Day of Service benefits 11 projects

Farewell: Fr. Gavin and Fr. Rupert

Cover: Fr. Peter Bucalo, center, talks with John Curry, left, as they prepare meals at the St. Vincent de Paul Open Hand Kitchen in Louisville on the Saint Meinrad Day of Service.
Br. John Mark Falkenhain has returned from a sabbatical in Washington, D.C., where he completed a draft for a book on celibacy formation to be published by Liturgical Press in 2018.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak attended the annual Abbots and Priors Workshop at Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, CA, February 16.

Fr. Luke Waugh began serving as chaplain at Memorial Hospital in Jasper, IN, March 1.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain was the keynote speaker for a national symposium on religious brothers held at the University of Notre Dame on March 25. The symposium was offered in honor of the 2015 Vatican document, *On the Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church.*

Br. Lorenzo Penalosa was appointed in-house guestmaster. He will tend to the needs of guests staying in the monastery and joining the monks for meals and recreation.

Fr. Guerric DeBona was elected as delegate for the General Chapter to be held June 22-26 at Conception Abbey, Conception, MO. Fr. Adrian Burke will serve as the alternate delegate.

Fr. Denis Quinkert and Br. Francis Wagner have been appointed to the Monastery Conference Committee. This committee submits ideas for conferences and other spiritual exercises during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Louisville Archbishop Joseph Kurtz installed seminarians as lectors and acolytes on March 2. From left are Br. Joel Blaize, OSB, and Michael Batz. Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, is master of ceremonies.

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 chose a religious name. Novice Joshua is now Br. Elias.

A native of Columbia City, IN, he attended Columbia City High School and graduated from Holy Cross College in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in theology. He then spent five years in formation with the Holy Cross Fathers at the University of Notre Dame.

In 2013, Br. Elias began a two-year stint as a theology teacher at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, CA. He has also done ministry work as a counselor, hospital chaplain, teacher and homeless shelter volunteer.

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.

Novice Joseph Wagner, 29, of Quincy, IL, attended high school at Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Quincy University and a master’s degree in liturgical studies from University of St. Mary of the Lake. He was a member of St. Aloysius Parish in Springfield, IL.

Before joining the monastery, he was a high school teacher at St. Anthony High School in Effingham, IL, and an archivist for the Illinois Secretary of State.

As a novice, he takes a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk.

At the end of the novitiate 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.

For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:
http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com
May
Rosary pilgrimage at Monte Cassino Shrine each Sunday at 2 p.m. Central.

May 1-5
Guest House Retreat: “The Psalms as Change Agents” by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB.

May 5-7
Guest House Retreat: “The Church in the Modern World” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

May 9-11

May 13
Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

May 19-21
Guest House Retreat: “Fruits of the Catholic Faith” by Br. Simon Herrmann, OSB.

May 28
Celebration of priesthood and monastic jubilees.

June 11
Einsiedeln Society Dinner.

July 14-16
Guest House Retreat: “A Weekend with Mary, Our Blessed Mother” by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

July 17-21
Guest House Retreat: “Bringing to Life the Word of God in Song” by Fr. Columba Kelly, OSB.

July 21-23

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

Fr. Rupert Ostdick served as subprior, business manager

Fr. Rupert Ostdick, 95, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died at 5 a.m. on January 14, 2017, at the monastery.

He was a jubilarian of profession and priesthood, and a participant in the Rush Religious Study on Aging and Alzheimer’s. Fr. Rupert was born in Elgin, IL, on November 14, 1921, and was given the name Howard Otto at his baptism.

Surviving are a brother, Bruce Ostdick (Florence), Elgin, IL; and four sisters, Marjorie Banker and Mary Burnell (Charles), both of Elgin; Sister Patricia Ostdick, Chicago, IL; and Geraldine Mistretta (Vincent) of Carpentersville, IL.

Fr. Rupert came to Saint Meinrad in 1939 and enrolled in Saint Meinrad College, earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1943. He was invested as a novice on August 5, 1943. He professed his simple vows on August 10, 1944, and his solemn vows three years later. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 1948.

Fr. Rupert served in various leadership positions at Saint Meinrad, including 31 years as treasurer. During the last seven years of that work, he also assumed the duties of business manager.

Concurrent with these full-time responsibilities, he served as assistant spiritual director in Saint Meinrad College from 1959-63 and as spiritual director from 1963-64. In the late 1970s, he also served as publisher of Abbey Press and acting general manager. He was appointed general manager of Abbey Press in 1979, and held this position through 1991.

