On the Hill

Winter 2018 • Vol. 57:1

Monte Cassino Shrine restored

CareNotes booklets are back

Gift Shop expands products

Cover: Pilgrims pray inside the newly restored Monte Cassino Shrine chapel before the blessing October 1.
Fr. Cassian Folsom, founder of the Monastery of San Benedetto in Norcia, Italy, has transferred his monastic stability from Saint Meinrad Archabbey to the Norcia monastery. He served for 18 years as its founding prior.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak visited Fr. Warren Heitz and celebrated Mass for the Vianney Renewal Center Community in Dittmer, MO, on October 15.

Fr. Jeremy King attended the fourth International Congress for Benedictine Oblates November 4-10 in Rome, along with Oblate Director Janis Dopp. The conference organizer was Fr. Edward Linton, who is director of international Benedictine formation at the College of St. Anselm, Rome.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain has been appointed monastery choirmaster.

Br. Zachary Wilberding has been appointed director of monastery vocations.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak attended the 5th Annual Fr. Michael J. McGivney Vocations Dinner in Evansville, IN, on October 24.

Br. James Jensen began working for the Development Office in donor relations on November 1. He will continue his work as administrative assistant for “One Bread, One Cup” and assistant sacristan.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain led a group of Saint Meinrad monks and participants from the “One Bread, One Cup” program in chant and Compline for more than 20,000 youth at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN, on November 17.

Fr. Harry Hagan and Fr. Sean Hoppe attended the priestly ordination of Brother David N’Djim, OSB, in Togo, West Africa, on November 18.

Fr. Justin DuVall presented the Advent Oblate Retreat, “To Flee or Not to Flee: Oblates and the Times in Which They Live,” at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House on December 8-10.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak presided at the oblation and investiture ceremony in the Archabbey Church on December 9. Nine candidates were invested as oblate novices and thirteen made their final oblation.

Fr. Denis Robinson gave a presentation titled “Oblation and the Domestic Church” following the ceremony.
Clockwise from top left: A large crowd attended the blessing of the newly restored Monte Cassino Shrine on October 1, 2017. Upgrades and repair work, under way since 2016, included foundation work, a new sandstone piazza, restoration of the interior artwork, new air conditioning and lighting, and landscaping.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, addressed those attending the event and then blessed the building and grounds with holy water.

Saint Meinrad monk Br. Pedro Fonseka, OSB, greets Jim Patterson II and family members, who attended the blessing from Louisville, KY.

Guests also took part in the traditional rosary pilgrimage at Monte Cassino Shrine. The rosary pilgrimage is held each Sunday during May and October.

A new addition to Monte Cassino Shrine is the outdoor prayer garden and its new statue of Mary holding the Infant Jesus.
Saint Meinrad continues publication of CareNotes

Families who buy a casket or urn through Abbey Caskets have always received CareNotes booklets as part of Abbey Caskets’ after-care program.

Publication of the popular booklets went on hiatus when Abbey Press closed on June 30, 2017. In September, Saint Meinrad Archabbey reintroduced the line of booklets.

“The families truly appreciate the message conveyed through those CareNotes and it helps them through a very difficult time in their lives,” says Jenny Keller, director of Abbey Caskets and CareNotes at Saint Meinrad.

The eight-page inspirational – and informational – booklets have been published since 1988. CareNotes offer strength, help and healing for those who are hurting and provide a wealth of emotional, recovery, health, grief, and eldercare support and information.

“CareNotes touch on so many different topics that there is something for everyone,” explains Keller. “This tool helps people know that God is with them on this journey and that they are not alone. This is truly a ministry that helps heal people.”

CareNotes booklets tackle tough topics such as depression, losing a child, facing cancer and others, and have sold more than 100 million copies. More than 50,000 institutions and organizations worldwide have used CareNotes in their work.

Hospital chaplains, hospice workers, palliative care professionals, social workers, bereavement coordinators, pastoral care ministers and funeral directors provide the booklets to those they counsel.

The 50 most popular titles of CareNotes are available at a new website, www.carenotes.com.

For more information, visit the website or contact the CareNotes staff at (800) 325-2511 or info@carenotes.com.

