

# ON THE HILL

WINTER 2024 • VOL. 63:1



*Saint Meinrad*

# ON THE HILL

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*Fran Schemenauer and her son Dominic pray and sing during Las Posadas hosted by the Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry on December 2.  
Find more photos at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>*

# Monks' Personals

**Fr. Eugene Hensell** conducted the annual retreat for the Holy Cross priests and brothers of Notre Dame University, January 8-12.

**Fr. Harry Hagan** published an article on David and the Messiah in the December issue of *The Priest*.

**Br. Joel Blaize** conducted the youth chant schola during the liturgies at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN, in November.

**Br. Stanley Rother Wagner** led the retreat for the Fellows of the Tobias Leadership Center of Indiana University at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House and Retreat Center on October 5-6. He was also appointed as the monastery's coordinator of liturgical readings.

**Fr. Adrian Burke** presented a retreat on the theme of Christian hospitality at St. Thomas More Parish in Chapel Hill, NC, in November. He also facilitated Advent retreats for St. Michael Parish in

Louisville, KY, and Holy Family Parish in Nashville, TN, in December.

**Br. James Jensen, Fr. Simon Herrmann,** and **Fr. Nathaniel Szidik** attended the SEEK Conference in St. Louis, MO, January 1-5.

**Fr. Thomas Gricoski** gave the Presidential Address at the International Edith Stein Conference in Avila, Spain, in October. He was also re-elected president of the International Association for the Study of Philosophy of Edith Stein. He gave a presentation in Dallas, TX, on philosophy in seminary formation at the American Catholic Philosophical Association conference in November.

**Br. John Glasenapp** organized the inaugural concert of the Institute for Sacred Music, "As Before, So Evermore: Celebrating 1,000 Years of Sacred Music," which joined members of the monastic schola with the professional early music ensemble *Trobár*. He also delivered a paper titled "Authoritative Problems: The Challenge of Chant History" on November

8 at the conference, The Musical Shape of Liturgy: Celebrating the Life & Work of William P. Mahrt, held at St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA.

**Fr. Simon Herrmann** baptized the son of his friend, David Uhlenhake, on November 12. David and Fr. Simon were baptized together as infants. He also gave a retreat for the Source of All Hope missionaries from Baltimore, MD, at Saint Meinrad on November 7-8.

**Fr. Christian Raab** gave the priest retreat for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana from October 2-6 at the diocesan retreat center in Tipton, IN. The retreat was titled "I am a Priest for You." He also gave a parish mission at St. Mary of the Knobs Parish in Floyds Knobs, IN, on November 5.

**Fr. Julian Peters** presented a module for permanent deacons at the Annual Ministry Conference in the Diocese of Gary on October 28. He also hosted a World Priest Workshop for Capuchin Franciscans at St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon, NY, November 14-16. ✚

## Br. Jerome Croteau, 74-year jubilarian, dies at 94



Br. Jerome Croteau, OSB, monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died peacefully in the Lord in his infirmary cell on September 30, 2023. He was 94 and in his 74th year of monastic profession.

He is survived by a sister, Sister Mary Claude, OSB, of Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, IN; and brothers, Edward of Seattle, WA; Francis of Denver, CO; and James of Bismarck, ND.

Br. Jerome was born in Belcourt, ND, on April 8, 1929, to Henry and Ernestine (Lebrun) Croteau, and was given the name Adolph at his baptism. A Native American, Br. Jerome was a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa (Ojibway) and lived in what at the time was the smallest Native American Reservation in the United States.

One of seven children, he left the Turtle Mountains at the age of 18. He attended Saint Ann Mission Elementary School and

completed two years at Marty High School, Marty, SD. Br. Jerome was invested as a novice of Saint Meinrad in 1948. He professed his simple vows on May 10, 1949, and his perpetual vows three years later. He solemnized his vows on May 10, 1974.

