

ON THE HILL

WINTER 2022 • VOL. 61:1

New grants will expand outreach to young Catholics

Day of Service returns in March



Cover: Auxiliary Bishop Gary Janak of San Antonio, TX, presides at Mass during the symposium on young adult ministry hosted in October.



Saint Meinrad



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WINTER 2022 • VOL. 61:1

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Seminarian Neil Blatchford serves as thurifer during a Byzantine liturgy on October 24. You can find more photos of Saint Meinrad events at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>

Monks' Personals

Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa earned his licentiate in sacred liturgy from the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant' Anselmo on June 15, 2021. He plans to return to Rome for further study.

Br. Martin Erspamer accepted the position of liturgical design consultant for the new Newman Center at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski was elected to the Abbot's Council. His term will end in June 2023.

Fr. Jeremy King, a member of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Corrections Ministry, was a panelist at the Annual Corrections Ministry Conference held at Roncalli High School, Indianapolis, IN, in September. He also contributed to an anthology entitled *The Notes Will Carry Me Home: Writings of Music from*

Evansville and the Tri-State. His article was entitled "A Match Made in Heaven," chronicling Saint Meinrad's association with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus.

Fr. Harry Hagan published an article on the Good Shepherd psalm in the October issue of *The Priest* magazine.

Fr. Mateo Zamora participated in a recorded Zoom video on the Preaching and Racism course that he took online this summer through the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO. The video was presented at the international virtual colloquium, *Urbi et Orbi: Dominican Preaching in the City and the World*, hosted by the Institute of Preaching in Quezon City, Philippines, on October 12-14.

Fr. Eugene Hensell conducted a retreat titled "The Parables of Jesus as a Paradigm for Priestly Ministry" for the priests of the Wilmington Diocese on October 25-29.

Fr. Simon Herrmann led a retreat for college students in the Diocese of Crookston, MN, from October 8-10 with alumnus Fr. Nate Brunn. He also gave a conference on Scripture to the virtual participants of the National Catholic Youth Conference, Indianapolis, IN, on November 18-20.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain's book, *How We Love: A Formation for the Celibate Life*, was recently republished and released in India and Vietnam. He also gave a series of online conferences for the international St. Ottilien Congregation of Benedictine monks in November.

Monks' Personals *continued*

Fr. Gueric DeBona and **Fr. Mateo Zamora** attended the annual meetings through Zoom of the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics on December 1 and the Academy of Homiletics on December 3-4.

Fr. Christian Raab authored two chapters in the recently published book, *A Positive and Stable Masculine Identity: Directions in the Formation of Seminarians*, ed. James Keating (Institute for Priestly Formation, 2021). He also gave an Advent retreat for catechists and youth ministers of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at Mount Saint Francis in New Albany from December 5-7.

Fr. Noël Mueller gave an Advent parish mission at St. Mary's Parish in Johnson City, TN, December 9-11.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, along with classmates from his "Introduction to Public History" course at the University of Louisville, presented the findings of their class project to the Board of Regents of Farmington Historic Plantation in Louisville, KY, on December 14.

Br. Jean Fish was accepted into the Bachelor of Fine Arts program at the University of Birmingham in October. He also had a one of his pieces accepted into

the university's Juried Annual Exhibition in January.

Fr. Gueric DeBona co-authored a chapter, "The Bible and Liturgy," for *The Jerome Bible Commentary for the Twenty-First Century* (third edition), which will be published in March 2022. ✝

Saint Meinrad monks mark milestone anniversaries

Four Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey observed jubilees during 2021. Fr. Tobias Colgan, Br. Hugh Ernst and Fr. Jeremy King reached the 50th anniversaries of their monastic professions. Fr. Samuel Weber marked his 25th anniversary of priesthood.



Fr. Tobias Colgan

Fr. Tobias professed vows as a Benedictine monk on August 27, 1971. A native of Kankakee, IL, he came to Saint Meinrad High School in 1964. He then attended Saint Meinrad College and

earned a bachelor's degree in French. He then earned a Master of Divinity in the School of Theology and was ordained to the priesthood in 1982.

He also did graduate work at Indiana University and Middlebury College, earning a master's in religious studies and a master's in French, respectively.

Fr. Tobias taught French and Spanish at Saint Meinrad College from 1977-93. He

also served as assistant choirmaster and then choirmaster for the monastery from 1975-86. Other assignments have included secretary to the archabbot, prior (second in leadership) of the monastery, and secretary to the Archabbot's Council, Archabbey Chapter and Archabbey Strategic Planning Committee.

Since 2010, he has worked in the Seminary and School of Theology, where he currently serves as vice rector and director of human formation.

Fr. Tobias is also a musician and liturgical music composer, who has written and published dozens of songs.



Br. Hugh Ernst

Br. Hugh professed his vows on August 27, 1971. He is a native of Evansville, IN, where he graduated from Bosse High School. He was a part-time student at Saint Meinrad College.

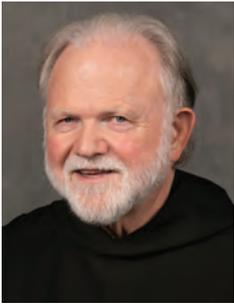
He has served in a variety of assignments at Saint Meinrad, including as bookkeeper, registrar, and landscaper. He also has worked in the monastery infirmary, gift shop, bakery, monastery archives, and the Office of Continuing Education.