Fr. Rupert also was subprior (third in leadership) of the monastery from 1986 to 1996. Other assignments included novice master for clerics, pastoral liaison with the Archabbey’s co-workers, an assistant in the Human Resources Department and a member of the Monastery Vocation Department.

For the past 16 years, he served as an extraordinary confessor for the seminary community. He also served on various committees, including the Abbot’s Council, the Task Force for Saint Meinrad’s monastery in 1980-82, and the Strategic Planning Committee.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on January 17, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.

The monastic community prays for Fr. Rupert during his burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.
Fr. Gavin Barnes, OSB, 89, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died at 11:40 p.m. on February 6, 2017, at the monastery.

He was a jubilarian both of profession and priesthood, and a participant in the Rush Religious Study on Aging and Alzheimer’s.

Fr. Gavin was born in Bedford, IN, on November 15, 1927, to John Dewey and Helen (Krebs) Barnes, and was given the name John Dewey Jr. at his baptism. In 1941, he entered Saint Meinrad High School.

He joined the Benedictine community at Saint Meinrad as a novice in 1946, professed his simple vows on August 1, 1947, and began studies at Saint Meinrad College. He professed solemn vows on September 8, 1950, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1952.

Fr. Gavin then attended the Collegio Sant’ Anselmo, Rome, where he earned a licentiate in sacred theology in 1954. He served as assistant novice/junior master for four years and began a 42-year teaching career at Saint Meinrad College and School of Theology.

Fr. Gavin earned a master’s degree in speech, specializing in oral interpretation, public address and speech correction, from Northwestern University in 1960. He also studied at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and at the University of Iowa.

Fr. Gavin held several administrative positions in Saint Meinrad College in the 1960s, serving as dean of students and assistant director of spiritual formation, but alumni will remember him most for his many contributions in the areas of speech, drama and art.

In addition to teaching communications, Fr. Gavin was director of drama for 38 years, usually directing two major productions each year. His offerings ranged from Shakespeare to Gilbert and Sullivan to the contemporary and the experimental. Fr. Gavin would sometimes take a place on the stage as well as direct, and he was often involved in costume and set designs.

When not on stage, he was fond of building models of them; indeed, a prized miniature construction of his was The Globe Theatre of Shakespeare. An artist himself, he taught courses in design and drawing, and alumni will remember his colorful geometric designs that graced the corridors in Newman Hall.

Fr. Gavin was an imposing figure to watch on stage, and his was an impressive voice to hear – whether from the stage, from the preacher’s pulpit, or as the narrator of several taped guides and programs for tourists that were recorded over the years.

For many years, Fr. Gavin served as voice and diction coach for Refectory and Archabbey Church readers, worked with many international students on accent reduction, and conducted lector workshops for the summer “One Bread, One Cup” Youth Liturgical Leadership Conferences held at Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Gavin was the 2007 recipient of the Spencer County Arts Award, which honored his four decades of work as drama director at Saint Meinrad College and his work in supporting the creation of the Lincoln State Park Amphitheatre. The last play he wrote and directed, “Between Friends: Fateful Conversations of the Civil War,” dealt with President Lincoln’s relationship with his generals, and played at the amphitheatre in 2012.

A half century earlier, he had written “The Indiana Years,” which recounted young Abe’s boyhood in Spencer County. In addition to Lincoln and the Civil War, Fr. Gavin was especially interested in the early-1800s expeditions of Lewis and Clark, and participated these past eight years in a group that gathered monthly on the Hill to discuss those adventures.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on February 11, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.

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Abbey Press’ Publications division will suspend operations

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, announced to affected co-workers on March 2 that the Publications division of Abbey Press will suspend its operations by June 30.

Although it was initially decided to keep open the Publications division, which produces the CareNotes line of booklets, Elf-help and other books, and Deacon Digest magazine, a plan to ensure the division would continue to operate profitably has not been found.

The Publications division, which employs five co-workers, has long received support and assistance from other departments at Abbey Press. Without that support, it became more difficult to make certain the division could be successful.

As with the announcement in December of the closing of the two other divisions of Abbey Press, the Publications co-workers will receive generous severance packages, and employment and counseling services to assist with the transition.

Further decisions about the Publications products will be made in the near future.
Q. When did you begin your studies at Saint Meinrad?

September 2013 (on target to graduate in May 2018).

