Seminary and School of Theology.

A TIME TO PLANT: LIFE LESSONS IN WORK, PRAYER, AND DIRT



In his debut book, writer and farmer Kyle Kramer recounts the honest, sometimes-gritty and hope-infused story of how he came to experience the joys of real community through a journey of honest reckoning with his own ambitions.

Rooted in the Benedictine traditions of physical labor, prayer and hospitality, *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt* tells a deeply human story of one man's attempt to make simple living a reality as a spiritual discipline for himself, as a model for his children and for the good of creation.

A Time to Plant, published by Sorin Books, is available for \$15.95 at The Scholar Shop bookstore and through the store's website: www.saintmeinrad.edu/shop

Kramer is director of Lay Degree Programs in the Seminary and School of Theology. +

EVENTS ON THE HILL

February 17

Black History Lecture, speaker to be announced.

February 22-24

Guest House Retreat: "A Personal Preparation for the Paschal Mystery" by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB.

February 25-27

Guest House Retreat: "Reflections on the Suffering Servant Songs of Isaiah 40-55" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

March 4-6

Guest House Retreat: "Carnival Capers: Preparing for Lent" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

March 11-13

Guest House Retreat: "The Sundays of Lent: Cycle A" by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB.

March 15-17

Guest House Retreat: "The Return to God in the Rule of St. Benedict" by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB.

March 18-20

Guest House Retreat: "Monastic Practices: Drawing Everyday Wisdom from the Monastic Life" by Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB.

April 1

*National Players' presentation of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." **

April 2

*National Players' presentation of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter." **

**Due to the renovation of St. Bede Hall, performances will be held at nearby Forest Park High School.*

For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher at (812) 357-6501 or visit our website www.saintmeinrad.edu

EDUCATORS *Continued from page 1*

him a renewed sense of the many cultures that constitute the Church, both within the United States and the world. In addition to politics, Washington is full of opportunities to explore history, art, culture and theatre. Fr. Raymond Studzinski, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad who teaches at Catholic University, has helped as a guide to these many offerings.

Fr. Christian also lives within a mile of a dozen or more religious houses, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "It's a great place to get a taste and view of what is happening in the Church," he says. "It's also one of the oldest cities in the United States. I'm able to soak up much of the history of our land, achieving a better understanding of and appreciation for what it means to be American.

"While I miss the monastery very much, it has also been a good challenge for me to test the values I learned there over the last several years: namely, commitment to prayer and community. I've also benefited



In his second year of studies at The Catholic University of America, Fr. Christian appreciates the history and culture of Washington, DC.

personally from the opportunities I've been given to do pastoral work."

Fr. Christian sees those who taught him in the Seminary and School of Theology as role models. "The monks of Saint Meinrad have a strong history in forming priests, deacons and lay ministers for the Church. Obviously, if we want to have a continued monastic presence in that work, we need to be committed to having well-educated monks."

Fr. Paul Nord, OSB, is in his third year at The Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, where he is pursuing a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture. His curriculum includes languages (Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic, etc.), as well as study of the Scriptures and their interpretation.



Fr. Paul Nord, OSB, at the synagogue at Capernaum during a recent trip to the Holy Land.

Fr. Paul hopes to complete his licentiate in 2012 and then pursue a doctorate, with the end goal of teaching at Saint Meinrad, offering retreats and contributing in other ways.

"Prayer and work are central to our lives as monks," he says. "I was sent to study because our community needs monks who can teach and assist with the work of operating our Seminary and School of Theology. We have a great tradition to build upon, but we need monks who are willing and able to help carry that tradition forward, in service to the Church."

Before coming to Saint Meinrad and completing his priesthood studies, Fr. Paul studied chemical engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology,



Fr. Paul has a little fun with “walking on water” at the Sea of Galilee. His trip to the Holy Land has been an integral part of his education and study of the Scriptures.

from which he recently received the Distinguished Young Alumni Award. He finds his education in Rome to be more challenging than any previous studies, largely due to the language courses, which requires a lot of time and discipline.

While his studies abroad are challenging, they are also rewarding. “Italy’s culture is quite different from the culture of the United States,” he says. “Since the pope and curia are located in Rome, Italian culture and the culture of the Church are closely intertwined. Learning about Italian culture has helped me to better understand the way our Church functions.

“Studying the Scriptures enriches a person, regardless of location. Being away from my brothers at Saint Meinrad has been a challenge—still, studying in Rome is obviously a huge privilege—to reside at Sant’Anselmo with monks from throughout the world, to study at the Pontifical Biblical Institute with aspiring Scripture scholars from throughout the world, to travel and see a continent whose rich history is so closely intertwined with our Catholic faith—I am very thankful for this amazing opportunity.”

Fr. Paul has many role models in the monastic community, but especially those who were educated before him and returned to share their talents.