From 1987-97, he operated the Abbey Rabbitry, breeding Holland Lop, American Fuzzy Lop, English Angora, Netherland Dwarf and Dwarf Hotot rabbits. He is a founding member of the Spencer County Humane Society.

Br. Hugh also has volunteered many hours at the Little Sisters of the Poor, to whom he has been indebted for encouragement and support in his vocation.

He currently works in the Archabbey Bakery.

Fr. Jeremy is a native of Jeffersonville, IN, and he professed his vows as a Benedictine monk on August 27, 1971. He attended Saint Meinrad High School, College, and School of Theology, graduating with a bachelor's degree in classics and a Master of Divinity. He



Fr. Jeremy King

earned a Master of Arts in education from Indiana University.

Ordained a priest on April 20, 1975, he has served as associate pastor of St. Benedict's Parish in

Evansville, IN; and as pastor of St. Boniface Parish, Fulda, IN; St. Martin of Tours Parish, Siberia, IN; and St. Meinrad Parish, St. Meinrad, IN.

Other assignments have included serving on the faculty of Saint Meinrad College as assistant professor of religion and education, associate director of student life and director of liturgical music at Saint Meinrad College, director of the College's learning resource (Mader) center, director of liturgy and liturgical music in the School of Theology, Archabbey guest master, and monastery choirmaster. He served as the director of the monastery's sesquicentennial in 2004 and as almoner and director of community outreach.

He currently is the director of cultural events; coordinates the monthly work assignments for the monastery and commuting chaplains for Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, assists in driving monks to appointments, does prison ministry and is a member of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Corrections Advisory Committee. He also serves as a cantor and organist for the monastery liturgies.



Fr. Samuel Weber

Fr. Samuel is originally from Chicago. He professed his vows as a Benedictine monk on November 13, 1969.

He earned a bachelor's degree in classics from

Saint Meinrad College and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He received the licentiate in sacred theology with a specialization in sacred liturgy and monastic spirituality

from the Pontifical Athenaeum Sant' Anselmo in Rome. He earned a master's degree in Latin and Greek literature and ancient art and archaeology from the University of Colorado.

He also studied Gregorian chant with Dom Eugene Cardine, as well as music history and composition at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1996.

For 20 years, Fr. Samuel was on the faculty of Saint Meinrad School of Theology and Saint Meinrad College. He was a founding member of the Wake Forest University Divinity School in Winston-Salem, NC, where he taught for nine years.

In addition, he has taught in the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, The Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville, KY, and the Disciples of Christ Seminary, Lexington, KY. In addition to teaching, his ecumenical involvement has included lecturing and writing for The Upper Room (Methodist) and The Presbyterian Board of Worship.

In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Fr. Samuel was the founding director of the

Institute of Sacred Music and was on the faculty of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

Fr. Samuel has served as an advisor for the International Committee on English in the Liturgy for the new translation of the Roman Missal. He also has taught at The Liturgical Institute, Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL; and at Christendom College, Front Royal, VA; where he also was director of liturgical music.

Fr. Samuel's publications include (Ignatius Press) *The Propers of the Mass for Sundays and Solemnities*, *The Ignatius Pew Missal*, and *Compline*. In addition, he has composed the chants for *The Propers of the Mass for Weekdays of the Temporal Cycle*.

He is the editor of *The Hymnal for the Hours*. His most recent publications include *The Saint Patrick Gradual* and the *Saint Patrick Antiphony*. He is preparing the organ accompaniments for the *Liber Hymnarius* and composing the *Ignatius Press Pew Missal* in Spanish.

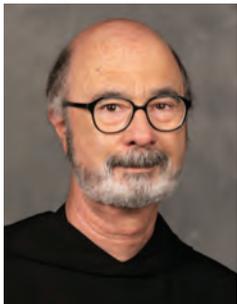
Currently, he is on the staff of the Benedict XVI Institute for Sacred Music and Divine Worship and teaches at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA. ✚



Archabbot Kurt Stasiak blesses the new St. Meinrad statue after Mass on October 3. The statue of St. Meinrad, sculpted by Alexander Tylevich, was installed on July 29, 2021.

Fr. Justin DuVall dies October 5

Former archabbot oversaw many renovations



Fr. Justin DuVall

Fr. Justin DuVall, OSB, monk, priest, and former archabbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died in the monastery infirmary on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. He was 70.

Fr. Justin was born in Toledo, Ohio, on July 7, 1951, and given the name Timothy Martin at his baptism. He attended Holy Spirit High School Seminary in Toledo.

He enrolled in Saint Meinrad College in 1969, graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in French. Invested as a novice in the summer of 1973, he professed his simple vows on August 24, 1974, and his solemn vows on August 24, 1977. He received a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1978, and he was ordained to the priesthood on April 30, 1978.

Following his ordination, Fr. Justin earned a Master of Arts degree in library science from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. In 1979 he was appointed assistant librarian in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library, a position he held full

time for five years, and then part time for the next 11 years.

Other assignments in his early post-ordination years included liturgical master of ceremonies, assistant novice/junior master, and chairman of the monastery's Liturgical Advisory Committee. In 1984 he was appointed prior (second in leadership) by Archabbot Timothy Sweeney and held those responsibilities until Archabbot Timothy's resignation in the summer of 1995.

During those years, his other responsibilities included serving as a member of the Archabbey Council and the Archabbey Strategic Planning Committee, and as a commuting chaplain for the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand.