Br. Jerome's first monastic assignment was working with the crew that was building St. Bede Hall. He also worked in the archabbey sacristy. In 1952, he was assigned to Saint Meinrad's new foundation at Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD, where he worked on the construction of the buildings for 18 months, and in the garden.

He returned from Blue Cloud Abbey in 1954, and worked in the kitchen, as a carpenter, and in the vineyard and wine cellar. Br. Jerome served on the Archabbey's Volunteer Fire Department for many years and was a regular driver of Engine No. 1.

He also worked on the landscaping crew. His work involved digging the graves in the Archabbey Cemetery and assisting in lowering the casket into the earth. He enjoyed reminding his confreres that "I'll be the last one to let you down."

The funeral was held on October 5, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✚

## Smugmug

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

[saint-meinrad.smugmug.com](http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com)

# Archabbey Gift Shop moves to new location



In January, the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop moved from its location along Highway 545 to combine with the Scholar Shop, the student bookstore, located on the first floor of Newman Hall within the Seminary and School of Theology. The business is now called Saint Meinrad Books and Gifts.

The Gift Shop began as an outlet store for Abbey Press catalog merchandise in 1973,

and at one time had locations in Louisville, KY, and Evansville, IN. When the Abbey Press closed in 2017, the Gift Shop continued to offer a wide variety of inspirational and religious merchandise.

Recently, there has been careful consideration on how best to move the business forward while supporting the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and their mission of prayer and work. The

consolidation will provide a more manageable space that is centrally located for visitors, retreatants, and students. The new location will continue to offer Saint Meinrad gifts and apparel, monastery-made items, inspirational books, and sacramental gifts.

Saint Meinrad Books and Gifts will have limited hours through March. The current website, <https://www.archabbeygifts.com/>, and Facebook page, Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop, will be unavailable until further notice. Those wanting to visit should contact the Archabbey Switchboard at 812-357-6611 or 800-581-6905 for current hours. Parking is available at the Guest House and Retreat Center.

The Abbey Casket showroom will remain in its current location in the Gift Shop building until further notice. Guests can visit the showroom by entering the west side of the building, Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Central Time. ✚

## Noteworthy:

*Newsworthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events*

Two Saint Meinrad alumni were recently honored by the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Indiana Chapter for their longtime dedicated efforts, leadership, and passion for philanthropy and philanthropic causes.

Bernie Niehaus, O'63 ('51-54), emeritus member of the Board of Overseers and the 2012 recipient of Saint Meinrad's Distinguished Alumnus Award, was honored with the **Outstanding Philanthropist Award**. Bernie, chairman and retired CEO of Niehaus Lumber, served on Vincennes University's Board of

Trustees for 24 years and is currently a member of VU's Foundation Board of Directors. He also has worked tirelessly through the years to support the Indiana Military Museum, Knox County Community Development Corporation, and the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy.

Gene Tempel, C'70 ('66-69), former Board of Overseers member, received the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Gene has more than four decades of philanthropic leadership and fundraising experience. He is President Emeritus of the Indiana University Foundation and Founding Dean Emeritus and Professor of

Philanthropic Studies at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy. He helped found the school's precursor, the Center on Philanthropy, and was its executive director for 11 years, transforming it into a leading national resource.

"Bernie and Gene have built a legacy of service and leadership, giving back selflessly in myriad ways to Saint Meinrad, their communities, and other charitable organizations," says Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB. "They are very deserving of these awards, and we are proud to have them as part of the Saint Meinrad family." ✚

# Forward TOGETHER

For the Life of the Church



*A blessing was held on October 7, 2023, for the finished renovations to the Archabbey Library and St. Anselm Hall. The renovations were funded through the “Forward Together: For the Life of the Church” campaign. The event began with Mass in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel, followed by a procession, the blessing, a luncheon, desserts, and self-guided tours of the renovated spaces.*

# Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry: Opening doors for students and Hispanic community



*“I care about my community. I see the challenges... God put me here. It’s important to respond to that calling.”*

— Ana Perez, Director  
Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry

On a chilly evening in early December, a group of seminarians, monks, Saint Meinrad co-workers, and members of the local Hispanic community gathered on campus for Las Posadas, a Latin American tradition that commemorates Joseph and Mary’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Faces glowed with candlelight and voices united in prayer and song as the group traveled from door to door seeking shelter for Mary.