“Monasteries have been centers of learning throughout the history of the Church. When monks strive to educate themselves in Catholic faith and in the monastic tradition, it helps them to better live the monastic vocation and to better serve the Church and world,” he says.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski, OSB, began working toward a PhD in philosophy at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in September 2010. The program will take three to four years to complete.

Eventually, he would like to teach philosophy in the Seminary and School of Theology. “Philosophy has been my passion since my first year in college when I was studying physics. I later switched my major to philosophy and began discerning a vocation to the priesthood,” he says. “Since philosophy is an integral part of seminary formation, my studies will contribute to the intellectual development of our students. I hope to become the kind of philosophy professor who helps students grow in wisdom and understanding of themselves and the human condition.”

Fr. Thomas is no stranger to Belgium or the Catholic university there. Before studying for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad, he completed the master’s program in philosophy at Louvain. “The experience of philosophy at this ancient Catholic institution made me eager to return and continue doctoral studies,” he says. “Hopefully, studying in Europe will broaden my horizons and put me in touch with the heart of our western culture and tradition.

“This small land endured much strife and bloodshed during the first and second World Wars. The Belgian people have impressed me with their faith in humanity and their honest seeking of God. Although the country is now rather secular, and few attend church on Sunday, most Belgians I’ve met are sincerely struggling with their faith. Since they have not given up on their

faith, but only question it for deeper answers to life’s problems, they impress me as hopeful and loving seekers of wisdom.”

The people of Belgium were not the only ones to leave an impression on Fr. Thomas. The first monks of Saint Meinrad he met were Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, now president-rector, and Fr. Aurelius Boberek, OSB, both at Louvain, the former as a graduate student, the latter as a seminary professor. “They both struck me as monks who spoke with passion and depth about the things of God, while remaining firmly planted in mundane realities,” he says.



Fr. Thomas Gricoski, OSB, is working toward a PhD in philosophy at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

“Since the time of Benedict, monks have always loved learning and study as a way to grow closer to God. Besides being able to teach graduate-level courses in theology and philosophy, Saint Meinrad invests in the education of its monks as a value in and of itself.” +

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Ceramics help to bring balance to monastic life



A selection of pottery made by the monks is available in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop.

Historically, monasteries are no stranger to artisans. In fact, Chapter 57 of the *Rule of St. Benedict* addresses artisans specifically, encouraging their contribution to the community so long as their craft is practiced with both humility and accountability.

“Monasteries are places for study, but they are also places for craftsmen,” reflects Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and a potter. “I think crafts tend to balance the life of the monastery—you not only have intellectual pursuits, but artistic ones as well. If we have a full complement of scholars and tradesmen, it makes life a lot richer for the community.”

An artisan potter for 35 years, Br. Martin contributes to monastic life at Saint Meinrad through both his talents and his willingness to share those talents with others in the community.



In 2005, Br. Martin began the transfer of his vows to Saint Meinrad from the Marianist community in St. Louis, MO, where he had been involved with pottery since 1976. A master of artforms ranging from stained glass to drawings, Br. Martin holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Art Institute in San Antonio, and a master of fine arts from Boston University.

“Craft disciplines like ceramics rely on those who are interested in that work to carry on the tradition,” he says. “For something like pottery, you have to have the desire as well as a lot of training. There’s a lot of science involved.”



Even before completing his transfer to Saint Meinrad, he found that interest in Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, who had taken a ceramics class and set up a meager work area in the cramped basement of the monastery’s loom shop. During visits, Br. Martin would meet with Br. John Mark and help him to learn the craft. When his transfer was completed, Br. Martin was able to bring with him much of the equipment from his studio in St. Louis.

A more ample work area was in order and the former water filtration building was soon modified into the current ceramics shop. Since then, others have found an interest in ceramics, including Br. Adam Edwards, OSB, and one of the newest members of the community, Novice Michael Luckett, OSB.

“They’ve all done very well,” says Br. Martin. He speaks very highly of the young Novice Michael, who he says has been getting great results, especially in terms of compounding glazes and other post-production finishes. “It’s very tedious work and requires a lot of skill. He’s really begun to master some of those processes.”

The group was blessed recently when a retired German-American potter from the Indianapolis area heard about their efforts and donated all of his equipment and materials to the Archabbey. Br. Martin says the donation includes a wealth of materials and equipment, including a new clay mixer that mixes around 500 pounds of clay at a time. Previously, the monks were mixing small batches in a cement box with a hoe.

“This has saved us a lot of time and energy,” he says, “and he’s also donated an enormous amount of raw materials to use for both clay making and glazes. We’re now set for years in terms of materials.”

“Monasteries are places for study, but they are also places for craftsmen.”

Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB

Several of the monk-made products, including bowls, plates, mugs, vases and various pots, are available in the Archabbey Gift Shop. Another large-scale project is the creation of custom-made ceramic plates bearing the image of St. Benedict and a raven. The plates are being given as a gift from the monastic community to Benedictine oblates when they make their final oblation.

The group has also begun fashioning several large-scale ceramic pieces that will be hung as decorations in the monastery courtyard.



“I’d say that, for the most part, we’re still in what I’d call a growing mode—everybody, including myself, has other jobs. And, out of the four of us, three are still learning a lot about the process,” he adds. There’s also continued work on a new large outdoor kiln that will allow them to fire as much as two to three months of work at a time.

For the monk potters, there is an air of excitement about the possibilities that this monastic craft has for both the monastic community and those who discover their work.

“Our work is geared toward making pots for people to use—everyday sorts of things,” says Br. Martin. “The thought, at least among potters, is that if you use handmade objects, the quality of the handmade piece subtly infuses your life. Every day you pick up a coffee cup or hold a bowl, your hand is feeling the texture of the glaze or the shape of the pot and, whether you’re conscious of it or not, it has an effect on you.” +



REUNION

Continued from page 16

Today, the former abbot is the senior member—in age, profession and priesthood—of the Swiss-American Congregation of Benedictines, to which both Marmion and Saint Meinrad Archabbey belong.

Alumni will find a special insert in the next issue of the newsletter that outlines the full program of activities, along with registration information.

Details will also be available on the website: <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu> +

Abbey Caskets are widely distributed

To some readers, it may be surprising to learn that the caskets and cremation urns of Abbey Caskets end up all across the country.

Since the inception of Abbey Caskets in 1999, the handcrafted caskets have been delivered to all 50 states, as well as to locations in Canada and Puerto Rico, according to Jennifer Keller, director of Abbey Caskets. The only overseas delivery, so far, has been to Ireland.

To make this possible, Abbey Caskets works with a number of different carriers across the United States to ensure that the casket or urn arrives on time and in excellent condition. Caskets can be delivered the same day or next day from coast to coast, either by ground carriers or air carriers.

For more information, please visit www.abbeycaskets.com or call (800) 987-7380. +



Four join Saint Meinrad Board of Overseers

Three new members and one returning member have joined the Board of Overseers for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The Board advises President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on matters related to the School's programs and performance and addresses strategic questions related to the future of the School. Each member serves a three-year term.

The new board members are Sister Jane Will, OSB, of Ferdinand, IN; Mary Schaffner of Indianapolis, IN; and Fr. William Fichteman of Louisville, KY. Charles Gardner of Indianapolis is a returning board member.

SR. JANE WILL, OSB



Sr. Jane is the subprioress (second in leadership) for the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand. She is a graduate of St. Benedict College in Ferdinand.

She also earned master's degrees in education and psychology from the University of Evansville, a master's degree in Christian spirituality from Creighton University and a doctor of psychology degree from the Florida Institute of Technology.

She has served as a licensed clinical psychologist, licensed life teacher and spiritual director. She is a member of the American Psychological Association, Indiana Psychological Association, National Association of Church Personnel Administrators and Spiritual Directors International.

CHARLES GARDNER



Gardner is a member of the Management Council for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, serving as executive director for spiritual life and worship and liturgical music director. He is also an instructor at Marian University.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Saint Meinrad College and a master of music degree from Butler University. He also composes and arranges liturgical music.

He is serving his fourth term on the Board of Overseers. He and his wife Dianne have three children. They reside in Indianapolis and are members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish.

MARY SCHAFFNER



Schaffner is pastoral associate and director of religious education for St. Anthony and Trinity parishes in Indianapolis. Previously, she worked with young adult and college campus ministry

for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and as the campus minister for Bishop Chatard High School.

She has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Indiana University and a Master of Theological Studies degree from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

She is working on a graduate certificate in spiritual direction and silent directed retreats from Creighton University's Christian Spirituality Program.

She and her husband John have five children and are members of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis.

FR. WILLIAM FICHTEMAN



Fr. Fichteman is a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, where he serves as pastor of the Cathedral of the Assumption.

A graduate of Bellarmine University, he earned master's and doctorate degrees in chemistry from Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati, respectively.

He worked for nine years at E.I. DuPont Louisville Works before entering Saint Meinrad Seminary in 1977.

Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1981, he has served at Kentucky parishes in Louisville, Elizabethtown and White Mills. He also serves on the board for the Center for Interfaith Relations. +

School renovations under way

Jasper Lumber Inc. of Jasper, IN, has been awarded the general contractor bid for renovations encompassing Newman and St. Bede halls and Kleber Gym.