In 1995, following the election of Archabbot Lambert Reilly, Fr. Justin was appointed an associate dean of the School of Theology. The following year, he was named the provost and vice rector of the School of Theology, a responsibility he held for the next 8½ years until his election as archabbot.

On December 31, 2004, Fr. Justin was elected the ninth abbot and sixth archabbot of Saint Meinrad. On January 21, 2005, he received the abbatial blessing from his confrere, the Most Reverend

Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, archbishop of Indianapolis.

During his tenure as abbot, Archabbot Justin oversaw several significant building projects, including the final stage of construction of a new Guest House and Retreat Center and the renovation of St. Gregory Hall, St. Bede Hall, Newman Hall, and the St. Martin Center.

More recently, he oversaw extensive renovations to the infrastructure of the monastery, which included an addition to the infirmary and the installation of a geothermal heating/cooling system. He also led the final 18 months of the Archabbey's largest-ever campaign, which raised nearly \$43 million for renovations, endowment, and operating expenses.

Following his resignation as abbot, he undertook a five-year term as vice rector at Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. He returned to the monastery in May of 2021 to assume the responsibility as the community's novice/junior master. His new assignment was cut short with the unexpected diagnosis of pancreatic and liver cancer in early August.

The funeral liturgy was celebrated on Saturday, October 9, in the Archabbey Church, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✝



The funeral Mass and burial for Fr. Justin DuVall was held on October 9.

Saint Meinrad receives two Lilly grants for outreach to Catholic youth and young adults

Saint Meinrad has received two grants totaling more than \$2 million from Lilly Endowment Inc. for programs that will expand outreach to Catholic youth and young adults.

Hispanic and Latino Ministry

One grant will focus on improving the way priests, deacons and lay ministers serve Hispanic and Latino youth and young adults. Saint Meinrad will use the \$999,620 grant to establish an Office for Hispanic and Latino Ministry within Saint Meinrad's new Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization. The grant is being funded through Lilly Endowment's Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative.

The three-phase initiative is designed to help theological schools across the United States and Canada as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.

Saint Meinrad is one of 84 theological schools that are receiving a total of more than \$82 million in grants through the second phase of the Pathways initiative.

Earlier this year, Saint Meinrad worked with a research firm to learn how Hispanic and Latino youth and young adults relate to their Catholic faith. The new office will focus on the needs, challenges, and potentials of outreach through Hispanic and Latino ministry. It will develop materials, methodology and tools for pastors/priests, deacons, and lay ministers who are ministering to Hispanic and Latino youth and young adults.

Using the research findings, Saint Meinrad will develop programs to form pastors, deacons, and laity to minister more effectively to these young people, relating to them in culturally appropriate and meaningful ways.

With better understanding of the unique needs of Hispanic and Latino young people, and how to address those needs, ministers will be more successful in strengthening the faith lives of Hispanic/Latino young people and reinforcing their cultural ties to the Catholic faith.

"While Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology already has some offerings geared toward preparing seminarians for Hispanic/Latino ministry, the creation of a staffed office will allow for improved formation for seminarians and the ability to expand the opportunities for formation to ordained priests, deacons, and lay ministers," said Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, dean of School of Theology programs at Saint Meinrad.

"If Hispanic/Latino young people can be better served, we improve our chances of helping them to strengthen their affiliation with the Catholic Church and, indeed, to strengthen their own sense of their ethnic heritage."

Young Adult Initiative

A Lilly Endowment grant of \$1.25 million will support the second phase of Saint Meinrad's Young Adult Initiative. The primary goal of this phase of the program is to support Catholic parishes and ministry leaders in reimagining their

approaches to young adult outreach, accompaniment, and discipleship.

During the five-year grant period, Saint Meinrad plans to:

- create a parish guide for ministry with young adults;
- develop resources and offer workshops for bishops, priests, deacons, and laity from across the United States to inform them of the Phase 1 findings and promote usage of the parish guide; and
- invite some of the parishes that Saint Meinrad worked with during Phase 1 to continue their young adult engagement efforts and become mentors to neighboring parishes.

"In this second phase of the Young Adult Initiative, Saint Meinrad wants to offer a concrete guide for forming a parish culture that is open and responsive to the needs of affiliated and unaffiliated young adults," said Tammy Becht, interim director of Saint Meinrad's Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization.

"We intend to provide Catholic leaders methods for parish accompaniment of young people so more parishes will realize increased engagement with young adults in their communities," she said.

"Parishes will be challenged to create a parish vision and plan that will engage young people. As this work progresses, we will share the results at workshops and conferences for ministry leaders." ✝

"If Hispanic/Latino young people can be better served, we improve our chances of helping them to strengthen their affiliation with the Catholic Church and, indeed, to strengthen their own sense of their ethnic heritage."

—Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB



Starting top left, clockwise: Seminarian Hung Nguyen pitches the ball during a kickball tournament on October 8.

Graduate Theology student Kristen Templin participates in a discussion during a weekend course on the Eucharist on October 9.

Fr. Maurice Okeke attends a session on cultural patterns during the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates World Priest Program on October 13.

Dcn. Paul Lesupati, left, and Dcn. Matthew Perronie talk about the meaning of Christmas during the annual St. Nicholas Banquet on December 2.

Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, presents a conference on new generational realities during the symposium on young adult ministry on October 27.