Las Posadas is just one of many events Saint Meinrad’s new Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry (OHLM) has hosted since being established two years ago. The Office, housed under the Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization, was

made possible by a \$999,620 grant awarded to Saint Meinrad in the fall of 2021 by 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.

In the first phase of the grant, Saint Meinrad partnered with Springtide Research Institute to better understand the needs of the Hispanic community, identify their strengths and opportunities, and

explore the challenges they face. The study found that faith leaders need multicultural skills formation, and that is what OHLM is working to do.

OHLM’s main objective is to prepare faith leaders, including seminarians, permanent deacons, lay ministers, and youth, to better serve the Hispanic community in their local parishes. They are a support office for the Seminary and School of Theology, providing translations when needed.

“This office has ties with every department here,” explains Ana Perez, the director of the Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry.

# EVENTS ON THE HILL

Ana has partnered with departments in the School to create programming and opportunities that introduce students to Hispanic culture. These opportunities have also introduced the Hispanic community to Saint Meinrad.

The Permanent Deacon Formation Program now provides formation entirely in Spanish, as well as English. There are also supplemental online courses in Spanish available for native Spanish speakers who are taking courses in English.

The Office aims to have one event or program every month. In the spring, the Saint Meinrad and local Hispanic communities gathered for fellowship and authentic Mexican food for Cinco de Mayo. In the fall, they challenged each other in a soccer tournament.

It's not all fun and games though. Ana also organized hands-on ministry opportunities for the seminarians on Sunday afternoons. The seminarians lead lessons and discussions on Catholic faith with Hispanic adults and youth.

Ana, originally from Mexico, knows the Hispanic community and the challenges they face. She hopes to see more of a

Hispanic presence on campus. "We don't know that we are welcome to come here," she says. "It saddens me that that's the reality. How do we fix that?"

In July, the Continuing Formation Office and OHLM partnered with the dioceses of Evansville, IN, and Owensboro, KY, to host a day-long workshop for parish catechetical leaders completely in Spanish.

In addition to learning about the ministry of a catechist, participants prayed and sang songs together. They also had a tour of the art and architecture in the Archabbey Church led by Br. Jude Angel Romero, OSB.

"A lot of things are happening at Saint Meinrad," says Ana. "What a gift to bring the Diocese of Evansville and the Diocese of Owensboro here."

Her work is opening doors for Saint Meinrad students and the Hispanic community to come together and strengthen the Catholic Church.

"I care about my community. I see the challenges," Ana explains. "God put me here. It's important to respond to that calling." ✝



*The Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry hosted a soccer tournament between the seminarians and the local Hispanic community on September 23. Here, team members pray before the game.*

## February 27-29

*Guest House Retreat: "Women of the Word" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.*

## March 6

*Guest House Workshop: "Created in the Image of God: A Woman's Day of Reflection" by Dr. Kimberly Baker. (Workshop for Women)*

## March 8-10

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

## March 14

*Thomas Lecture, 7 p.m. Central, "Gender: What's True, What's False, and Why It Matters" by Dr. Angela Franks.*

## March 15-17

*Guest House Retreat: "Sleeper Awake!" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.*

## March 19

*Concert: "The Soprano Event" performed by Jacqueline Piccolino, soprano, and Kevina Lam, piano, 7:30 p.m. Central, St. Bede Theater.*

## March 27-31

*Guest House Retreat: "Living the Liturgy of the Triduum" by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB. (Holy Week Retreat)*

## April 12-14

*Guest House Retreat: "Forgiving as We Have Been Forgiven" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.*

## April 22-26

*Guest House Retreat: "The Gospel of Mark: Lessons in Rejection" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB. (Priests Retreat)*

## May

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

For more information, call 812-357-6611 or visit our website [www.saintmeinrad.org](http://www.saintmeinrad.org)



# *Chalice Collection* *brings together art and religion*

The 110 chalices in Saint Meinrad's collection represent more than communion between God and His people, a remembrance of the Last Supper and salvation through Jesus. They bring together art and religion and illustrate cultural history.