Events on the Hill

February 9-11 or March 16-18

February 27
Black History Lecture given by Dr. Gregory Ellison

March 23-25
Guest House Retreat: “Benedictine Spirituality” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB

March 28-April 1
Guest House Retreat: “Holy Week Retreat” by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB

April 12
Thomas Lecture given by Dr. Caitlin Smith Gilson

April 20-22

April 23-27

April 27-29
Guest House Retreat: “Contemplative Living” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB

April 30-May 4
Guest House Retreat: “Key Themes in the Gospel of Mark: Challenges for Preaching and Pastoral Practice” by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB (Priests Retreat)

May 4-6
Guest House Retreat: “Beauty as a Pathway to God: Religious Art and Symbol in the Spiritual Life” by Br. Martin Erspermer, OSB

May 8-10
Guest House Retreat: “On Becoming the Publican in the Temple: St. Benedict’s Degrees of Humility” by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB

For more information, call (812) 357-6611 or visit our website www.saint Meinrad.org
Gift Shop adds new products, website
You can find Fair Trade gifts, garden décor, abbey ales

The Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop has a new direction for 2018 – and a new director.

Cyndy Faulkenberg took on the role of manager of retail shops (the Gift Shop and the Scholar Shop) last fall. Since then, she and her staff have been busy bringing in new products and launching a website.

Visitors to the Gift Shop will find plenty of new items, including a selection of Fair Trade products. Fair Trade products ensure that fair prices are paid to the artisans in developing countries. Often, a portion of the proceeds goes to support a cause, such as the colorful beaded bracelets that help support Nepalese women and their families.

New Fair Trade items range from Christmas ornaments to artwork and from purses to scarves. “Many of these items are one of a kind,” says Faulkenberg. “We’re finding that visitors appreciate that they are also supporting a cause.”

The Monastery Goods section also continues to expand, with preserves, pancake mix, coffee, chocolates, biscotti and cookies – as well as a selection of beers and ales. Each product supports the work of its abbey or friary. Faulkenberg says she is searching for some abbey-made wines to add to the shelves.

A new garden décor area was recently added, which displays pottery, garden signs, whimsical birds and flowers, fountains, birdhouses and feeders, and more. Among the new items are artwork made in Haiti from upcycled metal drums.

The popular section of books, music and DVDs remains, but the Gift Shop is adding some new lines of greeting cards. “With more styles of cards, buyers are more likely to find ones that appeal to their personal taste,” says Faulkenberg.

After shopping, guests can eat at the shop’s café, which serves soups, sandwiches, pie and snacks.

The Gift Shop is located on the Saint Meinrad campus, along Indiana 545. The new website is at www.smagiftshop.com. You can also follow the Gift Shop on Facebook at www.facebook.com/smagiftshop.
Q. What attracted you to the priesthood?
My initial attraction was to a life of service. Much of my journey before seminary was trying to figure out how God was inviting me to serve Him. Initially, I wanted to get a business degree in computer information systems. But after two years of undergrad studies in that field, I felt empty. So I tried to put my knowledge and gifts with technology at the service of others by becoming a teacher. After getting a bachelor’s degree in education and teaching for a few years, I still felt a strong draw to dedicating my life completely in service to God and neighbor. I tried lay ecclesial ministry for a few years, but eventually it became clear to me that the priesthood is my way of giving my life in service.

Q. Who or what influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?
I was very reluctant to begin studying for the priesthood. I had experienced a few health challenges in my late teen years and had clung to my faith during those difficult times. In the midst of that, I managed to complete college and secure a good job as a teacher. I was not excited about the prospect of turning my life upside down. However, I could not get rid of the sense that God was inviting me to more.

During all of the difficulties and transitions, my pastor – and now vocation director – was a steady and patient guide. He helped me find my way through difficult circumstances, even before we discussed the possibility of becoming a priest. His example and support were big influences on me.

I was also spurred on by the example of my younger brother, who is now a priest. Though three years younger than me, he entered seminary two years before me, overcoming tremendously difficult circumstances. He had a kidney transplant in early adolescence and now has to receive dialysis regularly. Yet he continues to serve to the best of his ability and is a powerful witness to perseverance and faith.