[Meet the Student]

Devereaux King

Hometown: Wilson Bay, Cat Island, Bahamas
Diocese: Archdiocese of Nassau, Bahamas

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

It is not so much *what* attracted me the most to the priesthood, but *who* attracted me to the priesthood. The person who attracted me to the priesthood was my former pastor Fr. Noel Clarke. I prayed to the Lord constantly, “If you can show me a priest that is true to who he is and shows me the joy of priestly life, I will consider saying yes.” Sure enough, after spending a lot of time with Fr. Clarke and doing ministry with him, I was revealed to the beauty of the priesthood.

He showed how much joy there is in living a holy life, a life totally consecrated to the Lord. One of the greatest gifts he shared with me is that God calls me to the priesthood and when he calls me, he calls me with all my flaws and all my weaknesses but still longs for me to feed his sheep. Fr. Clarke, through his ministry, made me realize that there is not only joy in being a priest, but there is honor in God calling me to his vineyard, no matter how I think of myself.

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

During high school, many of my teachers and a few of my friends would always tell me that I would make an excellent priest and I even joined the archdiocesan vocations program. However, I would not pay attention to their comments and continued pursuing my dream of being a chef. Though I disregarded others’ insightfulness about my call to priesthood, I was fascinated by the Church’s teaching and Biblical theology.

But to convince myself, I played this off as my deep interest in Catholicism, as for sure this was not a calling to the priesthood. However, I noticed this “simple interest for Catholicism” directed me to watch more catechetical videos about the faith. I found myself reading reflections from saints such as St. Augustine, Aquinas and Thomas More. My love for the Mass became stronger and I began to pay attention to the prayers the priest would say during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The more I began to pay attention to things I overlooked, the more I started to read about it and eventually it led me to the realization that God was calling me to the priesthood. But of course, I ignored that call wholeheartedly. One day sitting in my room, I came across a video about the theology of the priest. One phrase that stuck out to me in that video, and has remained with me to this day, is: “The priest acts as a mediator between God and his people; he is a key to the doors of Heaven.” When I heard these words, I cannot explain what happened. I knew I had to dive deeper into what the priesthood was.

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

Before I entered seminary, I was studying to become a chef. After graduating from high school, I attended the College of the Bahamas for two and half years and earned an Associate of Applied Science in culinary arts. I worked in a few restaurants trying to get on-the-job



experience and working toward making enough money to continue my education at Johnson and Wales University. However, during the period between graduating and preparing for Johnson and Wales, I made the decision to enter seminary.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

St. Josephine Bakhita is my favorite saint. She sets the example of what it means to love when all odds are against you. She was a victim of horrific human trafficking and yet she still answered the call to love God and neighbor, despite all the dreadful things that were done to her. One of her most famous quotes is: “If I were to meet the slave-traders who kidnapped me and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands, for if that did not happen, I would not be a Christian and Religious today.”

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

My favorite Scripture verse is John 15:13: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” This scripture verse is so dear to me because, ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be a hero and Jesus reveals Himself as the greatest hero of all humanity. Growing

Continued on p. 9

up, I wanted to model heroes like Goku from the Japanese anime “Dragon Ball Z” or Spiderman from the Marvel universe.

I did not realize how much greater of a hero Jesus is until I began discerning my vocation. Many heroes in action movies allow themselves to be killed to save others. Jesus is the only hero I know who purposely uses his own death as the ultimate weapon to defeat the enemy and still reigns victorious through his resurrection.

Q. Hobbies?

My hobbies are singing, writing poetry, swimming, beach walking, listening to different genres of music and collecting Japanese anime paraphernalia.

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

Being actively involved in liturgical music has been an aspect of seminary life that has been most rewarding. Singing is one of the greatest gifts God gave me and my greatest joy is to share that gift at liturgical events. It is one of the many ways I am able to serve my community with a lot of love.

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

Being within a culture that is alien to me has been the most challenging aspect of

seminary life. Being miles away from home and not being able to see family can be a challenge. On the other hand, the pain can be a blessing in disguise because I know in those challenging times God is teaching me the beauty of what it means to depend on Him.

Q. Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?

The best advice I have heard was from my best friend in seminary, Gregory Lambert. My first semester of seminary, I was struggling with myself and I was afraid I was not going to make it through the first year. On an ordinary Friday, Greg took me on a drive to talk with me and shared with me these words: “Be yourself and don’t try to be anyone else; trust in God and allow Him to take you wherever He pleases.”

Q. Other comments?

One of the things I am looking forward to when I am ordained a priest is to celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. My Clinical Pastoral Education experience this past summer has shown me the beauty in healing souls and bringing them to Jesus. It has also shown me the everlasting joy of what it means to be a beloved son of God the Father. Learning to stand in the person of Christ during my hospital experience showed me that the priesthood is the greatest decision I have ever made. ✚



▲ Sabbaticant Fr. David Bridling and Dcn. Paul Lesupati sample food and socialize during the fall Around the World party on October 1.

EVENTS ON THE HILL

February 23

Guest House Workshop: “Get It Together! How Bullet Journaling Can Organize Your Life and Spiritual Practices” by Tammy Becht.

March 1-3

Guest House Retreat: “Freedom Through Forgiveness” by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.

March 11-13

Guest House Retreat: “Beyond the Fantastic!” by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB. (Second Valentine’s Retreat – married couples only).

March 18-20

Guest House Retreat: “St. Catherine of Siena: Honoring God, Sanctifying Souls” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

March 22-23

Science for Seminaries lectures and panel discussion.