"It's interesting to see the period pieces and the time in which they came," says Br. Kim Malloy, OSB, Saint Meinrad's sacristan. Each chalice in the collection represents a time and place. The oldest chalice dates to the 1750s during the Baroque period. The chalices made in the early United States have a mechanical look to them. One art nouveau chalice has a shallow cup that sits on a grape arbor with four birds soaring up to form the node.

Br. Kim has been the sacristan since the 1990s and knows every chalice in the collection, who it was made for, and the story behind it.

"You look at each chalice, and it fits the personality of the monk it was made for," says Br. Kim.

A chalice designed by Fr. Gavin Barnes, OSB, for his confrere, Fr. Cyril Vrablic, OSB, has a large base. Fr. Cyril was known for being clumsy and the large base prevented the chalice from toppling over.

Chalices come to Saint Meinrad in many ways. They are often gifted to priests of the community when they are ordained or celebrating an anniversary. Sometimes they are given in memory of a family member or donated. A white chalice created by Swiss goldsmith Meinrad Burch-Korrodi was donated by a priest in Colorado. He didn't have an association with Saint Meinrad but donated it because the artist's name was Meinrad.

When a chalice is given to a monk, it becomes property of Saint Meinrad. If the monk leaves the community or passes away, the chalice stays in the collection.

Saint Meinrad's collection includes chalices of all shapes and sizes, made of bronze, pewter, wood, silver, or gold, created in places like Japan, Germany,

Belgium, and the carpenter shop at Saint Meinrad. Some are simple and minimalist, and others include family jewels and elaborate carvings or images. One chalice includes the monk's mother's earrings. The earrings can be removed and worn.

Br. Kim says practically every chalice is used unless it's not functional. He will choose the chalice based on the priest presiding at Mass or the day in the liturgical calendar. He likes to rotate the chalices that don't get used often.

## **NOTEWORTHY CHALICES**

1. Saint Meinrad has three chalices from the Baroque period. Br. Kim chooses them to be used on special feast days, Christmas, and Easter. Fr. Jerome Bachmann, OSB, the first prior of Saint Meinrad, brought a chalice with a gold cup in a silver holder dated 1832. It is used for feasts of the "Office of the Prior" (O.P.). Another Baroque chalice of unknown date and origin commands attention because of its height and ornamentation. It depicts angels that

represent faith, hope, and charity (photo 1). Finally, a Mexican silver chalice from the 1870s is the oldest chalice in the monastery's collection. It was a gift from a Saint Meinrad alumnus who found it in an antique store in Mexico City.

2. One of Br. Kim's favorite chalices in the collection belonged to Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB. It was given to him by his family and was created by Swiss goldsmith Meinrad Burch-Korrodi. The base of the chalice depicts the biblical story of Daniel and the lions (photo 2).

3. Several chalices in the collection were designed and made by monks at Saint Meinrad. Carpenter Br. Lawrence Shidler, OSB, made a chalice for Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, out of ebony, a dense

hardwood from Africa. Fr. Donald Walpole, OSB, created the carvings (photo 3a). The chalices Fr. Donald designed are identifiable by an ivory node (photo 3b). Fr. Eric Lies, OSB, designed his own chalice. It was executed by Arthur Neville Kirk of the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Former monk Zachary de Bernardi made three chalices at Saint Meinrad. Most of the chalices in the collection are gold plated, but two of the ones he designed and made have gold cups.