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

My study background is elementary education, receiving a B.S. and M.S. in elementary education, as well as a certification in administration. I was hired in July 2011 to be the director of religious education at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church, Indianapolis, and eventually the pastoral associate as well.

Working more specifically for the Church, I wanted an education that would give me greater knowledge of our Catholic faith and history, allow me to grow closer to Christ, and enhance my words and actions when sharing the Gospel with others.

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology was just the place and, as I return each semester, I appreciate more and more what the school has to offer and what I continue to gain both academically and spiritually.

Q. What else are you doing besides seeking a master’s degree?

While my ministry is rewarding, it is my family that is priority in my life – second only to God. It is our faith in God and our Catholic faith lived daily by all of us (with sincere support of one another) that keep this family together.

On February 1, 2017, my parents celebrated 53 years of marriage. To this day, they continue to be role models of love, integrity and generosity. This summer, my sister and her husband will celebrate 25 years of marriage; and my brother and his wife, 24 years of marriage. I am an aunt to nine of the most wonderful nieces and nephews.

I choose to spend a great deal of time with my family, whether it is attending Mass together, sporting events, recitals, graduations, birthdays, or just getting together for no reason. My family knows me inside and out. They keep me humble and they show God’s love to me.

Serving others at the parish, I also have had opportunities to serve in the leadership of professional organizations at the state level and within the Archdiocese of Indianapolis through the Association of Parish Catechetical Leaders.

Q. Favorite saint and why?

St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus immediately springs to mind when I think of my favorite saint. I was in the fifth grade when I first read about her life, taking her name in the sacrament of Confirmation that same year. Constant was her faith and love in God.

Knowing that God was with her always, she lived God’s love in the joy. However, most especially she lived God’s love in the difficult times, in times of sacrifice and in times of loss. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the example of St. Thérèse, as well as many other saints, I have lived each day of my life knowing that God loves me.

Q. Favorite Scripture verse and why?

To choose a favorite Scripture verse is nearly impossible since I tend to have a go-to verse for various situations in my life. However, the one that first struck me regarding the depth of God’s love for me was when I read John 15:13. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Leaving Mass one day when I was a young child, those words were still with me. And, it hit me then and there: God loves me! His love for me is surpassed by no other. While I could never truly know the depth of God’s love for me, from that day forward I have felt completely and unconditionally embraced in God’s love.

Q. Hobbies?

Born and bred a Hoosier, I like learning trivia about Indiana. I am an Indianapolis Colts fan, as well as an Indiana Pacers fan going all the way back to their ABA days. I enjoy watching biographical movies and historical fiction movies, as well as British dramas. And, of course, I thoroughly enjoy gatherings and outings with my family.
Q. What aspect of your coursework has been most rewarding?

Without a doubt, my knowledge of our Catholic faith has grown tremendously. However, most rewarding has been both my spiritual growth and the growth of community among my classmates. The sincere camaraderie with others and sharing of our faith has been fruitful and life-giving.

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

Learning about our Catholic faith and history has become fascinating to me and certainly helps put beliefs and traditions in perspective. While I have learned a great deal, the challenge is knowing there is still so much more I want to learn.

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

Currently, I have no plans to look elsewhere in my ministry. Future plans are in God’s hands and I know, from previous experience, that God will reveal these plans to me on a need-to-know basis.

Q. Other comments?

My years at Saint Meinrad have been gift, and years beyond graduation it will continue to be gift. I am most grateful for the experience – academically, socially and spiritually.

An experience at the Mexican border

By Steven Reeves
Seminarian, Archdiocese of Louisville

This January, my classmates and I had the privilege of spending two weeks learning about Hispanic ministry at the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, TX. Although many of the presentations were informative and helpful, the highlight of the trip for me was the weekend we spent in the Rio Grande Valley, along the Mexican border on the southern tip of Texas.

Visiting the border put faces onto the issues. It’s so easy for us to debate “the immigration issue” while imagining a nameless, faceless horde of abstract people based on stereotypes and political rhetoric. But Jesus does not see abstractions; He sees the faces of persons with names and stories. Now “the immigration issue” has faces for me, too.

They are the faces of Alicia and her son Ricardo. Alicia and her family came to the United States planning to stay for only a short time. They’re still here, though, unable to leave their small part of south Texas due to a border patrol checkpoint on the highway.

They’re unable to access medical care and unable to make enough money to return to Mexico – although their hometown has become too dangerous anyway. Sometimes Alicia does not dare to leave her house, even to walk to Mass at the parish a few blocks away, out of fear of being caught and deported.