April 6

Guest House Workshop: “Soul Healing with Julian of Norwich” by Carolyn Berghuis.

April 8-10

Guest House Retreat: “Thomas Merton and Christian Nonviolence” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

April 13-17

Guest House Retreat: “The Easter Triduum: Three Days, One Event” by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB.

May

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

May 14

Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

May 18

Guest House Workshop: “TLC: Timing, Light and Composition” by Krista Hall.

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

Campaign hits \$10 million goal early, fundraising continues to offset increased costs

Saint Meinrad's "Forward Together: For the Life of the Church" campaign reached and exceeded the \$10 million goal in December, six months ahead of schedule. By the end of 2021, gifts and pledges had totaled \$10.2 million.

The "Forward Together" campaign will fund renovations to St. Anselm Hall and the Archabbey Library. The campaign funds also will establish two new initiatives, the Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization and the Institute for Sacred Music.

Planning for the campaign began in 2019 and the quiet phase kicked off in 2020, just as COVID-19 began to spread in the United States. The campaign was publicly launched in August 2021. Even with the challenges and uncertainty created by the coronavirus, the campaign met and exceeded each benchmark that was set at the beginning of fundraising.

Although the initial \$10 million goal has been reached, fundraising will continue through June 30 as planned. Additional

funds are needed to help offset the expected increase in project costs. At press time, construction bids had not been awarded, but a nearly 10 percent increase in the cost of materials and labor was expected.

Construction work is planned to begin in May of this year, after the students leave for the summer. The renovations are estimated to take 15-18 months, with the expectation that the majority of the work will be completed by August 2023. †

8 good reasons why you need a will

Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. A will can legally protect your spouse, children, and assets. It can also spell out exactly how you would like things handled after you have passed on. Here are some specific ways that having a will can ensure your wishes are followed.

1. You decide how your estate will be distributed. A will is a legally binding document that lets you determine how you would like your estate to be handled upon your death. If you die without a will, there is no guarantee that your intended desires will be carried out. Having a will helps minimize any arguments about your estate, and it determines the "who, what and when" for distribution. If you don't specify your own plan for your estate, your state of residence will impose its plan.
2. You decide who will take care of your minor children. A will allows you to make an informed decision about who should take care of your minor children. In the absence of a will, the court will take it upon itself to choose among family members or a state-appointed guardian. Having a will allows you to appoint the person you want to raise your children.

3. Probate? Contrary to popular belief, all estates must go through the probate process, with or without a will. Having a will speeds up the probate process and informs the court how you'd like your estate divided. Probate courts "administer your estate," and should you die without a will, the court will decide how to divide the estate without your input, which can cause long, unnecessary delays.
4. You can minimize estate taxes. Another reason to have a will is because it allows you to minimize your estate taxes. The value of what you give away to family members or charity will reduce the value of your estate when it's time to pay estate taxes.
5. You decide who will wind up the affairs of your estate. Executors make sure all your affairs are in order, including paying off bills, canceling your credit cards, etc. Because executors play the biggest role in the administration of your estate, you'll want to be sure to appoint someone who is honest, trustworthy, and organized (which may not always be a family member).
6. You can make donations to causes you believe in. The ability to make

donations is a good reason to have a will because it allows your legacy to live on and reflect your personal values and interests. In addition, certain gifts are excluded from estate tax, so you're also increasing the value of your estate for your heirs and beneficiaries to enjoy.

7. You can avoid greater legal challenges. If you die without a will, part or all of your estate may pass to someone you did not intend, or the estate passes as intended but is contested by someone who you would not have wanted to receive an inheritance.

For example, one case involved the estate of a deceased son who was awarded over \$1 million from a wrongful death lawsuit. When the son died, the son's father – who had not been a part of his son's life for over 32 years – stood to inherit the entire estate, leaving close relatives and siblings out of the picture!

8. Because you can change your mind if your life circumstances change. You can change your will at any time while you're still alive. Life changes, such as births, deaths and divorce, can create situations where changing your will is necessary. †

Library exhibit explores history of Swiss American Benedictine Congregation

By Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, and Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB



A new exhibit debuted in the Archabbey Library in August 2021. “The History of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation” explores in photographs, records, and other artifacts the story of the people and organization to which Saint Meinrad Archabbey belongs as a member institution.

Novice Matthew Morris, OSB, arranged the display on the main level of the library. The exhibit presents the history of the Congregation beginning in the 1880s, using documents from the General Chapters, photos of the monasteries that are members of the Congregation, the *cappa magna* (“great cape”) worn by the abbot president of the Congregation up to the 1960s, and copies of various

publications created for the monasteries in the Congregation. Br. Kim Malloy, OSB, helped Novice Matthew arrange the display, particularly with laying out the *cappa magna* in the proper way.

The Swiss-American

Benedictine Congregation was founded in 1881 as a confederated group of monasteries that traced their lineages back to various motherhouses in Switzerland, such as Einsiedeln and Engelberg. Saint Meinrad is considered the preeminent member of the Congregation because it was the second Benedictine monastery founded in the United States, the first being St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA.

The Benedictine monasteries featured in the exhibit are Conception Abbey (Missouri), Mount Angel Abbey (Oregon), Westminster Abbey (British Columbia), St. Joseph Abbey (Louisiana), New Subiaco Abbey (Arkansas), Marmion Abbey (Illinois), Benet Lake Priory (Wisconsin), Ascension Priory (Idaho),

and Prince of Peace Abbey (California); many of these monasteries’ daughterhouses are also featured.