Q. What were you doing before you came to the seminary?
Before I came to the seminary, I served as director of youth and young adult ministry for the Archdiocese of Nassau for three years. I organized programs, such as retreats and pilgrimages to the Antilles Episcopal Conference Youth Assembly, which was held in St. Lucia in 2012, and World Youth Day Madrid in 2011.

I also recruited and formed volunteers to serve in various youth programs at the parish and archdiocesan levels, in addition to liaising with the Government’s Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture. Prior to that, I worked as a computer teacher for three years at R. N. Gomez All-Age School in the Berry Islands in The Bahamas.

Q. Favorite saint and why?
My favorite saint is Blessed Pier Giorgio. I discovered him as a young man and he struck me as a good example of holiness. He died at age 24, but lived a full life. He seemed like an ordinary young man in many ways, but lived a life of extraordinary prayer and service. He had an adventurous spirit and was a good friend.

He became my favorite saint because he is the kind of person I want to be. Even though I am now almost 10 years older than he ever got to be, I still see him as a good example of what it means to be a Christian in our world today.

Q. Favorite Scripture verse and why?
My favorite scripture verse is Hebrews 12:1-2, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.”

This passage captures so much of my experience of the Christian life: the importance in my life of good examples, mentors, intercessors, saints; the need for constant and deeper conversion; the need to persevere; the centrality of Jesus; and the cross that leads to joy at the heart of
the gospel message. It has become a passage that I return to again and again.

Q. Hobbies?
I enjoy traveling quite a bit, especially with friends and family. Though I have limited financial means, I have taken advantage of every opportunity I have had to travel while here in the U.S. So far, I have visited about 23 states. I enjoy learning about the local culture and what makes a particular region distinct, in addition to trying local dishes and visiting the sights.

Q. What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?
The most rewarding aspect of seminary life has been the friendships I have formed here. They have been a support to me when I have been homesick and have helped me to see the situations and the world from a different perspective. Some of my friends here at Saint Meinrad even invited me to spend Thanksgiving and Easter breaks with them and their families, because I was not able to travel home to The Bahamas. I am very thankful to them, and many of those breaks are the most memorable experiences of my time here in the U.S.

Q. What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?
The most challenging aspect of seminary life has certainly been being away from home and family for extended periods. Prior to arriving at Saint Meinrad, I had visited the U.S. a number of times, but had never stayed for more than two weeks. Being away from my home country, the place where I sense the call to serve, has been difficult.

Q. Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?
Early on in the formation process, we were told by many formators, “Be here!” I think that is probably the best advice I received during my time at Saint Meinrad. To “be here” is to enter into the formation process actively. It is to take advantage of the opportunities to learn and grow. To really “be here” is to become a part of the community, contributing your gifts and talents. To “be here” is to depend on the people here in times of need or difficulty. Taking that advice has been key to making my time at Saint Meinrad a good experience.

El Camino: Year of Spiritual Discernment
New Saint Meinrad program introduces students to seminary

A new program to introduce men who are discerning priesthood to seminary formation is getting under way this fall at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Development began shortly after the Vatican’s Congregation for the Clergy released a document on priestly formation, The Gift of the Priestly Vocation, in December 2016.

President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, and three other members of the school staff spent two weeks in Rome last summer learning about the document and how it may affect future programming in the seminary.

U.S. bishops will use the new document to guide them as they develop the next edition of the Program for Priestly Formation, which sets the curriculum for American seminaries.

Saint Meinrad’s program – El Camino: A Year of Spiritual Discernment – addresses a new stage of formation outlined in The Gift of the Priestly Vocation called the propaedeutic stage. The word “propaedeutic” refers to a preparation or introduction to an area of study.

According to the Rome document, a main objective of the new stage of formation “is to provide a solid basis for the spiritual life and to nurture a greater self-awareness for personal growth.”

Saint Meinrad’s El Camino program will introduce young men to the depths and richness of Catholic culture, while helping them discover how their story and vocation fits within that broader story. The year-long program is focused on learning, prayer and discernment within a community.