4. In December 1975, 18 chalices were stolen from the sacristy, including one that was gifted to Archabbot Timothy Sweeney, OSB. An exact replica of his chalice was reproduced for his 25th jubilee. In 2016, 40 years after the robbery, Br. Kim found a chalice for sale

by an antique store in Kansas on eBay that resembled one that was stolen. The sterling silver chalice made in 1950 was gold plated with a design of the 12 apostles engraved on it. Br. Kim purchased the chalice, but there was no engraving on the bottom of the chalice, so he couldn't verify that it was the stolen one (photo 4).

5. Three chalices in the collection are from Fulda, Germany, made by Wilhelm Rauscher. Fr. Anthony Vinson, OSB, pastor of St. Meinrad and Fulda, IN, parishes, led a group of parishioners on a pilgrimage to Fulda, Germany, several years ago and the tour guide's grandfather was the artist who created the three chalices (photo 5). ✝





# Janis Dopp: Oblation made life beautiful

Saint Meinrad's Oblate Director, Janis Faye Dopp, 76, of Bloomington, IN, passed away on Thursday, October 12, 2023, after a two-year fight with multiple myeloma. The funeral Mass for Janis was held in the Archabbey Church on October 19, 2023. She was known at Saint Meinrad especially for her baked goods, and loved by many monks, oblates, and co-workers.

"To be part of this particular community means the world to me, because I love the community, I love the place," Janis said in a 2018 interview. "From the very first time I stepped on these grounds, I felt like I was coming home in some way, and I couldn't explain that to anybody."

Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, recalled in his funeral homily for Janis that her first

experience with the monks of Saint Meinrad was when she joined them for prayer early one morning. "The bells were ringing as she was running in the dark to the north door of the church," he said. "Before she got there, the bells stopped, but when she opened the door, she heard the monks chanting, and she knew she had to be part of this prayer."

That prayer soon became a part of her daily life, and Saint Meinrad her spiritual home, when she was invested as an oblate novice in 1991 by Fr. Gerald Ellspermann, OSB. Her 32 years as an oblate changed her life.

"When I first came to Saint Meinrad, Father Justin DuVall, OSB, said to me, 'You are not here to become a little monklet. You are here because you want

to be a better wife and a better mother.' And that made sense to me," she explained.

As an oblate, she allowed the *Rule of St. Benedict* to change and form her. She took the Benedictine sense of balance and applied it to her life. She took the sensibilities about hospitality, rhythm of prayer, importance of contemplation, and *lectio divina* and plugged that into the life she led off the Hill.

"It's something very quiet, and yet it's something that changes your life forever. It makes the ordinary life that I live something truly beautiful," she said about being an oblate. "I can invest every moment of every day with an understanding that baking a loaf of bread or making dinner or doing laundry,

making beds, that all of those are holy activities when we look at them through eyes of obedience and humility.”

Janis received her bachelor’s degree in English from Indiana University and her master’s degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. She served as the director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Bloomington for over 25 years. In 2017, she became the first layperson to serve as the oblate director at Saint Meinrad, a position she held until she passed away.

She accomplished a lot in those six years, growing and strengthening Saint Meinrad’s oblate community. She updated the *Benedictine Oblate Newsletter*, published four times a year, to be a source

of formation and inspiration for the oblates. She renamed it the *Benedictine Oblate Quarterly* in hope that it would help oblates feel better connected to Saint Meinrad and how the *Rule of St. Benedict* should apply to their lives.

She revised the Oblate Rites to have Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, invest the oblate novices and receive the final oblations four times a year in the Archabbey Church. And she created a formation process to help novices understand what they are promising at their oblation.

She also served on the team that organized the last two World Congresses of Benedictine Oblates in Rome. The most recent World Congress this past

September concluded with the Congress participants attending a private audience with Pope Francis.