Renovation of Newman Hall and Kleber Gym are the last projects funded by the successful campaign, “The Call of Saint Meinrad.” The St. Bede Hall renovation is a new initiative and is being funded, in part, through the recently announced “Appeal for Saint Bede Hall.” Find more at www.saintmeinrad.edu/bede

In January, a considerable amount of construction personnel and equipment arrived on the Hill, with work expected to be well under way by spring.

Several ancillary projects were completed over the summer—on time and under budget. Projects included a two-room apartment, which will be used to house faculty and/or long-term guests in the School. A kitchen was installed on the top floor of Gertrude Hall to provide space for cooking and dining for small groups of students. This new kitchen replaces a much smaller space previously used in St. Anselm Hall. The larger facility also offers opportunities for students to prepare ethnic meals from their countries of origin. Two new laundry facilities were also added in St. Anselm Hall. +



By mid-December, demolition work was under way in St. Bede and Newman halls.



A small dining area connected to the new kitchen on the fourth floor of St. Gertrude Hall offers groups of students a place to share meals on special occasions.



A new kitchen provides facilities for small groups of students of the Seminary and School of Theology to prepare meals together. Students can also prepare ethnic meals from their countries of origin.



Rows of sinks have been removed from the communal bathrooms on the third and fourth floors of Newman Hall as renovations get under way in the School.

MEET STUDENT:

Jeffrey D. Estacio



Final Year of Seminary
Diocese: Lexington, Kentucky
Hometown: Angeles City, Philippines

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

I was attracted to the Mass. When I was young, I always enjoyed serving as an altar boy. I liked hearing the priest say the Eucharistic prayer and seeing the consecration up close beside the priest while ringing the altar bells. It was my initial attraction to priesthood.

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

Indirectly, it was my godfathers. In the Philippines, we have several godparents at baptism. I got four and two of them were seminarians when I was baptized. They are my parents' friends. Both of them became priests and one of them became a bishop.

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

I was in the seminary for seven years in the Philippines. After that, I joined the Salesians of Don Bosco, Northern Province of the Philippines. After three years there, I decided to leave the seminary and I taught music and

catechism in high school and college. After three years of teaching, I decided to come back to our archdiocesan seminary.

On December 8, 2007, Fr. Noel Zamora, a Filipino priest of Lexington, KY, invited my brother to study for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lexington. My brother was not interested. He mentioned this to me and I said, "Let me try to go there and see what will happen." When I went there for the first time, I fell in love with the place and the people.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

My favorite male saint is St. Ignatius of Loyola. Besides his loyalty to the pope and his keen observance of discernment of spirits, he composed a prayer called the "Prayer for Generosity" that has inspired me in my priestly vocation.

My favorite female saint is Gianna Beretta Molla. She is a good example for us to follow Christ in our contemporary time. A complication while she was pregnant with her fourth child escalated to the point that only one of them could survive. She decided to save her child. This is a selfless act of a mother's love. Pope John Paul II called Gianna "a simple, but more than ever, significant messenger of divine love."

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

John 3:16 ("For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."). The first time I really listened and paid attention to this passage was when I attended the World Youth Day in 1995. It was the theme of the event and the official song was based on it. It was the number one song on the radio for the whole year. Now it gives me hope for us all and gives me the encouragement to tell this truth to others.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I play the piano, saxophone, flute, guitar and other musical instruments. My mother encouraged me to study piano when I was young. From there, I have explored different instruments as I grew up. I also had the chance to be in a reggae band when I was in my country.

I also love cooking, especially Asian foods. It is a very relaxing activity for me. I have also been interested in photography. I started three years ago when I got my first digital camera. I have entered different international photography contests, and I am blessed because sometimes I have won the contest.

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

The most rewarding aspect of seminary life is that it gives a seminarian an opportunity to be formed holistically as a person. Through that formation, I have realized that I am becoming more drawn into a personal relationship with God.

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

I find the routine nature of seminary formation the hardest. It is just like a wheel that goes round and round. But a potter needs his wheel for the clay to be formed into a vessel. The routine in the seminary helps to mold the character of the seminarian.

Q. *Best advice?*

Be yourself in a community that forms you. If God calls you to be a priest, do not react. Rather, respond to the call and you'll discover your real self. +

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A GIFT TO SAINT MEINRAD AND RECEIVE INCOME FOR LIFE?

For information regarding Saint Meinrad's annuity program, contact:

Barb Balka
Director of Planned Giving
Saint Meinrad Archabbey
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
(800) 682-0988
bbalka@saintmeinrad.edu

Gift annuities are subject to state law and not available in all states.

A busy fall semester in the Seminary and School of Theology



Students sample international cuisine at Around the World Day on October 21, 2010.



Students placed candles on each of the headstones in the Archabbey Cemetery for All Souls Day.



President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, met with bishops from across the United States during a special meeting sponsored by Saint Meinrad's Institute for Priests and Presbyterates.