In addition, the students learn about the academic, spiritual and ministerial aspects of seminary formation. For example, students will hear about many of the important cultural thinkers, such as Homer, Virgil and Thomas Aquinas; the great medieval mystics; thinkers from the Spanish Golden Age; as well as a variety of modern voices.

They also learn about priestly spirituality, such as how to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. And, they begin to acquire ministry skills at a supervised site, such as a soup kitchen or prison. Aspects of spirituality within art and literature are also introduced.

Using a pilgrimage theme, El Camino encourages students to journey through their discernment. Several pilgrimages are scheduled throughout the year, including a capstone trip to Spain that includes a six-day walking pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

More details about the program are available at: www.saintmeinrad.edu/elcamino.

Mass Intentions
You can now request Mass Intentions online
www.saintmeinrad.org/mass-intentions
Photos, beginning at top left: Deacon Joseph de Orbegozo hung the flag of Peru behind the food booth he was working at with Fr. Noel Mueller, OSB, before the fall Around the World party in October. Fr. Noel spent 10 years in Peru doing ministry work in the 1970s.

Fr. Peter Marshall taught a reconciliation class to IV Theology seminarians in November.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, gives the sign of peace to newly installed Archbishop Charles Thompson of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during a Mass to officially welcome the Archbishop in October.

Br. Simon Herrmann, OSB, prays in the Archabbey Cemetery with the monastic community during All Souls day.

Br. Peduru Fonseka, OSB, left, and Br. Cassian Elkins, OSB, chat on the steps outside of the Archabbey Church before the Around the World party in October. Both are deacons and will graduate in May.

Seminarians attend a Mass on All Saints Day. Pictured, from left, are Drew Williams, Brian Cundall, Kenneth Wamera, Ignacio Murillo, and Mike Dedek.

Find more photos at http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com
Photos, beginning at top left: Deacon Gil Pierre gives advice to Fr. Peter Marshall while doing a practice confession during reconciliation class.

Seminarian Christopher Grief waits in one of the Archabbey lakes to retrieve lost discs during the fall Frisbee golf tournament in October. Several goals along the disc golf course are located around the lakes.

Konrad Raposo, from left, his wife, Sonia Maria, and Peter Manninen pray together in the St. Bede Chapel before Graduate Theology weekend courses begin in September.

Fr. Peter Marshall, from left, Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, and Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, wait in the hallway outside the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel before Mass and the fall semester bishop dinner.

Br. Peduru Fonseka, OSB, serves as deacon during a Mass to welcome Archbishop Charles Thompson as the new Archbishop of Indianapolis in October.

Find more photos at http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com
A bequest can ensure your legacy continues
Make a gift through your will, insurance policy or retirement plan

The question may have crossed your mind: How is a bequest to Saint Meinrad handled? Here’s a typical scenario: An attorney notifies us that someone has died and Saint Meinrad was included in the will. Often, we learn about this as the probate process begins, though the gift is typically delayed for a year or longer.

You can make a gift to Saint Meinrad part of your will or living trust. You can also designate Saint Meinrad as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, annuity or retirement plan.

Some donors have specific ideas on how to use their gifts. They want to fund a specific program, create or add to an endowment fund, or finance a project or event. Others decide not to designate their bequest, preferring to let Saint Meinrad decide how best to use the gift.

Saint Meinrad is committed to preserving the legacy of bequests and providing confidence for donors who may consider gifts to us when planning their estates. We recognize how important these gifts are to our mission and to our financial strength. Saint Meinrad’s work of preparing leaders for the Church would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

As you look ahead to your plans for 2018, here are some questions to consider: Do you have a will or a living trust? Is it current? Does it include a gift for Saint Meinrad Archabbey or the Seminary and School of Theology? Is the gift designated for a specific purpose?

Saint Meinrad can provide you or your attorney sample bequest language for unrestricted and restricted gifts, including endowments, to ensure your bequest is properly designated. Contact Darren Sroufe at (800) 682-0988 or dsroufe@saintmeinrad.edu to have this information sent to you.