Now the faces of “the refugee crisis” for me are Ana and her son Francisco, who survived a long and dangerous journey from Honduras to turn themselves in at the border seeking asylum. After they were processed by the border patrol, volunteers from Sacred Heart Parish in McAllen brought them to the parish hall to receive a hot meal, clean clothes and a couple hours of rest before they continued their journey to relatives in North Carolina.

I do not know how to fix our nation’s broken immigration system. However, I do know that one day I will be judged on how I treated the least of these. I pray that on that day Jesus will look on my thoughts, my words, and my actions and be able to say, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Mt 25:35).

*Praying at the Mexican border is part of the experience of seminarians who spend two weeks in January learning about Hispanic ministry.*

### 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 email’s inbox.

To sign up, go to the “Newsletters” link on the front page of the website: www.saintmeinrad.edu. Or, send an email to news@saintmeinrad.edu
A little joke in the monastery is that the bells are the voice of God calling the community to prayer. That voice has temporarily been silenced.

In November, The Verdin Company of Cincinnati, OH, inspected the bells after the monks realized one of the bells didn’t sound right. Bell #6, the largest bell, has a crack in it and some of the components that make up the other five bells are worn out after more than 100 years of daily use.

Bell #6 is actually only about 20 years old. It cracked once before and was replaced in 1997 when the Archabbey Church was being renovated. Retired Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB, blessed the bell and named it The Trinity. It was a gift from the alumni community.

At the beginning of February, Bell #6 was removed from the bell tower and sent to the Netherlands to be repaired. It is expected to return to the Hill in five to six months.

In the meantime, The Verdin Company is fabricating and replacing the components to the other five bells: the clapper, clapper spring, pin and headpiece. A worn or broken clapper spring can cause a crack.

The Verdin Company also will update the tower clocks. The updates will include automatic daylight savings time change, menu-driven programming, a battery backup and automatic recovery in the event of a power failure. The new clock controller will maintain accuracy within one minute per year.

Repairs are estimated to cost $100,000 for the bells and $25,000 for the tower clocks.

Saint Meinrad also plans to establish a $50,000 endowment for annual maintenance and periodic repairs.

The monastic community is hopeful that the bells, the voice of God, will be calling them to prayer by Easter.

Those who wish to make a gift toward the bell and clock repairs can do so at: donate.saintmeinrad.edu.
After 22 years,
Fr. Meinrad to retire as Benedictine oblate director

Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, who will have served as the director of Benedictine Oblates for 22 years, will retire from that position at the end of June.

For the first time, a lay person will hold the director’s position. Mrs. Janis Dopp of Bloomington, IN, an oblate of Saint Meinrad for 25 years, will assume the leadership role on July 1. A new position of oblate chaplain will be filled by Fr. Joseph Cox, OSB, who has been an assistant oblate director for many years.

“I think I have brought to the oblate community a greater appreciation and understanding of Benedictine spirituality.”

She also plans to build on Fr. Meinrad’s model of leadership. “His ability to listen and weigh the value of our ideas and our counsel over the past 22 years has shown us the way the Rule works in decision-making,” she says. “He leaves us with a skill set for planning and governance and with a sense of moderation that will allow us to move forward with the work of guiding our community into the future.”

As the oblate chaplain, Fr. Joseph will serve as the liaison between the monastic community, the oblate director and the oblate community.

He will represent the monastery at the funerals of oblates when possible; assist with oblate correspondence on spiritual matters; attend retreats, days of recollection and other oblate events; and meet with the Oblate Advisory Council and the Oblate Finance Committee.

Mrs. Dopp will assume many of Fr. Meinrad’s administrative duties and continue the development of the oblate community. She has served as the chair of the Oblate Advisory Council for 18 years. She received a Master of Theological Studies degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1997.

She served as the director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, IN, for 24 years before her retirement in 2015. She helped to establish the Bloomington Oblate Chapter in 1991, serving as a co-coordinator until last October.

She is a member of the International Planning Team for the 2017 World Congress of Benedictine Oblates, which will take place in Rome. She and her husband, Jack, have lived in Bloomington since 1970, and they have two adult children, Michele and Michael. ✤
Alumni Board Slate

Five alumni seeking approval for first term

Five alumni are seeking approval for a first term on the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors, and one current member is seeking a second term. Instructions to approve the slate are located at the end of this article.

PRE-1984

Msgr. Fred C. Easton, O’66 (’54-60), is a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN. He enrolled at Saint Meinrad Minor Seminary in 1954, graduating in 1960.