Three monasteries that figure prominently in the exhibit are communities that have fulfilled their missions and closed, though their history and memory live on in the Congregation: Blue Cloud Abbey (South Dakota), St. Pius X Abbey (Missouri), and Corpus Christi Abbey (Texas).

In conjunction with the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Archives and the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation Archives, the active monasteries each contributed photographs of their communities for this exhibit. This is an instance of the collaborative nature of public history and the mutual obedience St. Benedict enjoins on those who follow his *Rule*. The Congregation’s archival holdings are contained in 649 boxes distributed among 59 shelves.

Many people, both monks and volunteers, assisted the archivists in bringing order to all the records contained in the archives: Novice Matthew Morris, OSB, Novice Connor Zink, OSB, Janet Werne, Bill Tarrant, Ruth Clifford-Engs, George Thompson and Sandra Duffee.

The public is welcome to visit “The History of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation” through January 2022. ✚



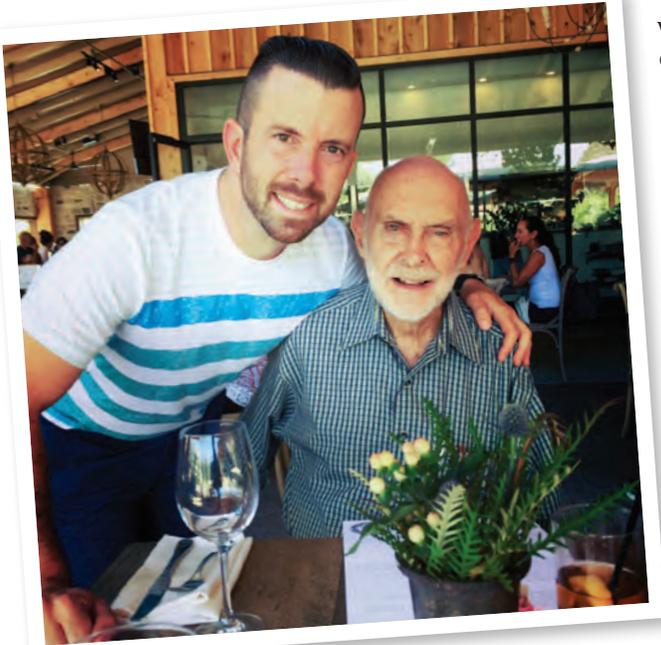
▲ Left, An exhibit of paintings by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, were on display in the Archabbey Library until the end of November. The exhibit titled “Happy to be a Priest” featured portraits of mostly alumni of Saint Meinrad celebrating the joy of being a priest. Middle and right: Historical artifacts and photographs related to the Swiss-American Congregation are on display in the Archabbey Library through January.

ALUMNI SERVICE

Faithfully serving our communities and the Church

During the COVID pandemic, many Saint Meinrad alumni stepped up to serve others in their parishes, workplaces and communities. Here are stories about two of those alumni.

Matthew Holland opened his home to a retired pastor with declining health for the priest's final year of life. Jared Bryson used his understanding of technology and ministry to make it possible for hospital visits to take place when they're most needed.



Alumnus opens home to retired priest during COVID

Imagine choosing to change your daily routine, your entire way of life, to care for someone in need. Following the *Rule of St. Benedict*, that is exactly what Saint Meinrad College alumnus Matthew Holland did when he invited Fr. Bruce Lavery to move in with him.

Holland welcomed Fr. Bruce into his home for what was the last year of his life – a life-changing act of service and hospitality that was a blessing for everyone involved, including friends and neighbors.

In March of 2020, Holland, an elementary school teacher, was already concerned for Fr. Bruce's well-being because of his declining health. But he grew more concerned because of the growing threat and uncertainty posed by COVID-19,

which led to Holland's decision to welcome Fr. Bruce into his home and into his care.

Fr. Bruce, a retired priest, was ordained on April 29, 1967. In July 1984, after serving at four other parishes, he became the first pastor of St. Timothy Parish in Laguna Niguel, CA. He was known there for his personal and pastoral care, as well as his efforts to build St. Timothy into a strong community of faith. He served there for 23 years until he retired in 2007.

Though Fr. Bruce was living on his own throughout retirement, his declining health and early dementia was making proper self-care more difficult for him.

"The decision [to care for Fr. Bruce] was about survival," said Holland, "an effort to get him more involved in his own well-being. Growing up, he was like a father to me, and this was my

chance to show him a small amount of the care I learned from him."

As part of this care, Holland would take Fr. Bruce to doctor visits, help him navigate telemedicine, and especially prepare meals for him. This effort awakened new life in Fr. Bruce, who even began developing friendships with the neighbors. It was not long before Holland's back porch became a regular spot for friendly gatherings and lively conversations.

In addition, Fr. Bruce also befriended Holland's bulldog, Varla, who became a constant companion to Fr. Bruce – one who, according to Holland, brought him much comfort, calm, and joy.

It was evident that Fr. Bruce was reconnecting with his passion of community, but that was not all. His time with Holland and the neighbors also



rekindled his creativity. Holland recounts that this was most evident when Fr. Bruce was decorating for Christmas. Decorating, especially for holidays, was something he always loved to do but had been unable to for some time. A real sense of joy emanated from Fr. Bruce in the reawakening of his passions, according to Holland.