Use your IRA to make a gift and save taxes
If you’re over age 70½, tax laws now allow you to make charitable gifts through your traditional or Roth IRA. Gifts must be made by the IRA custodian directly to the charity and may not exceed $100,000.

For questions, contact:
Darren Sroufe, Director of Planned Giving
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577
(800) 682-0988, dsroufe@saintmeinrad.edu

Fall at Saint Meinrad Archabbey is a beautiful time as the trees on campus and the surrounding area glow with red, orange and yellow leaves.
Alumni bishops to lead Midwest dioceses

Two alumni of Saint Meinrad were named bishops recently.

Most Rev. Joseph M. Siegel was named the new bishop of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, by Pope Francis on October 18. He was installed on December 15, 2017.

Fr. J. Mark Spalding was chosen to lead the Diocese of Nashville, TN, on November 21. He will be ordained a bishop and installed on February 2, 2018.

Bishop Joseph Siegel

Most recently, Bishop Siegel was the auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, IL, where he had served since January 2010. Bishop Siegel attended Saint Meinrad College from 1981-84. He was then sent to the North American College in Rome (1984-1988), attending the Gregorian and Angelicum universities.

The new bishop, 54, was ordained a priest for the Joliet Diocese in 1988 and then completed his licentiate in sacred theology at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL.

After ordination, his assignments included: associate pastor at St. Isidore Parish, Bloomington; and St. Mary Immaculate Parish, Plainfield; parochial vicar at St. Mary Nativity Church, Joliet; and Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet; and pastor of Visitiation Parish, Elmhurst.

In July 2011, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon appointed Bishop Siegel as his vicar general.

At the Catholic Conference of Illinois, he served on the Executive Committee and was chairman of the Catholics for Life Department.

He chaired the Steering Committee for the Joliet Diocesan Year of the Eucharist and Eucharistic Congress and has been a member of the Bishops’ Respect Life Advisory Board. He is a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and a member of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Bishop-elect J. Mark Spalding

Bishop-elect Spalding, 52, a native of Fredericktown, KY, was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Louisville on August 3, 1991. He is a 1987 graduate of Saint Meinrad College.

He received a master of religious studies and a licentiate in canon law from American University in Louvain, Belgium.

The bishop-elect is currently pastor of Holy Trinity Parish and Holy Name Parish in Louisville. He has served as a vicar general for the archdiocese since 2011.

He has served a number of other assignments, including associate pastor at St. Joseph and chaplain at Bethlehem High School in Bardstown, associate pastor at St. Augustine in Lebanon, associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Louisville, and pastor of Immaculate Conception in LaGrange. He has served as a judge, judicial vicar and director of the tribunal for the archdiocese.

The see of Nashville has been vacant since Bishop David Choby died on June 3, 2017.

Dr. Nicholas Smiar O’68 (‘61-66), of Eau Claire, WI, was honored with two awards recently. In October, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Child Care Workers for his work there during the last 32 years. An emeritus professor in the Department of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin, he is now teaching classic languages and literature and religious studies.

Fr. Andrew Syberg T’15 (‘08-15), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, has joined the staff of Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis as a formation dean.

Mr. Charles Thatcher T’88 (‘82-87; ’07-08), of Winter Springs, FL, was honored with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal on November 6. He recently retired as music director for the Diocese of Orlando, FL, and St. James Cathedral, where he had served since 2011.

Fr. Philip J. Vanderlin, OSB, O’70 (‘69-70), of Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND, has returned to the United States after 50 years of missionary work in Bogota, Colombia. He is currently serving in Hispanic ministry at Our Lady of the Mountains Parish in Jackson Hole, WY.

Ms. Kristina Vogt GTP (‘16-17) married David Seipel on September 2, 2017. They now reside in Memphis, IN.

Mr. Jim Wayne O’74 (‘62-66), a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives for 27 years, announced in November that he will not seek re-election in 2018. He has served in District 35, which comprises a portion of Jefferson County.

Mr. Greg Welch T’99 (‘86-89; ‘94-98; ’04-05; ’08), of Spartanburg, SC, is the regional campus minister for five college campuses in Spartanburg.