Msgr. Easton studied theology at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, and St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, MD. He completed his licentiate in canon law (JCL) at Pontifical Salesian University. He was ordained in 1966.

From 1980-2011, Msgr. Easton served as the judicial vicar of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. After retiring in 2011, he took on a new role as adjunct judicial vicar.

He has served as secretary, vice president and president of the Canon Law Society of America. In 2003, the Canon Law Society of America conferred upon him its highest honor, The Role of Law.

In 1991, Msgr. Easton received the Sagamore of the Wabash award from Indiana Governor Evan Bayh and, in 2009, was awarded the Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Msgr. Easton also is a member of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Canon Law Society of Australia and New Zealand, and the Midwest Canon Law Society.

He resides in Bloomington, IN, where he enjoys writing articles and doing research in canon law.

Mr. Kevin McNamara

Mr. Kevin McNamara O’78 (’70-72) has been an airport executive for the past 25-plus years. He currently serves as the director of general aviation at the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority.

After leaving Saint Meinrad, he received a bachelor’s degree in management from the University of Central Florida and earned his MBA in aviation administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

In 1998, Mr. McNamara earned the Airport Executive Partnership Award from the National Air Transportation Association. He is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives and the Florida Airports Council.

He is a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Orlando, FL, and in his free time enjoys golfing, bowling and traveling the country in his RV. He previously served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2001-2007. McNamara and his wife Nancy have three adult children.

Edward E. Long

Mr. Kevin McNamara

Edward E. Long C’79 (’77-’79), O’83 (’79-80) and T’00 (’99-00) is a retired educator, having taught for more than 20 years at Bishop McGuinness High School and Omniplex Science Museum in Oklahoma City, OK, as well as Creative Discovery Museum in Chattanooga, TN. Long is seeking approval for a second term on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dr. Jared Bryson

Dr. Jared Bryson C’97 (’94-96) is the vice president of mission and church relations at Mercy Health System in St. Louis, MO. Before that, he served as the director of mission integration for Mercy Health in St. Louis, then as vice president of mission integration for Mercy Health in Fort Smith, AR.

Dr. Bryson earned his bachelor’s degree from Greenville College, a Master of Divinity from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, and a doctorate in ministry from Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC.

In addition to his role at Mercy Health, he serves as a public policy advisor to the Missouri Catholic Conference and on the boards of the Marianist Retreat Center and the Mission Advisory Committee of Catholic Charities of St. Louis.

He belongs to the Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality, the Association for the Contemplative Mind in Higher Education and Spiritual Directors International. He and his wife Emily live in St. Louis with their two young children.
2017 Phonathon is successful again

The annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon involves the entire seminary student body. This past February and March, students manned the phones for a few hours of calling on seven evenings.

They had a successful Phonathon, speaking with more than 700 people and receiving gifts and pledges totaling $33,040. Each evening, they talked with alumni and friends from across the country. Phone messages were left with those they couldn’t reach and on days following each Phonathon, a good number of alumni and friends returned calls to Saint Meinrad to make a donation.

“I’m always impressed with the enthusiasm the students give to the Phonathon and I admire their willingness to offer up some of their time to participate,” says John Huether, O’78 (‘71-74), associate director of annual giving, who organizes the event. “After returning from Christmas break and January Interterm, it’s a busy time of year for them,” he said. “Nevertheless, it’s encouraging to see the excellent results from their efforts.”

Gifts to the Phonathon 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 2016-2017 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu.

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Then in 2011, he was named president of CNEWA. “I’m honored to do what I do,” he says. “I’ve been blessed. I’ve traveled all over the world and met some amazing people. Of course, for me, the most amazing people are the poor…”

“I think I’m at my best when I can give witness and be alongside some tribal people who have never seen a man with white skin or somebody who has a different impression of the Church – that we’re warm and loving and we’re all a part of the same family.”

An alumnus who nominated Msgr. Kozar for the award wrote, “From his days as a seminarian at St. Meinrad, Fr. Kozar has had a love for the missionary outreach of the Church. He follows in the footsteps of the missionary monks who came from Einsiedeln to bring new life to the frontier areas of southern Indiana over 150 years ago.”

The Distinguished Alumnus Award will be bestowed on August 1 at the Alumni Reunion banquet. Msgr. Kozar will be the 26th recipient of the award.