After Thanksgiving 2020, there was a noticeable decline in Fr. Bruce's health. "We weren't sure how long he'd be with us," explained Holland, "but we were blessed and pleased to have him with us through Christmas."

Eventually, Fr. Bruce's needs required a stay at the hospital, where he remained until he died on January 9, 2021, at the age of 86.

"Looking back, I got one thousand times more out of caring for Fr. Bruce than I put in. I learned many lessons on self-care, growing old, caring for someone else, and giving back," surmised Holland with a palpable sense of appreciation and love. "A common prayer of mine has been to ask God to help me be a more patient person. During this past year, God answered my prayer. As I cared for Fr.

Bruce through his fight with dementia, I learned how to slow down, set my expectations to the side, and be of kind and patient service to someone who was growing more and more dependent upon me."

Fr. Bruce's obituary describes his life as one "of love for the Lord and selfless service as a priest for so many people for so many years." This was especially true in Holland's experience of him, who was able to return that love and care to the end. ✝

Alumnus develops system to provide pastoral care amid COVID



Anyone who has been hospitalized, who has loved ones who have been hospitalized, or who has otherwise tried to visit someone in the hospital during the COVID pandemic knows how impossible visiting patients has been. Many people have been unable to receive visitors or see their loved ones in the hospital.

Alumnus Jared Bryson, Saint Meinrad College class of 1997, has been using his knowledge of both hospital protocol and ministerial needs to develop and implement a much-needed system for priests to safely provide sacraments and pastoral care to patients and their caregivers. Bryson is vice-president of mission and Church relations for the Mercy health system in St. Louis, MO, and his role includes outreach, coworker

engagement, and organizational identity and culture.

Because of Bryson's work and his coordination with hospitals and bishops, 44 Catholic hospitals across multiple dioceses now have a unified approach by which patients can receive priest and family visits.

Caregivers are used to being with and caring for patients in their last moments, but lately, Bryson explains, they have had to fill a variation of that role. "Patients need familiarity and family to heal, so we knew this would be a challenging time for our patients to not have access to visitors. [They] faced isolation and solitude, and caregivers became the community and conduit to which they could be connected with their family."

It is certainly a moving scene to see a nurse holding a phone or an iPad so family members can "be with" their loved one in his or her final moments – moving, and yet deeply sad. Bryson explains, "It is in our nature as a part of our incarnational reality that we are meant physically to be in each other's presence.

"And in a time when that has not been possible, many clinical caregivers have necessarily stepped into that sacred incarnational space, becoming a bridge between patients and their families, between solitude and encounter."

As a solution, Bryson helped implement a streamlined and consistent process across four (arch)dioceses. He explains, "We began a process to train priests to appropriately wear PPE (personal protective equipment) and to administer the sacraments in these unusual circumstances. In most cases, we had a preferred list of healthy priests who were willing to put themselves on the front lines and connect with the patients for sacraments."

The new process allows more priests to be present in the hospitals. As such, patients can receive the sacraments, caregivers are able to receive the pastoral and emotional care they need, and Masses are once again held in the hospitals. In addition, a limited number of family members can be present in a dying patient's room.

Like many Saint Meinrad alumni, Bryson has been stepping up to make things better during this difficult time. ✝

Saint Meinrad

DAY OF SERVICE



Will you join us?

Day of Service: Projects set for March 12

Locations and projects are finalized for the eighth annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service. This year, the event will be held Saturday, March 12.

Organized by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association in partnership with the Alumni Office, the Day of Service is open to any participants, not just alumni.

“It’s a great opportunity for our alumni and friends to go out in the communities and be together in service,” says Timothy Florian, Saint Meinrad’s director of alumni relations. “What better way to do that than by living out the Benedictine way through prayer and work.”

Since its inaugural year in 2014, the day’s theme is *Ora et Labora*, Prayer and Work. Along with the service activities, prayer is planned into the day through

celebrating Mass or praying the Liturgy of the Hours, including a special prayer written by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB.

The Saint Meinrad Day of Service seeks to serve in the local communities of alumni and friends all over the country. Currently, 14 projects will be hosted in 10 cities.

For more information or to register, visit the Day of Service event page at: alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/home/day-of-service/

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 5 to ensure an accurate count for those planning the project.

If you have questions about the Day of Service or are interested in leading a service project in your community, contact the Alumni Office at 812-357-6501 or email Tim Florian at tflorian@saintmeinrad.edu. ✝

2022 Locations:

Alexandria, LA
Bloomington, IN
Denver, CO
Evansville, IN
Indianapolis, IN
Kankakee, IL
Louisville, KY
New Albany, IN
Los Angeles, CA
Toledo, OH
Tulsa, OK

Check the website for the complete list.

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Daniel Becher, O'72 ('60-63), of New Albany, IN, died on December 2, 2021.

Mr. Mark J. Beins, O'73 ('65-66), of Alpena, MI, died on May 11, 2021.

Mr. Leonard J. Borho, SPH'57, of St. Meinrad, IN, died on November 19, 2021.

Dr. Clare A. Francis, GTP'00 ('97-00), of Rio Rancho, NM, died on July 30, 2021.

Mr. Joseph Gilpin, O'73 ('70-73), of Bradenton, FL, died on September 24, 2021.

Mr. George B. Gritt Sr., O'57 ('45-47), of Goleta, CA, died on March 14, 2020.

Mr. Paul E. Junius, SPH'42 ('40-42), of Dallas, TX, died on September 17, 2021.