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planned giving for the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY. In September, he was recognized by the archdiocese for completing the required work for becoming a master catechist.

Like us on Facebook

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Calling all alumni: Phonathon begins in February

On seven evenings in February and March, seminarians will be making phone calls from the Development Office for the annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon. On five of those nights, Alumni are called. On the two nights in which non-alumni friends are called, half of the evening is devoted to thanking them for their past support, called a “Thankathon.”

The entire student body participates. It’s an event that offers opportunities for seminarians to connect with alumni and friends, tell them firsthand what’s new on the Hill, and invite them to make a pledge to help support the work of Saint Meinrad.

“For alumni, a phone call from Saint Meinrad often brings back memories—sometimes of a beloved monk-instructor they haven’t heard from in a while,” says Associate Director of Annual Giving John Huether O’78, who organizes the event. “For the seminarian, there’s plenty going on during the school year they are happy to share.” Of course, a gift or pledge at any level to support the Seminary and School of Theology is always graciously accepted during the Phonathon.

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

Alumni whose gifts qualify will receive this year’s premium, a red power bank: a portable, rechargeable battery with the Saint Meinrad Alumni logo, for cell phones and other devices.

Chris Carr joins Alumni Board

Chris Carr C’94 (’91-94), of Dublin, OH, has been appointed to the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Carr has worked at Cardinal Health in Dublin for 15 years. He currently serves as chief of staff / program manager in Customer Support Services.

In previous roles at Cardinal Health, he served in leadership in various areas: mergers and acquisitions, strategic initiatives for the chief information officer, and business integrations.

Also at Cardinal Health, Carr plays a key role in the college intern program, supports a leadership development program for emerging leaders, and mentors numerous employees across the organization.

Previously, he served in leadership with a Fortune 1000 technology company for six years, leading teams that build technology solutions for large corporations.

In addition, he has been involved with the Boy Scouts, parish youth group, coaching sports and a volunteer worker with the marching band. Carr has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 23 years and was an executive board member of the Dublin Music Boosters.

He and his wife Jennifer have two children.

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

Smugmug

For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:
http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com
Day of Service: 
Dozen projects set for March 10th

Plans are set for the fifth annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service. This year, the day of service will be Saturday, March 10.

The event, organized by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association in partnership with the Alumni Office, is open to any participants, not just alumni.

“Volunteers will find many opportunities to serve their communities this year,” explains Christian Mocek, Saint Meinrad’s director of alumni relations. “We have projects at soup kitchens and food banks, as well as projects that require painting and yard work.”

The Saint Meinrad Day of Service was begun in 2014 to develop more creative ways for alumni to live out the mission of Saint Meinrad in their communities with fellow classmates and friends.

“Tentatively, we have 12 projects this year. Three years ago, we started this event with one project and 20 volunteers. Last year, we had 11 projects and over 170 volunteers. It is a special event and one that has become an integral work of the Alumni Association,” says Mocek.

As with the last four years, Ora et Labora, Prayer and Work, is the theme of the event. In addition to the service activities, volunteers at each location will come together and pray before or after their project, either by celebrating Mass or praying the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the time of day.

To get details for projects in your area and to register as a participant, visit the Saint Meinrad Day of Service registration page at: http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice/

There is no cost to participate and each volunteer receives a free Saint Meinrad Day of Service t-shirt, courtesy of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

Volunteers are asked to register by March 1 to ensure an accurate count for lunch and t-shirts.

If you have any questions about the Day of Service in your area, contact the Alumni Office at (812) 357-6501 or email Christian Mocek at cmocek@saintmeinrad.edu.

2018 Locations:

Bloomington, IN
Cleveland, OH
Dayton, OH
Evansville, IN
Fort Wayne, IN
Indianapolis, IN
Kankakee, IL
Los Angeles, CA
Louisville, KY
New Albany, IN
Toledo, OH

Register by March 1, 2018!

Save the Date!

March 10, 2018
Saint Meinrad Day of Service

April 9, 2018
Graduates Luncheon

July 23-25, 2018
90th Annual Alumni Reunion
Sr. Mary Stella Aquilina, DC, SS (’79), of Evansville, IN, died on May 27, 2010.