Third-year seminarians participated in a candidacy ceremony on November 7 in the School's chapel. Candidacy is a rite by which the Church recognizes the seminarian as worthy of being ordained. The Most Reverend Richard Stika, Bishop of Knoxville, presided during the ceremony and Mass.



Seminarians put away their books for a day to compete in a triathlon on the School grounds.



Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, (left) introduces Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, at the annual Bishop's Dinner.

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Francis J. Critney Jr. SPH '40 ('39-40), of Columbus, IN, died September 27, 2010.

Fr. Paul D. Dorley O'49 ('38-45), of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died November 2, 2010.

Mr. Thomas M. Hayes O'55 ('43-49), of Cloverport, KY, died October 3, 2010.

Sr. Genna Hibser, OSB, SS'76 ('71-75), of Rock Island, IL, died October 13, 2010.

Mr. John D. Kennedy O'51 ('40-44), of Lawrenceburg, IN, died February 21, 2010.

Fr. James J. Lichtefeld O'59 ('55-59), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died September 21, 2010.

Fr. Sylvester N. Loehrlein O'56 ('44-52), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died October 30, 2010.

Sr. Rachel Mayer, OSB, SS'85 ('81-85), of Bismarck, ND, died March 17, 2010.

Mrs. M. Kathleen Miller SS ('88), of Washington, IN, died February 23, 2010.

Mr. Clifford J. Oelker O'55 ('43-52), of West Chester, OH, died July 25, 2010.

Fr. Rick C. Parker O'77 ('73-77), of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK, died October 27, 2010.

Sr. Mary Anne Peterson, DMJ, S ('98-99), of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, died April 3, 2008.

Sr. M. Roselle Schaefer, OSF, SS ('88), of Wheaton, IL, died July 11, 2010.

Fr. Robert J. Schweitzer O'63 ('54-56), of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, PA, died August 25, 2010.

Fr. William Spranger, O'56 ('50-56), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died September 21, 2010. +



Alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad pose for a group photo during a summer tour of Europe that included the historic Passion Play at Oberammergau. Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, T'88 ('78-88) second from right, led the group.

Phonathon keeps alumni connected

As the second semester gets under way at Saint Meinrad, students are gearing up for the annual alumni phonathon.

For the second straight year, the phonathon will be stretched over eight nights. The increase from the previous four-night phonathon takes advantage of the School's increased enrollment and gives callers more time to connect with alumni. The number of students participating is up as well, with an average of 17 callers for each of the eight nights compared to 10 for each of the four nights in 2009.

"The phonathon is a great opportunity for alumni to pledge support to their alma mater," says John Huether O'78, associate director of annual giving. "But one of the real benefits I see is the connection the callers are able to make with our alumni. They hear firsthand from those who came here before them and are a witness to that legacy of formation. At the same time, our alumni can hear the latest news from Saint Meinrad and talk directly with those who benefit from their support."

This year's phonathon will take place on February 21, 22, 24 and 28, and March 1,

3, 7 and 15. Huether says he is optimistic it will be another great year for the phonathon, which has seen increases in each of the last three years.

Through their annual gifts, Saint Meinrad alumni support classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, upkeep of buildings and grounds, wellness activities and many other day-to-day operations that give today's students the same advantages that alumni had when they attended Saint Meinrad.

Alumni whose gifts qualify will also receive this year's premium, a 38-minute virtual tour of the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Chapter Room. The DVD offers an up-close look at and reflections on the artwork of the room's ceiling, walls and windows. +

Sign up for the e-newsletter

If you'd like to receive brief updates on what's happening at Saint Meinrad, you can sign up for a free e-newsletter. Every few weeks, you will receive a newsletter in your e-mail's inbox.

To sign up, go to the link on the front page of the website: www.saintmeinrad.edu or, send an e-mail to news@saintmeinrad.edu +

Alumni Survey Results, Part 2

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on the results of the November 2009 survey of Saint Meinrad alumni.

For the first time in about 10 years, Saint Meinrad alumni were asked for opinions about their Saint Meinrad experience and the programs offered by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

The survey was conducted in November 2009, with 1,117 alumni participating. This article looks at the responses to questions about alumni activities, the annual Alumni Reunion and regional dinners, and the alumni newsletter.

According to Alumni Director Joe Cook T'94, the makeup of the alumni body is beginning to change. "We will continue to see geographic shifts in numbers of alumni as Saint Meinrad expands its enrollment to more and more dioceses outside the Midwest.

"We'll also begin to see a shift in the ratio of clergy to laity within the association. This is due, in great part, to the Seminary and School of Theology now offering only post-graduate level programs. Whereas many who entered the seminary program in earlier years left prior to ordination, most seminarians now complete their studies. This, combined with the addition of the Permanent Deacon Formation program, will slowly shift the makeup of the association to one that is comprised more of clergy."