Msgr. Harold L. Knueven, O'58 ('46-58), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on October 17, 2021.

Fr. Francis W. Kocik, O'74 ('67-70), a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, NY, died on December 5, 2020.

Fr. Alejandro Paternoster, T'94 ('88-94), a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, died on November 10, 2021.

Mr. George P. Samarzija, O'60 ('54-56), of Schererville, IN, died on June 9, 2021.

Fr. John Schipp, O'64 ('52-64), a retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on December 10, 2021.

Mr. Jerome E. Seybold, O'63 ('55-57), of West Bend, WI, died on April 18, 2021.

Msgr. Girard M. (Jerry) Sherba, O'79 ('75-79), a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, NC, died on October 26, 2021.

Fr. Anthony Shidler, OSB, SPH'38 ('35-38), a priest and monk of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, died at age 100 on December 10, 2021.

James U. Weyer, O'70 ('58-60), of Huntingburg, IN, died on October 24, 2021.

Fr. Michael Wright, T'95 ('91-95), a priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle, WA, died on September 24, 2021.

Mr. Valentine Zadnik, O'61 ('52-53), of Woodbridge, VA, died on December 5, 2021.

A key to the initials behind the names of alumni:

C: College

GTP: Graduate Theology Programs

HS: High School

MAT: Master of Arts (Theology)

MAPT: Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology)

MTS: Master in Theological Studies

O: Ordination

PD: Permanent Deacon Formation Program

S: Sabbaticant

SPH: St. Placid Hall

SS: Summer Session

T: Theology †

ALUMNI NEWS

Mr. Joseph Chandler C'96 ('92-96), of Brenham, TX, began work in September 2021 as the new school support officer for high schools in the Houston Independent School District.

Fr. Tom Extejt O'73 ('65-73), of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, led a committee that brought the play "Tolton: From Slave to Priest" to Toledo. **Fr. Kent Kaufman, C'88 ('84-88)**, helped bring the play to Lima, OH. The play examines the life of Venerable Augustus Tolton, the first acknowledged African American Catholic priest, and offers a powerful message that aids in racial reconciliation, Catholic evangelization and vocations.

Mr. Richard Hawks O'66 ('57-58) and his wife, Arlene, of Aurora, IL, received the Service to God and Fellowman Award, presented by the Kiwanis Club of Aurora on October 13. For more than 40 years, they have been involved in many community activities, ranging from fundraising for the performing arts center to volunteering for CASA Kane County.

Mr. Troy Norman T'22 ('16-18), of Brighton, MA, has published a children's

book, *Pull Yourself Up By Your Booty Boot Straps?* The book helps young readers understand the need for love and support from family and friends.

Fr. Robert Sherry O'66 ('54-62), a priest of the Diocese of Rockford, IL, has retired after serving 10 years as chaplain at The Dynamic Catholic Institute in Kentucky. He will continue to lead pilgrimages for Dynamic Catholic, with four scheduled in 2022. He continues to serve local parishes and with Cross Catholic Outreach. He also reports that about a dozen of the Class of 1966 held a reunion at Brown County State Park in Indiana on August 3-5, 2021.

Mr. Gayle Uebelhor O'65 ('53-61), of Evansville, IN, was honored by the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests with the St. John XXIII Award on June 23, 2021. He facilitated the historic meeting of the 27 founders of the Association in 2011.

Mr. Gregory Welch T'99 ('86-89, '94, '95-98, '04-05, '08), of Peoria, IL, is working toward becoming a board-

certified chaplain. He completed a one-year residency in clinic pastoral education at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria in September 2021. He continues to work there as a pastoral care team member. †

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2022 Alumni Reunion

planned for July 31 - August 3



The 94th annual Alumni Reunion will give former Saint Meinrad students the opportunity for fellowship with classmates, spiritual renewal, relaxation, and learning. The 2022 event is planned for July 31 – August 3 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

“We are eagerly looking forward to this reunion,” says Timothy Florian, director of alumni relations, “as it will be our first full in-person reunion since 2019 – an excellent opportunity to reconnect with Saint Meinrad, as well as friends and classmates.”

This year’s reunion will include a golf scramble, workshops, time for prayer and

socializing, and the awarding of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The reunion kicks off on Monday, August 1, with a golf scramble at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus. Non-golfers will be able to attend educational or

spiritual talks during the day.

The anniversary banquet will be held Monday evening, honoring the classes of 1972 (50th anniversary), 1982 (40th), 1997 (25th), 2012 (10th), and 2017 (5th).

This year’s lineup of speakers will include Right Rev. Kurt Stasiak, OSB, archabbot of the Saint Meinrad monastic community, and Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology.

Most Rev. Joel Konzen, SM, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, will preside and preach at Tuesday afternoon’s Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church.

Bishop Konzen earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Saint Meinrad Seminary in 1972. He then received a Master of Divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, and two Master of Arts degrees – in systematic theology and in educational administration – from The Catholic University of America.

He joined the Society of Mary in 1975 and was ordained a priest in 1979. Bishop Konzen was ordained to the episcopacy on April 3, 2018.

At the banquet Tuesday evening, Fr. Joseph Ziliak, a retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Fr. Ziliak served as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Newburgh, IN, for 25 years. He also served as director of radio and television for the diocese and was the first editor of the diocese’s newspaper. A story about Fr. Ziliak will appear in the next issue.

More information about the reunion will be available on the website, <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>, and the alumni Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni. ✚