Deacon Joe Armento PD’07 (’03-07), of Oak Ridge, TN, died on August 30, 2017.

Deacon George A. Beinke MTS (’03), of St. Louis, MO, died on December 8, 2014.

Mr. James F. Bell O’63 (’51-53), of Bloomfield, IN, died on August 18, 2017.

Mr. Louis F. “Fred” Chamberlin Jr. O’80 (’72-73), of Fairfax, VA, died on July 14, 2017.

Mr. James H. Clark O’59 (’47-48), of Chandler, AZ, died on February 8, 2015.

Mr. Norman H. Elsner O’57 (’45-47), of Evansville, IN, died on November 30, 2017.

Mr. Robert G. Fernbaugh O’56 (’46-49), of Rockford, IL, died on November 16, 2017.

Fr. Mark Gottemoeller O’76 (’68-76), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 15, 2017.

Fr. John W. “Jack” Hanahan O’55 (’51-55), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on November 4, 2017.

Mr. William J. Haumesser O’58 (’50-52), of Medina, OH, died on October 1, 2017.

Sr. Dina Bato, SP, MA PT’17 (’10-16), of Oak Park, IL, professed her perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, on June 25. She is a staff accountant for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Mr. Ned Berghausen MAT’12 (’09-11; ’13; ’16-17), of Louisville, KY, was featured in The Record, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, in a story about juggling his family life, work and formation for the permanent diaconate.

Deacon Vince Bernardin PD’05 (01-05), of Evansville, IN, has taken a two-year leave of absence from his diaconate ministry to work with the St. Paul Evangelization Society, an apostolate that works with bishops to advance the New Evangelization.

Fr. Mark G. Boyer O’76 (’72-76), a retired priest of the Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau, published five new books in 2017. The most recent is Names for Jesus, where he explores 50 names given to Jesus in the Bible.

Msgr. James Buerster O’79 (’75-79), Fr. Leo Hayes O’61 (’55-61), Fr. Andrew Knopik O’83 (’75-79) and Msgr. Carl Scherrer O’73 (’69-73) were among the participants in the 44th annual Msgr. Fournie Clergy Memorial Tennis Tournament held June 26, 2017, in Shiloh, IL. They are priests of the Diocese of Belleville, IL.

Fr. Paul Demuth O’68 (’62-68), of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, was granted senior priest status on July 1, 2017. He resides at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Green Bay and serves as sacramental minister at St. Katherine Drexel Parish in Kaukauna. In 2018, he becomes president of the Bay Area Community Council.

Mr. David Donahue O’80 (’72-76), of Alexandria, VA, has served in the U.S. Foreign Service, with assignments in Pakistan, Trinidad and Tobago,
Deacon Ken Johanning PD’05 (‘01-05; ‘15-16), and his wife Gladys, of Jasper, IN, are spending a year of missionary service with the Salesian Missionaries working in the inner city of Tampa, FL.

Fr. John Kiefer O’70 (’62-70), a retired priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, was featured in the diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Moment, talking about his retirement plans.

Sr. Mary Beth Klingel, SP, S (’05-06), of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, was awarded the 2018 Leadership and Advocacy Award by the Guerin Outreach Ministries Board of Directors in October.

Sylvester Kreilein, PhD O’65 (’53-61) received the Spirit of St. Ignatius Award, presented annually from Marquette University High School in Milwaukee, WI. During his 45 years as a German teacher, he exemplified the five characteristics of a Jesuit education: loving, religious, intellectual excellence, open to growth and committed to justice.

Fr. Robert J. Kus T’98 (’96-98), a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, NC, has published a book, Saintly Men of Nursing: 100 Amazing Stories, available on Amazon. He is pastor of the Basilica Shrine of St. Mary, Wilmington, NC.

Dr. Jerome E. Lord O’62 (’57-58), of Boynton Beach, FL, is the author of several books, most recently My Mind Unraveled … More Letters to Minerva. He also was included in the 2015 and 2016 editions of 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century.

Mr. Chad Lueken C’97 (’94-97) and his wife Yvonne, of Jasper, IN, are parents of a new daughter, Olivia Sue, born on May 1, 2017. She has four sisters and four brothers.