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

More than two-thirds of respondents reported they had participated in one or more of the alumni events and activities listed on the survey. The greatest source of involvement was reserved overall for "annual giving" (39.7%), with priests reporting the largest percentage (53.1%) in comparison to lay alumni at 38%.

"Spiritual renewal" seemed to be the most important reason for participation in the events and activities, more so with priests (47.9%) and deacons (72.1%) in comparison to lay respondents (38.8%). About 1 out of 5 respondents indicated no interest in any of the activities or events.

About 1 out of 3 (33.8%) reported having connected to the website.

However, the activities that alumni said they were most likely to participate in, within the next three years, were annual giving (44.0%), reunion (31.7%) and a regional gathering (28.8%). Also, 1 out of 5 expected to complete a Saint Meinrad retreat.

ANNUAL REUNION AND REGIONAL DINNERS

About 1 out of 6 respondents report not ever having attended a reunion. Among their most frequently cited reasons are "inconvenient time" (20.7%) and a lack of interest (18.3%). More than a third (34.8%) identified the reunion Mass as being important, followed by receptions and socials (28.0%), speakers and conferences (23.5%), and praying with the monks (21.5%). About 1 in 3 respondents indicated that none of the listed reunion events was important to them.

Few differences were apparent between types of alumni (priests/deacons/religious/lay), except for deacons, who placed a higher premium in particular on speakers or conferences and praying with monks. Although almost half of all respondents (48.2%) indicated not attending or not having a preference for the arrangement of the reunion, the largest

single proportion (31.4%) by far preferred the traditional reunion format.

A slightly smaller proportion (15.1%) indicated having attended a regional dinner, with lay members (11.6%) among the least represented at such events. The largest group (29.5%) indicated the most common reason for not attending was that no event was held in their area.

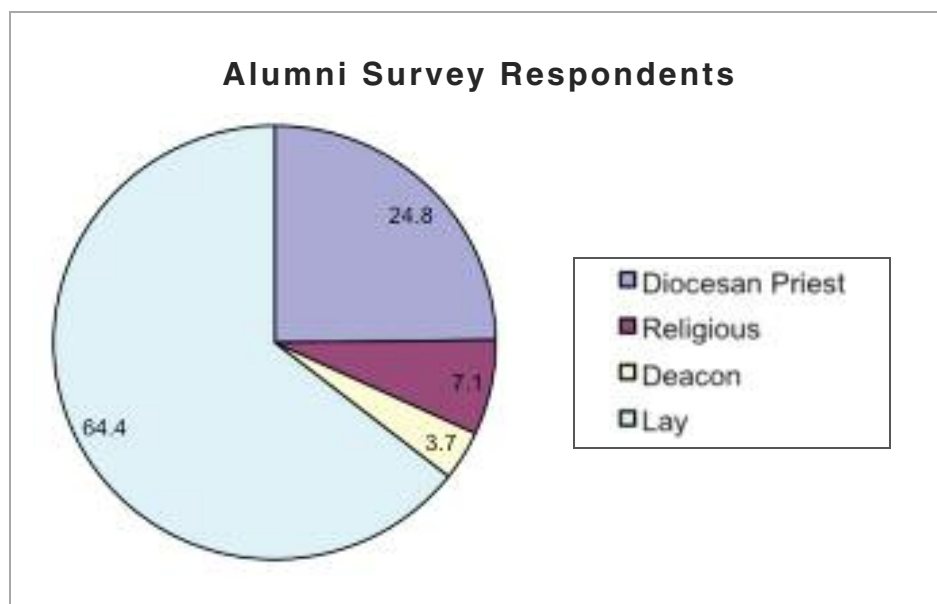
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The survey also asked alumni to evaluate the *On the Hill* newsletter, which is mailed quarterly. Nearly half (49.9%) of those who responded said they preferred the current printed version. The rest preferred either an online PDF or an e-mail newsletter.

Interest in the printed/mailed newsletter seems to be strongest among older alumni, while preferences for the online PDF or e-mail versions were more evident among younger alums.

Clearly, alumni news (81.2%), monks' personals (74.0%), obituaries (69.7%) and featured stories (68.7%) are the most frequently read sections.

Regional differences were apparent in respondents' preferences for a particular newsletter format. A higher percentage of alumni living in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan (57.1%) preferred a printed version, compared to 40.9% of alumni living in further regions of the United States. +



ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Timothy Alkire C'81 ('78-81), of the Diocese of Lafayette, IN, is the judicial vicar to the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal.

Fr. David A. Boettner C'90 ('87-90) is vicar general of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN. The position expands his authority in the diocese over the role he had enjoyed as Episcopal vicar until May 27, 2010.

