

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2024 • VOL. 63:2



Saint Meinrad

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Seminarian, Felix Pesce, talks with students at Colegio Católica Padre Aplás in Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, during the Central American Martyrs Pilgrimage and Retreat on January 22.

Find more photos at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>.

Monks' Personals

Fr. Patrick Cooney has been elected vice president and president-elect of the Canon Law Society of America.

Fr. Julian Peters led a retreat for priests of the Archdiocese of Seattle on January 8-11.

Fr. Christian Raab gave a parish mission on Eucharistic Renewal at St. Michael Catholic Church in Bradford, IN, January 29-30.

Fr. Adrian Burke presented the annual Saint Xavier High School alumni retreat at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in February. He also gave a women's retreat for Holy Redeemer Parish at Mary Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center in Bloomington, IN.

Br. James Jensen and Scotty Biggs, director of "One Bread, One Cup," spoke

to the religion classes at Regina Catholic High School in Iowa City, IA, about the "One Bread, One Cup" program on February 26.

Fr. Mateo Zamora directed a men's retreat on February 24-25 and a women's retreat on March 2-3 for Saint Bartholomew's Parish in Columbus, IN, at the Archabbey Guest House. He also preached the Parish Mission for Saint Augustine and Holy Name of Mary Churches in Lebanon, KY, March 16-17.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak attended the annual meeting of abbots and priors at Prince of Peace Abbey, near San Diego, CA, in February. The workshop's focus was on "Technology and Formation."

Fr. Harry Hagan published an article in *Priest* magazine titled "The Penitential Psalms: Seven Voices Crying Out."

Fr. Guerric DeBona published an article in *Priest* magazine titled "Homily Helps."

Br. Michael Reyes has been appointed director of Benedictine Oblates for Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Br. John Glasenapp has formally joined the faculty of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology as assistant professor of liturgical music and medieval studies.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain joined the clinical staff at the St. Luke Center in Louisville, KY, assisting with psychological evaluations and providing psychotherapy on a part-time basis.

Fr. Eugene Hensell presented conferences on the Passion Narrative of Mark's Gospel in Nassau, Bahamas, March 18-25. ✝

Monastery News

Fr. Louis Hacker, OSB, former abbot of Corpus Christi Abbey, dies January 10



Fr. Louis Hacker, OSB

Fr. Louis Hacker, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, St. Meinrad, IN, died peacefully in the Lord on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. He was 69.

He is survived by two brothers, Robert Hacker of Boise, ID, and Vernon Hacker, of Nampa, ID.

Fr. Louis was born in Caldwell, ID, on February 25, 1954, to Vernon and Helen (Barber) Hacker, and was given the name Dick Evande at his baptism. He grew up in Boise and after completing his elementary and high school education, he worked for three years with the Idaho Public Library.

He was invested as a novice of Corpus Christi Abbey, Sandia, TX, on August 15,

1975, and professed his simple vows on January 31, 1977. He professed solemn vows on January 31, 1980.

Fr. Louis graduated from Saint Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, LA, in 1981 with a B.A. in English. Further studies included time at Notre Dame University, New Orleans, LA, and St. Mary's University and the Oblate School of Theology, both in San Antonio, TX. In 1985, Fr. Louis received an M.Div. degree, specializing in spirituality, from St. John's School of Theology, Collegeville, MN. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 28, 1985.

Fr. Louis was elected abbot of Corpus Christi Abbey on January 10, 1997. He received the abbatial blessing on March 8. After serving his community as abbot for five years, he resigned on August 20, 2002. In addition to his ministry as abbot, Fr. Louis served his confreres as contact chaplain at a Naval Air Station,

guest master, librarian, and cook, as well as providing pastoral assistance.

Corpus Christi Abbey was closed in 2002, after which, Fr. Louis provided pastoral assistance in the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He soon began the process for transferring his stability to Saint Meinrad, and he was received by the Saint Meinrad Chapter on March 10, 2008.

After joining the Saint Meinrad community, Fr. Louis assisted in the Sacred Music and Monastery Vocation Offices, as a presider at the infirmary Masses, and as a confessor in the infirmary and for various retreat groups and individual pilgrims. He also served as editor of our monastery's weekly *Community Bulletin*. Fr. Louis was a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus.

The funeral liturgy was celebrated on Monday, January 15, with burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✚

Novice joins Saint Meinrad community



Novice Joshua Brahm

In a brief ceremony, Novice Joshua Brahm was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19, 2024. He now begins a year of monastic formation,

including study of the *Rule of St. Benedict* and monastic history.

Novice Joshua, 36, is a native of Ferdinand, IN, where he was a member of

Christ the King Parish. He attended Forest Park High School in Ferdinand.

Before entering the monastery, he worked at Kimball Electronics for the last five years. He most recently served as utility, lower management/production support.