Fr. John McCaslin T’02 (’97-02), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, received the first Heart of Gold Award from Hearts and Hands of Indiana, a nonprofit housing organization, for his dedication and service to the organization.

Deacon Phil Moore PD’16 (‘12-16) and his wife Shona, of Germantown, TN, were featured on the September 2017 cover of their Diocese of Memphis magazine, West Tennessee Faith. The story focuses on their membership in the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order and their 20-year ministry with Project Outreach, a local nonprofit that cares for the poor and elderly.

Mrs. Anita Navarra GTP (‘14-17) received the Excellence in Catechesis award from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She is the director of religious education for St. Mary’s Parish in Greensburg, IN.

Mr. Joel Padgett MAT’13 (’12-13), parish catechetical leader at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight, IN, has been facilitating Pathways sessions for catechists in the Diocese of Evansville, IN. Pathways is an ongoing formation program.

Fr. Jerry Pratt T’17 (’11-17) was appointed chaplain of Source and Summit in the Diocese of Evansville, IN. He also serves as associate pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Evansville.

Fr. Adam Royal T’16 (’10-16) has joined the faculty at Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga, TN, as a part-time theology teacher. He also is associate pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

Mr. William Rumely O’S (’72-74), of New Palestine, IN, has been coaching CYO volleyball for 22 years at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield. Other parish work has included training altar servers; leading youth ministry retreats; and serving as a lector, cantor and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion.

Deacon Earl Ruppel O’66 (’55-58; ’01-05), of Vincennes, IN, was installed as chaplain for the Vincennes Knights of Columbus Council 712.

Mr. Cody Sandschafer T’18 (’14-15), of Effingham, IL, has joined St. Anthony High School in Effingham as a theology teacher.

Fr. Brent Shelton T’01 (’97-01), pastor of St. Mary Parish in Oak Ridge, TN, has been appointed dean of the Cumberland Mountain Deanery.

Deacon Michael Shumway PD’16 (’12-16), of Crestwood, KY, has accepted a position as director for major gifts and

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90th Alumni Reunion:
Workshop by ‘Busted Halo’ host and award to Archbishop Peter Wells

The 90th annual Alumni Reunion will give former Saint Meinrad students an opportunity for fellowship with classmates, relaxation, spiritual renewal and learning. The 2018 event is planned for July 23-25 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

“Things are shaping up nicely for the reunion,” says Christian Mocek, director of alumni relations. “This year there are excellent chances for professional development as well as opportunities to reconnect with friends and classmates.”

The reunion will include a golf scramble, workshops, time for prayer and socializing, and the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The reunion kicks off on Monday, July 23, with a golf scramble at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus and a workshop presented by Fr. Dave Dwyer, CSP, a Paulist priest and executive director of Busted Halo Ministries.

Fr. Dwyer is the publisher of BustedHalo.com, which has received top awards from the Catholic Press Association and the Associated Church Press. He’s also host of “The Busted Halo Show with Father Dave,” a call-in talk show airing five nights a week on SiriusXM radio, where he answers questions of faith for over 30 million subscribers.

The anniversary banquet on Monday evening will honor the classes of 1968 (50th anniversary), 1978 (40th), 1993 (25th), 2008 (10th) and 2013 (5th).

On Tuesday, Fr. Mark O’Keefe, OSB, will give a workshop. An author and moral theologian, Fr. Mark was the president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology from 1996 to 2008.

Alumni can also attend a workshop given by Br. Francis Wagner, OSB, author of several publications on Benedictine and Catholic spirituality, including Grace in the Wilderness: Reflections on God’s Sustaining Word Along Life’s Journey (2013).

Archbishop Peter Wells C’87, apostolic nuncio to South Africa and Botswana, will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award on Tuesday evening. Earlier in the day, he will preside and preach at the Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church.

Originally from the Diocese of Tulsa, Archbishop Wells entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1999. Most recently, he was the assessor for the General Affairs of the Secretariat of State, a position equivalent to deputy chief of staff, which handles most Church affairs apart from relations with states.