Her life and dedication as an oblate expanded her faith and increased her heart, and as a result she helped many other people grow spiritually and connect with the Saint Meinrad community.

“There have been so many points over the last quarter of a century that people have asked, ‘What makes you so happy?’” said Janis. “I’m able to say, ‘Well, my husband and children make me happy, and Saint Meinrad makes me happy,’ and it’s true. There is a peace that I experience here that is so fulfilling, I think it tangible in my life.” ✝



*Photo, opposite page: Janis Dopp meets Pope Francis during the Fifth World Congress of Benedictine Oblates in Rome on September 15, 2023. Photo licensed and used with permission, credit © Vatican Media. Photos, this page, from top, left to right: Janis gives the sign of peace to newly invested novice, Shawn Way, after the Oblate Rites on March 24, 2018; Janis is blessed as the new oblate director during the chapter coordinators meeting in the Guest House Chapel on June 23, 2017; Janis reads from the Rule of St. Benedict during the Oblate Rites on December 3, 2022; The funeral Mass of Janis was held in the Archabbey Church on October 19, 2023.*



*Photos, from top, left to right: Dcn. Matthew Millay holds up the monstrance during evening prayer on September 19 in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel; Participants in the On the Hill 5K cheer as Fr. Tyler Tenbarg's name is pulled for an attendance prize on September 23; President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, teaches a class on Dante during Graduate Theology weekend courses in September; Dcn. Jayke White helps decorate the Newman Dining Room for the annual St. Nicholas Banquet on November 29; Hung Nguyen kicks the ball pitched by Luke Nicholas during the annual seminary kickball tournament held on October 27; Colleen Jacobs prays during the fall gathering for the Young Adult Initiative at Saint Meinrad on October 21.*

## [Meet the Student]

# Conrad Jaconette

Diocese: Diocese of Owensboro; co-sponsored with The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

Hometown: Alexandria, KY

### **Q.** *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

The same things that attracted me to Catholicism, which are the sacraments. Not only is the priest called to an intimacy with the sacraments, but he has been entrusted to administer these sacraments to the people of God. There is no greater priestly act than to administer the sacraments to the thirsting hearts of the world.

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

A priest who simply invited me to give seminary a try. It was a leap. One that I never thought I would take. Growing up as a Southern Baptist, I did not meet a priest until 2016. Within two years, I was confirmed into the Catholic Church, withdrew my medical school applications, ended a relationship, and was applying to seminary. The Catholic Church is the greatest gift God has ever given me. I did not come to seminary because I wanted to be a priest. I came because God was calling me to something greater and I could not discern that call on my own. It was only through self-giving to formation that I fostered a deep calling to the priesthood.

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

I was in college completing a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. The transition from the hard sciences to the classical studies of philosophy and theology was a challenge, to say the least! One that was frustrating but rewarding.

### **Q.** *Favorite saint and why?*

My patron saint, St. Francis Xavier.

He exudes a missionary zeal that I desire. What better display of love than to drop everything and go into the unknown where Christ calls you. Truly, a full submission to His will.

### **Q.** *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

Psalm 51 is my favorite psalm because it is a cry for mercy in failures and calls for complete reliance on God. It is prayed during Morning Prayer on Fridays and is a great examination of conscience.

### **Q.** *Hobbies?*

I am a man of many hobbies, and I am constantly expanding my interests. My main hobbies consist of being a coffee connoisseur, car enthusiast, aviation, auto racing, and horology.

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

The entire seminary community has been the most rewarding aspect because the priesthood is a collective and communal effort that exemplifies the body of Christ. Each member of the Saint Meinrad community provides a unique glimpse into the heart of Christ.



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

Self-abandonment. It is one thing to say I want to follow Christ. Giving yourself to help carry the cross in the modern world is not easy in the slightest, but proclaiming the truth of the Church, despite the chaos around you, is how saints are made.