Novices take a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad. ✚

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www.abbeycaskets.com

Saint Meinrad offers accelerated M.A. in theology for Marian University students

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and Marian University, Indianapolis, IN, have announced a new collaboration to offer Marian students an accelerated track to a Master of Arts degree in theology. Marian students taking theology or ministry classes will be able to complete an M.A. in theology in as little as one academic year.

Chase J. Cloutier, the director of Graduate Theology Programs at Saint Meinrad, and Dr. John Noble, the chair of the theology department at Marian University, signed a memorandum of understanding in February establishing the collaboration.

Under the terms of the agreement, Marian undergraduates taking upper-level theology or ministry classes are eligible to receive advanced standing for up to nine graduate credits. Marian University also

plans to offer a three-credit graduate theology course that senior students can take to fulfill one of their undergraduate electives. When combined, the advanced standing and transfer credit will be the equivalent of 12 graduate credits. Saint Meinrad's 36-credit M.A. in theology can then be completed in two semesters.

"Saint Meinrad and Marian University are both committed to holistic theological education that enriches students' personal development and prepares them for pastoral ministry," said Cloutier. "This new collaboration recognizes the excellent education received at Marian while making Saint Meinrad's exceptional formation more accessible to Marian students."

According to Dr. Noble, the arrangement represents the bright future available to

Marian graduates. "This cooperative agreement with Saint Meinrad offers students a wonderful opportunity to carry forth the tradition of excellence begun at Marian," he said. "The intellectual and personal growth that takes place at Marian can continue with further studies at Saint Meinrad."

Marian graduates can apply for advanced standing at Saint Meinrad immediately. Current Marian students may apply for entry into the accelerated M.A. program as early as June 1 after their junior year. More information about the accelerated M.A. program can be found on the Saint Meinrad website: <https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/graduate-theology/master-of-arts-theology/accelerated-ma-for-marian-university-graduates/>. Program inquiries can be sent to Chase J. Cloutier at ccloutier@saintmeinrad.edu. ✝

Noteworthy:

News-worthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events



Dcn. Ron Pirau, PD'12 ('08-12), director of Saint Meinrad's Permanent Deacon Formation Program, was a co-recipient of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Evangelist of the Year award at Catholic Radio Indy's annual Real Presence Dinner on February 25. Pirau serves as deacon at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, IN. Dcn. Paul Lunsford of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Carmel, IN, also received the award.

Fr. John Grace, O'79 ('70-74, '75-79), has led several Care for Creation initiatives at his parish, Immaculate

Conception Catholic Church in Hampton, VA. In 2019, his parish became the first in the Diocese of Richmond to team up with Catholic Energies, a nonprofit program of the Catholic Climate Covenant, and go 100 percent solar. Four hundred and forty solar panels were installed that now fully powers the church.

The solar project was the starting point, and the parish's outreach has grown from there. They have invested in a group called TIST to plant 5,000 new trees in East Africa. They partnered with Water with Blessings to bring clean drinking water to families in marginalized communities through the Navajo Nation Project. The parish also offers fairtrade coffee and chocolate to buy through Equal Exchange, a worker-owned co-op that focuses on environmental sustainability.

"It flows from the active engagement we learned at Saint Meinrad," says Fr. John. "Light a light so others can see good and give praise to God." ✝



Abbey Caskets

celebrates 25-year anniversary

From the Swiss Abbey of Einsiedeln to St. Meinrad, IN, Abbey Caskets provides a traditional design unlike any other.

When the monks came to southern Indiana in 1854 to establish the Benedictine monastery, they brought many traditions, including the unique design of the monastic caskets. After much interest from the public, Abbey Caskets was established in 1999 and has since grown into a business dedicated to ministering to families in their time of loss. This year they celebrate 25 years of building a Benedictine tradition.

Abbey Caskets has changed and grown in many wonderful ways over the years. When Abbey Caskets first began selling caskets to the public, they offered the monastic style in two finishes. Today, the business has expanded its selection to include the traditional style caskets, as well as urns, urn holders, crosses, and furniture. The selection of wood has extended to four types of wood and three finishes. Each casket and urn is blessed by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, as well, providing a spiritual connection between Saint Meinrad and the families that they serve.

When Abbey Caskets started the business they brought on local businesses, Hurst

Custom Cabinets and later Kitchen Jewels to make the wooden caskets and urns. In 2017, they were able to bring the workshop on-site at Saint Meinrad, helping them manage the inventory and quality of the products. Jenny Keller, director of Abbey Caskets, states, "It's been exciting to watch it grow from being in an office and then to full manufacturing."

The Abbey Caskets team is continuously finding ways to minister to their customers. As Keller says, "They're not just a number to us, it's a family." This is a delicate topic, and each employee understands the significance behind their work. The craftsmanship is impeccable, and the customer service does not end with the sale. Through the years Abbey Caskets has added ways to help people before, during, and after their loss.