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Dr. Christine Hernandez teaches a weekend course on Modern Church History.
Reunion offers alumni spiritual, personal enrichment

The 89th annual Alumni Reunion is planned for July 30-August 2 at Saint Meinrad. The yearly event provides alumni an opportunity for spiritual and intellectual growth and time to catch up and reminisce with classmates.

“I’m really excited about this year’s reunion,” says Christian Mocek, director of alumni relations. “In addition to a great lineup of conferences, we are honoring a remarkable group of people who have given a lot to the Church and the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.”

New to this year’s reunion is a reception on Monday morning for Graduate Theology Program alumni. Following the reception, Fr. Lambert Reilly, OSB, will give the Day of Recollection. Fr. Lambert is an acclaimed retreat speaker and former archabbot of Saint Meinrad (1995-2004). A golf scramble also will be held at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus, IN.

Monday evening, a special banquet will honor anniversary classes and outgoing Alumni Board members.

Celebrating anniversaries will be the ordination classes of O’67 (50th anniversary), O’77 (40th), T’92 (25th), T’07 (10th) and T’12 (5th); college classes of 1967 (50th), 1977 (40th) and 1992 (25th); and the high school class of 1967 (50th).

Celebrating special anniversaries are the high school class of 1957 (60th) and the college class of 1972 (45th).

Also on Monday evening during the banquet, Janet Werne will be honored with honorary alumna status in recognition of her 50 years of service to the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association. Ms. Werne is currently the associate director of alumni relations and has worked in various capacities in the Saint Meinrad Development Office since 1967.

Honorary membership in the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association is reserved for individuals whose interest and service make such a membership significant. The Alumni Association Board of Directors votes on these special memberships. Honorary members are granted the full privileges of regular members, with the exception of voting privileges and election to office in the Alumni Association.


Kozar also will be awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the banquet Tuesday evening. Msgr. Kozar is president of CNEWA, where he oversees the Catholic Church’s aid to Christians in the Middle East, Northeast Africa, India and Eastern Europe.

Tuesday afternoon, President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, will give a presentation titled “Going Home: Finding the True Centers of Church Life.” After his presentation, Fr. Denis will celebrate the alumni reunion Mass in honor of his 10th year as president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Register by July 7 to receive a $10 per day discount. For those who want to attend only the Day of Recollection and lunch on Monday, the cost is $20.

More than 170 volunteers participated in 11 projects in nine cities for the Saint Meinrad Day of Service on March 11. Volunteers prepared food, served meals to the homeless, painted, packed kits for refugees, assembled furniture, cleaned and did laundry at a women’s shelter, prepared an abandoned home to be remodeled, put siding on a home for Habitat for Humanity, and distributed food to the needy.

Mr. Walter F. Baczkowski O’68 (‘56-64), of Murrysville, PA, died on January 24, 2017.

Mr. Donald C. Barhorst O’56 (‘44-48), of Houston, TX, died on December 11, 2016.

Mr. Urban O. Blessinger O’61 (‘49-50), of Huntingburg, IN, died on January 15, 2017.

Mr. E. James Brun SPH (‘54-57), of Bellevue, KY, died on January 6, 2015.

Mr. James C. Elliott O’58 (‘46-48), of Loogootee, IN, died on December 29, 2016.

Mr. Irvin L. French O’63 (‘51-53), of North Vernon, IN, died on January 21, 2017.

Mr. Randall Greco O’74 (‘62-64), of Niles, IL, died on May 3, 2016.

Sr. Patricia Hejna, OSF, SS’81 (‘76-81), of Sylvania, OH, died on January 11, 2017.

Mrs. Mary Jo Holmes SS’79 (‘71-72; ’77-80), of Jasper, IN, died on February 19, 2017.

Fr. Peter Hsu O’57 (‘50-57), a priest of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died on December 31, 2016.

Mr. Marvin P. Kiesel O’55 (‘43-44), of Haubstadt, IN, died on December 2, 2016.

Fr. Stephen Amaral O’77 (‘73-77) was appointed pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church in Jamestown, RI, in February.

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB, T’04 (‘96-98; ’00-04), a monk of Marmion Abbey, finished overseeing the renovation of St. Luke Byzantine Catholic Church in Sugar Creek, MO, constructing some of the new furnishings himself.

Fr. Raymond Brenner O’69 (‘57-69), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, was named a Professional of the Year 2016 by America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals.

Fr. Charles Knoll, OFM Cap., S’04, died on March 8, 2015, in Pittsburgh, PA.

Mr. Jack L. “Pop” Krininger SPH (‘50), of New Albany, IN, died on December 27, 2016.