### **Q.** *Best advice you've heard in seminary?*

The priest is a tow truck. His job is not to fix the problems of the world; it is only to help the faithful pick themselves up and accompany them to the loving gaze of Christ.

### **Q.** *Other comments?*

Becoming co-sponsored with The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, and joining the United States Air Force, has been vital to my vocational journey. Priests are needed in every corner of the world, and I am blessed for the opportunity to serve the men and women of the armed forces as a priest in the near future. ✝

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Mr. Charles Richard Bowling, O'60 ('56-60)**, of Falls Church, VA, died on November 4, 2023.

**Mr. Michael R. Buring, O'66 ('54-58)**, of Luggoff, SC, died on February 17, 2023.

**Rt. Rev. William "Rusty" M. Clyma III (Inclusive Celtic Church), C'82 ('79-81)**, of Tulsa, OK, died on September 16, 2023.

**Mrs. Janis Faye Dopp, GTP '98 ('93-97)**, of Bloomington, IN, died on October 12, 2023.

**Mr. Kurt Ewen, C'89 ('87-89)**, of Houston, TX, died on October 21, 2023.

**Deacon James F. Flynn, PD'05 ('01-05)**, of Evansville, IN, died on September 5, 2023.

**Mr. Michel R. Frappier, O'81 ('77-78)**, of Carolina, RI, died on June 19, 2023.

**Mr. Paul E. Hagedorn, O'63 ('51-53)**, of Beech Grove, IN, died on November 8, 2023.

**Mr. Charles W. Johnson, O'70 ('62-69)**, of Terre Haute, IN, died on August 22, 2023.

**Mr. Robert R. Kramer, O'63 ('51-53)**, of Haubstadt, IN, died on November 14, 2023.

**Mr. Albert Bernard Laubner, O'58 ('47-50)**, of Reisterstown, MD, died on April 2, 2023.

**Deacon James A. McBride, PD'16 ('12-16)**, of Memphis, TN, died on August 3, 2023.

**Deacon Michael P. McGuire, O'64 ('60-64)**, of Naperville, IL, died on October 15, 2023.

**Rev. Msgr. Richard W. Moyer, O'64 ('60-64)**, of Phoenix, AZ, died on June 27, 2023.

**Mr. James P. Plunkett, O'50 ('39-41)**, of Sleepy Hollow, IL, died on October 23, 2022.

**Mr. Anthony A. Reine, SPH'57 ('55-57)**, of Evansville, IN, died on October 12, 2023.

**Mr. Paul E. Rosner, O'60 ('48-51)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 9, 2023.

**Fr. Samuel Russell, OSB, O'79 ('73-75)**, a monk of Conception Abbey, MO, died on November 14, 2023.

**Mr. Daniel P. Schmitz, T'86 ('81-85)**, of Tulsa, OK, died on January 1, 2023.

**Mr. Charles P. Stemper, SPH'55 ('53-55)**, of Vancouver, WA, died on November 22, 2022.

**Dr. David P. TenBarge, O'67 ('55-60)**, of Evansville, IN, died on November 7, 2022.

**Mr. William V. Ullrich, O'68 ('56-59)**, of Aurora, IN, died on November 3, 2021.

**Mr. Gilbert D. Verkamp, O'65 ('53-55)**, of Jasper, IN, died on November 26, 2023.

**Mr. Richard A. Wodzinski, O'65 ('53-59)**, of Munhall, PA, died in November 2023.

**Fr. Anthony A. Wojcinski, T'85 ('83-85)**, of Pueblo, CO, died on November 2, 2023.

### 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 ✝



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## ALUMNI NEWS

**Mr. Dan Conway, O'75 ('67-75)**, of Louisville, KY, was invited to serve as a consultor to the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis by Archbishop Charles Thompson in September.

**Fr. Chris Daigle, O'78 ('73-74)**, a priest of the Diocese of Tulsa, OK, plays the role of the priest in the Martin Scorsese film, "Killers of the Flower Moon," also starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone, and Robert De Niro.