Fr. Mark G. Boyer O'76 ('72-76), of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO, recently published his 30th and 31st books, *These Thy Gifts: A Collection of Simple Meal Prayers* and *Day by Ordinary Day: Daily Reflections on the First Readings, Year 1*.

Fr. Roy E. Dentinger O'50 ('39-50), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, was part of a 75-priest contingent organized by the Knights of Columbus that traveled to Rome to concelebrate with the Holy Father at the closing Mass of the Year of the Priest on June 11, 2010.

Fr. Uwem Enoch T'10 ('06-10), of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, is associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Hopkinsville. In July, he attended one night of a youth soccer camp of the parish. He played goalkeeper, challenging participants to try to score on him.

Mr. Michael J. Farrell T'98 ('92-96), of Indianapolis, IN, and his wife Elva announced the birth of their child, Mary Grace, born October 6, 2010.

Fr. Jay M. Flaherty C'83 ('79-81), of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN, was featured in an article called "Our Priests" in *East Tennessee Catholic*, the diocesan paper, July 11, 2010.

Ms. Angela (Fleck) Greulich LDC, a teacher of theology at John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Jasper, IN, was featured in the "People of Faith" column in *The Message*, the Diocese of Evansville newspaper, on September 3, 2010.

Mr. Matthew R. Gilbert C'96 ('92-96, '98-99), of St. Meinrad, IN, has opened a repair shop for violins, Gilbert Instruments, in Ferdinand, IN.

Fr. Raymond J. Goetz O'81 ('79-81), of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, is the motherhouse chaplain for the Ursuline Sisters at Maple Mount. He is also the pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish in the same town and is a half-time theology teacher at Brescia University in Owensboro.

Fr. Robert T. Hausladen T'01 ('96-01) and **Fr. Robert Robeson T'03 ('01-03)**, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, were among 15,000 priests from throughout the world who concelebrated with the Holy Father to close the Year of the Priest June 11, 2010.

Fr. Richard Loehrlein, SM O'57 ('45-46), who has been serving in eastern Africa, returned to the States for the first profession of his nephew, Br. Joseph Mary of the Holy Rosary Wathen, O Carm., on July 17, 2010.

Deacon John W. McMullen T'91 ('85-90, '05-09), of Evansville, IN, has published a novel about the Catholic composer Olivier Messiaen and his famous "Quartet for the End of Time." The book is titled *The Miracle of Stalag 8A*.

Mr. William P. Quigley Jr. O'75 ('67-70), of New Orleans, LA, was featured in an article, "Closing the Gap Between Law and Justice," by Tom Roberts in the Peace and Justice section of the *National Catholic Reporter*, August 6, 2010.

Fr. David A. Reinhart T'98 ('92-98), of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, is an active-duty chaplain in the United States Air Force. He is stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

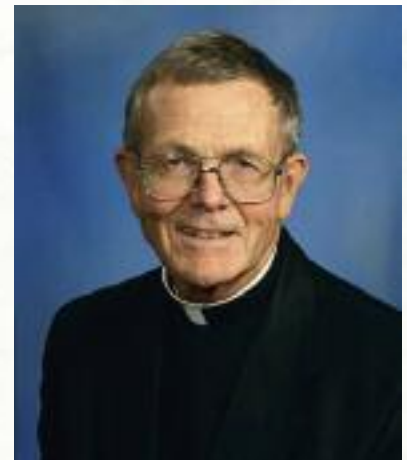
Fr. Steven R. Schafflein O'78 ('70-78, '01), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, pastor of St. Michael Church, Charlestown, IN, was featured in a *Louisville Courier-Journal* article about the parish's 150th anniversary.

Msgr. Carl E. Scherrer O'73 ('69-73), **Fr. Andrew J. Knopik O'83 ('75-79)**, **Fr. Jerome E. Wirth O'68 ('62-69, '71)** and

Fr. Leo J. Hayes O'61 ('55-61, '71), of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, participated in the 37th annual Msgr. Fournie Clergy Tennis Classic on June 28, 2010.

Ms. Melanie-Prejean Sullivan T'03 ('00-03), of Louisville, KY, made a presentation on Catholic social teaching on November 14, 2010, at St. Paul Parish Hall in Tell City, IN.

Fr. Alex J. Zenthoefer T'05 ('01-05) and **Fr. Jason B. Gries T'04 ('00-04)**, of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, were featured for their work with Teens Encounter Christ Movement in *The Message* diocesan newspaper.



Very Rev. William L. Fichteman O'81 ('77-81), pastor of Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, KY, was honored September 11, 2010, as a distinguished alumnus of Bellarmine University.

Fr. Fichteman graduated from the Louisville university in 1963. He was among eight alumni who were honored during the annual awards dinner. He was inducted into the Gallery of Distinguished Graduates. He has served as pastor of the cathedral since June 1997.

Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1981, Fr. Fichteman has served as associate pastor at St. Francis of Assisi and Church of the Epiphany in Louisville, director of clergy personnel for the Archdiocese of Louisville, and pastor of St. James, Elizabethtown, and St. Ignatius, White Mills, both in Kentucky.

Mr. Stanley F. Zerkowski, SFO C'84 ('82-83), of Ormond Beach, FL, wrote an article and worksheet titled "Forecasting Expenses, Partnering for Solutions" in a new magazine, *Preparing Your Parish for the Revised Roman Missal*, published by Liturgy Training Publications. +

Deacon Steve Durkee elected next Alumni Board president

At the October meeting of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors, Deacon Steve Durkee O'75 ('63-65), of Erlanger, KY, was elected as the next board president. He will become the first permanent deacon to head the Alumni Board and will take office on September 1, 2011.



Durkee, the current vice president of the Alumni Board, is a private clinical counselor and an adjunct professor at the Athenaeum of Ohio in Cincinnati. As a permanent deacon at Mother of God Parish in Covington, KY, he works with youth ministry, marriage preparation and baptismal preparation.

After attending Saint Meinrad High School, Durkee earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Cincinnati, followed by a master's in religion from the Athenaeum of Ohio, and a master's in agency and community counseling from Xavier University.

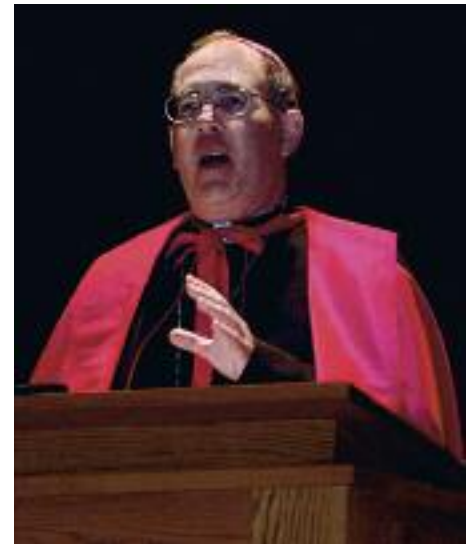
For many years, he served as director of the Covington Catholic High School Health and Wellness Center. He specializes in adolescent issues and is a certified drug and alcohol counselor. He is a past president of the Greater Cincinnati Counseling Association and the Kentucky Association of Addiction Professionals.

For 10 years, he coached the boys swimming team at Covington Catholic. He is working on his dissertation for a doctoral degree in counseling. He and his wife Kathy have two children and four grandchildren. +

Alumnus named Archbishop of Seattle

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop James Peter Sartain O'78 ('71-74), of the Diocese of Joliet, IL, to serve as archbishop of Seattle. He succeeds Archbishop Alexander Brunett, whose resignation was accepted by the Holy Father upon reaching retirement age. Brunett had led the Archdiocese of Seattle since 1997.

Archbishop Sartain was born on June 6, 1953, in Memphis, TN. He earned



bachelor's degrees from Saint Meinrad College and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome, and an advanced degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant' Anselmo in Rome.

In 1978, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Memphis and in 2000 was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, AR. He was then appointed to head the Diocese of Joliet in May of 2006. He was installed as archbishop on December 1, 2010.

Archbishop Sartain has been a member of the Advisory Council for the Institute for Priestly Formation and currently serves on the Administrative Committee of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. +



One of the highlights of the alumni trip to Germany, Austria and Switzerland last fall was a tour of Einsiedeln Abbey, given by Fr. Basil Hofliker, OSB (right, foreground), a Saint Meinrad alumnus. Here, he shows them some antique manuscripts in the library.



Saint Meinrad

200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #3
St. Meinrad, IN

Alumni Reunion set for July 18-20

Saint Meinrad alumni are invited to attend the 83rd annual Alumni Reunion, which will be held this year on July 18-20.

The schedule of events will include a golf scramble, day of recollection, workshops, banquet honoring the classes celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th and 50th anniversaries, a special alumni Mass with Bishop William Medley O'82 ('78-82) of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, presiding, and opportunities for socializing.

This year, the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association will honor Abbot Gerald Benkert, OSB, with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Abbot Gerald O'34 ('23-35) served as the first abbot of Marmion Abbey in Aurora, IL, from 1947 to 1969.

Abbot Gerald joined the Saint Meinrad monastic community in 1929 and was ordained a priest in 1934. In 1943, Saint



Abbot Gerald Benkert, OSB, will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Alumni Reunion in July.

Meinrad decided to found a new community in Illinois. By 1947, the Marmion community was ready to become an independent abbey. At the

recommendation of Saint Meinrad's Abbot Ignatius Esser, Pope Pius XII appointed Fr. Gerald Benkert as the community's first abbot.

Continued on page 7