Fr. Raymond E. Lavelle O’57 (‘48-51), a priest of the Diocese of Columbus, OH, died on December 31, 2015.

Fr. Richard J. LeClair, CSSP, S’01, died on November 6, 2013, in Bethel Park, PA.

Mr. Frank V. Martinez O’58 (‘52-58), of Bothell, WA, died on May 9, 2014.


Fr. Joseph V. Murphy O’67 (‘63-67), a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died on December 12, 2016.

Mr. Anthony R. Olson C’90 (‘86-87), of St. Petersburg, FL, died on September 23, 2015.

Rev. Donald Raih O’67 (‘61-67), of Fayetteville, WV, died on December 2, 2016.

Fr. Godfrey G. Raffel O’53 (‘43-44; ’52-53), died on October 12, 2016, in Bakersfield, CA.

Mr. Charles W. Sandefur O’69 (‘63-65), of Louisville, KY, died on August 15, 2015.

Mr. Damian J. Schepers O’57 (‘45-49), of Jasper, IN, died on December 22, 2016.

Mr. Silas W. Spaulling SPH (‘51-53), of Jasper, IN, died on January 5, 2017.


Mr. Donald C. Wagner O’72 (‘60-61), of Roseville, MI, died on May 15, 2012.

Mr. Robert P. “Bob” Will O’58 (‘46-47), of Harrisburg, IL, died on December 22, 2016.

Fr. Godfrey G. Raffel O’53 (‘43-44; ’52-53), died on October 12, 2016, in Bakersfield, CA.

Fr. James Bromwich T’98 (‘93-96), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, wrote three children’s plays and a one-act drama that were presented during the Christmas season in Fort Wayne, IN.

Fr. Benedict Brown O’73 (‘67-74), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been assigned as chaplain of the new Radcliff Veterans Center in Radcliff, KY.

Mr. Daniel Conway O’75 (‘67-75), of Louisville, KY, recently released the fourth novel in his Father Turiddu series, Father Turiddu and the Second Gracie Allen Murder Case.

Mrs. Lisa Dejanco Crutcher GTP (‘15-17), of Louisville, KY, has been named the executive director of Catholic Charities in Louisville, effective April 1.

Fr. Jamie Dennis T’16 (‘09-16), a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, celebrated Mass on December 13, 2016, in a chapel at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. The occasion was the feast of St. Lucy, patron of the blind and visually impaired.

Fr. Christopher Droste T’13 (‘09-13), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, was installed as pastor at Divine Mercy Parish in Dubois County.
Mr. Richard Hasenour O’69 (’57-60), of Jasper, IN, is the St. John Bosco Youth Ministry director. The program serves youth of four Catholic parishes in Jasper and Ireland, IN. She was featured in a story in the county newspaper, The Herald, on January 17, 2017.

Mr. Coy Hobson GTP (’16-17) and Samantha Ford were married on December 17, 2016. They reside in Evansville, IN.

Fr. Christopher House C’98 (’95-98), chancellor of the Diocese of Springfield, IL, participated in the exhumation of the remains of Fr. Augustus Tolton on December 10. Tolton, the first recognized American diocesan priest of African descent, is a candidate for sainthood.

Fr. Joshua Janko GTP (’05), a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, last fall began his first active-duty assignment at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan as a chaplain for the U.S. Air Force. He is at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan as a fall began his first active-duty assignment the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, last

Mrs. Rachel Forbes-Kaufman MA’14 (’11-14) participated in a panel presentation on “The Challenge of Living the Christian Faith in American Health Care” on October 12, 2016, Newburgh, IN.

Fr. J. Ronald Knott O’70 (’64-70), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, was the commencement speaker at Bellarmine University’s graduation on December 21, 2016. He also received an honorary doctoral degree.

Fr. Prior Joel Macul, OSB, O’73 (’63-64; ’69-73) became the superior of Christ the King Priory in Schuyler, NE, on January 1.

Msgr. William Stumpf T’85 (’80-81) was elected archdiocesan administrator for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on January 9 until Pope Francis chooses a new archbishop.

Fr. Andrew Syberg T’15 (’08-15) and Fr. Jerry Byrd T’12 (’06-12), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, were among hundreds of priests who concelebrated the closing Mass of the Holy Year of Mercy with Pope Francis on November 20, 2016.

Mr. Bernie Niehaus O’63 (’51-54), of Vincennes, IN, is publishing occasional excerpts from his book Splinters in the Evansville diocesan newspaper, The Message.