**Dr. Sylvester Kreilein, O'65 ('53-61)**, of Wauwatosa, WI, has been recognized as the Wisconsin German American of the Year 2023 by the German American Societies of Wisconsin.

**Fr. Valerian Odermann, OSB, O'74 ('70-74)**, a monk of Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND, was elected as the monastery's 10th abbot on November 7, 2023.

**Fr. Michael Papesh, O'76 ('70-75)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Pueblo, CO, had his book, *The Listening Parish: A Guidebook to Synodality Practices in a Faith Community*, published by The Pastoral Center. The book is available at [thepastoralcenter.com](http://thepastoralcenter.com) or Amazon.com. ✝

# Save the Date!

*July 29-31, 2024*

96th Annual Alumni Reunion

*August 4-6, 2025*

97th Annual Alumni Reunion

*August 3-5, 2026*

98th Annual Alumni Reunion



# Day of Service: Projects set for March 9

Saint Meinrad alumni extend the Benedictine motto of *Ora et Labora*, Pray and Work, beyond the holy Hill in southern Indiana, through the annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service.

The Day of Service began 10 years ago as a way for alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad to serve their local communities. It has involved projects at soup kitchens, clean-up work at parishes or local parks, making and delivering care packages to the elderly, and construction work at a Habitat for Humanity site.

Time for prayer is planned into the day and includes a special prayer written by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB. Most site locations will open with or include the Divine Office or Mass, giving

participants time to work and pray together.

Saint Meinrad is currently seeking volunteers for this year's event, planned for Saturday, March 9. The Day of Service is free to attend and open to everyone, not just alumni. All registered volunteers will receive a t-shirt, courtesy of the Alumni Association. Volunteers should register by February 29 to ensure the correct count of volunteers for those planning the project.

For more details about projects in your area and to register as a participant, visit the alumni website at <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/home/day-of-service/>. Be sure to check back for updates.

If you have any questions, contact the Alumni Office at 812-357-6501 or [alumni@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:alumni@saintmeinrad.edu). ✝

**2024 Locations:**

- Bloomington, IN
- Alexandria, LA
- New Albany, IN
- Hampton, VA
- Hugo, OK
- Indianapolis, IN
- Louisville, KY
- New York, NY
- Saint Meinrad, IN
- Denver, CO
- Toledo, OH

*Check the website for the complete list.*

**Return Service Requested**

# Save the date:

## Alumni Reunion set for July 29-31



Each summer Saint Meinrad provides an opportunity for alumni to return to their alma mater for a couple days of rest, to reconnect with classmates, and for spiritual renewal. This year, the 96th annual Alumni Reunion will be held July 29-31.

The 2024 reunion will follow a similar schedule to previous years, and will include a golf scramble, workshops, time

to pray together, socializing, and the awarding of the Distinguished Alumnus.

Monday evening will feature the anniversary banquet. Special anniversary classes being honored this year include 1974 (50th anniversary), 1984 (40th), 1999 (25th), 2014 (10th) and 2019 (5th). The College Class of 1994 will also be celebrating a 30th anniversary.

On Tuesday afternoon, Bishop Erik Pohlmeier, C'94 ('92-94), bishop of the Diocese of St. Augustine, FL, will be the presider and homilist at the Alumni Reunion Mass.

Bishop Pohlmeier, a native of Paris, AR, received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Saint Meinrad College in 1994. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in sacred theology at Gregorian University, Rome, in 1997, and a master's in spiritual theology from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, in 1998.

He was ordained to the priesthood at Subiaco Abbey, Subiaco, AR, on July 25, 1998. On May 15, 2022, Pope Francis appointed him the 11th bishop of St. Augustine. He was ordained and installed on July 22, 2022.

As planning continues, details about the reunion will be available on the alumni website, <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>, and the alumni Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni).