Fr. John M. O’Neill T’09 (’05-09; ’13) was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Tulsa on July 16, 2016. He was appointed associate pastor for the Church of St. Benedict in Broken Arrow, OK, and the diocesan coordinator for rural outreach.

Fr. John Parks T’10 (’05-10) will begin a new assignment as vicar of evangelization for the Diocese of Phoenix on July 1. He currently serves as chaplain and faculty member at Notre Dame Preparatory School.

Very Rev. David Perkin O’77 (’70-73) has been named to oversee the governance of the Diocese of Nashville while Bishop David Choby recovers in a Nashville hospital from a fall and infection. The appointment was made on February 25.

Fr. Paul Scaglione O’73 (’69-73; ’92), director of Gennesaret Ministries, was featured in an article in The Record, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, which marked the 15th anniversary of the Gennesaret program. The program offers retreats for the seriously ill.

Fr. Alphonse Skerl O’55 (’51-55) spoke on October 23, 2016, at the closing Mass of Holy Trinity (Hungarian) Parish in East Chicago, IN, where he has served as pastor since 1971.

Msgr. William Stumpf T’85 (’80-81) has become the bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria, LA, following Pope Francis’ acceptance of the resignation of Bishop Ronald Herzog. Bishop Talley was named coadjutor bishop of the diocese on September 21, 2016.

Mr. Joseph Tumasian T’15 (’11-14), professor of theology and psychology at Marian University in Indianapolis and director of adult faith formation at All Saints Church in Logansport, IN, presented a lecture titled “Catholic Biology: Understanding Genesis and Evolution” at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Carmel, IN, on January 22.

Mr. Bob Vogler O’63 (’51-59), of Jasper, IN, was recognized for his community work in Dubois County Community Correction in Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush’s State of the Judiciary address on January 18.

Fr. Joseph H. Voor O’50 (’46-50), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, received the Monsignor Alfred F. Horrigan Distinguished Service Award from Bellarmine University on December 3, 2016. He had served as Bellarmine’s first Psychology Department faculty member.

Fr. Joseph Weigman T’91 (’85-91), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, was featured in the Toledo newspaper The Blade on December 24, 2016. The article highlighted his challenges with multiple sclerosis that have taken his ministry down an unexpected road.

Most Rev. David P. Talley T’89 (’86-89) has become the bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria, LA, following Pope Francis’ acceptance of the resignation of Bishop Ronald Herzog. Bishop Talley was named coadjutor bishop of the diocese on September 21, 2016.
Msgr. John Kozar C’67 (’59-67) travels a lot for his job. In fact, he averages about 150,000 air miles a year. This summer, his travels will bring him back to Saint Meinrad to accept the 2017 Distinguished Alumnus Award at the Alumni Reunion.

For the last six years, Msgr. Kozar has been president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. Appointed by the Holy Father, he oversees the Catholic Church’s aid to Christians in the Near East and Middle East – about 16 countries.

CNEWA’s mission is to support the Eastern Catholic churches, provide humanitarian assistance, promote Christian unity and interreligious understanding and collaboration, and educate people about the churches of the East.

Often, these areas are challenged by poverty, oppression, war and persecution. “I’m charged by the Holy Father to reach out on his behalf to Eastern Catholic churches, especially in very troubled areas of the world,” he explains. “I’ve been to some very remote areas, like in Ethiopia and India. I’ve been in areas where, literally, I was the first person with white skin to be seen there.”

Support from CNEWA comes in many forms, including education, pastoral training, rural development programs and healthcare.

A priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Msgr. Kozar calls himself “a diocesan priest on loan to the missions.” He discovered that love for missionary work as a high school student at Saint Meinrad.

“My senior year, I was president of the Mission Club. I went to a national mission meeting for high school kids at Notre Dame,” he says. “I’ll never forget this, but it was because Saint Meinrad gave me that opportunity to connect with missions – that has been part of me from that moment.”

He spent the early years of his priesthood as an associate pastor at various parishes in the Pittsburgh Diocese. From 1978 to 2001, he served as development director for the diocese, making yearly pastoral visits to the diocese’s mission in Chimbote, Peru.

He also worked from 1987 to 2001 as pilgrimage director for the diocese, from 1995 to 1997 as vicar for clergy, from 1995 to 2001 as diocesan director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, and from 1997 to 2001 as director of the Diocesan Jubilee Office, while also serving as pastor of several parishes.

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