In 2007, Abbey Caskets began offering prepay options for those who wish to plan ahead. Since 2012, they have provided the annual Service of the Longest Night at Saint Meinrad for those grieving at Christmastime and recently started a GriefShare program to help those who are going through a loss. Keller notes, "It's definitely a ministry when people are at the lowest point in their lives to be able to have a product that means something to them; it represents a life that was lived." ✝

Rising costs

impact *On the Hill* newsletter

On the Hill newsletter readers will soon see a change in the number of issues they receive each year. Due to the rising costs of printing and postage, the *On the Hill* newsletter will be published three times a year instead of four, starting in July 2024. Newsletter readers can expect to receive the newsletter in April, July, and October.

The newsletter will continue to keep alumni and friends informed and up to

date on news and events at Saint Meinrad. Readers can stay connected by visiting our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/saintmeinrad/>, reading the Echoes from the Bell Tower blog, (<https://www.saintmeinrad.edu/seminary-blog/echoes-from-the-bell-tower/>), or signing up for our e-newsletter, (<https://www.saintmeinrad.org/connect/newsletters/e-newsletter-sign-up/>). ✝

EVENTS ON THE HILL

May

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

May 11

Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

May 17-19

Guest House Retreat: "Benedictine Spirituality 101" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

June 14-16

Guest House Retreat: "In Sickness and in Health: Prayer, Covenant, and Healing" by Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa, OSB.

July 12-14

Guest House Retreat: "A Step 11 Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics and Alanons – Conscious Contact" by Kathleen McCauley.

July 29-August 2

Guest House Retreat: "Summer Chant Workshop: Chant Pedagogy and Vocal Technique" by Br. John Glasenapp, OSB.

August 23-25

Guest House Retreat: "Discipleship According to the Gospel of Mark" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

September 6-8

Guest House Retreat: "Advanced Patterns of Christian Prayer" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

September 13-15

Guest House Retreat: "Letting Holy Leisure Be Our Way" by Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB. (Retreat for young adults 20-40 years old)

September 20-22

Guest House Retreat: "Navigating Difference: Serving in Multicultural Communities" by Dr. Daniela Abraham.

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

CENTRAL AMERICAN MARTYRS

PILGRIMAGE & RETREAT



SEMINARIANS LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MISSIONARY

Eighteen seminarians gathered around Fr. Jim Schimelpfening, SM, a spiritual director in the seminary who oversees several of the seminary's retreats. After a day of traveling from the concrete jungle of Guatemala City to the literal jungle of Santiago Atitlán, it was the official start of the Central American Martyrs Pilgrimage and Retreat.

Fr. Jim opened by telling the seminarians that pilgrimages and retreats are about surprises and to be open to surprises from God and themselves. There were many surprises and impactful moments along the way.

The Central American Martyrs Pilgrimage and Retreat is a 10-day trip for the Second Configuration seminarians to Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala, where Blessed Stanley Rother was martyred, and

Antigua. The trip includes an immersion into the story of Hermano Pedro, a 17th century Franciscan saint from Antigua. As the pilgrimage began, Fr. Jim told the seminarians that they will learn to be shepherds, to smell like the sheep.

"We believe that these experiences are important because of the witness and deep pastoral commitment of these two men," says Fr. Jim. "Especially the witness of Blessed Rother, because he was an American missionary and a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, who gave his life for his flock. He was the 'shepherd who didn't run.'"

Among the trip highlights were:

- **Attending Mass** in Santiago Atitlán's local church, St. James the Apostle Church, with the native Tzutuhil

people. Mass was held in Spanish and the Tzutuhil language and the group experienced firsthand the universality of the Catholic Church. After Mass, the parishioners gathered in a courtyard to socialize, or went to the Adoration Chapel to pray. They were excited to meet and talk with the seminarians and the seminarians witnessed the faith, devotion, and the importance of community for the locals.

- **Meeting a family** that has two children with Down syndrome in San Juan. The family is one of several who make up the Artesanía Hermanos Down, an artisan shop that sells Guatemalan crafts handmade by mothers of children with Down syndrome. The proceeds from their sales help pay for their children's medical care.



“These retreats and pilgrimages are essential to the formation of future priests in the Church. They give flesh to what is learned in other ways in the seminary and help the seminarians become shepherds who don’t run, just like Jesus the Good Shepherd, who went all the way to the cross.”

The family held a reception for the seminarians where they met Wendy and Luis, who have Down syndrome. Luis is also blind and suffers from neurological disorders. The father of the family told the seminarians that Luis cannot see them, but he can feel their energy when they touch him. The father carried his son around to each seminarian and they held his hand, embraced him, and prayed for him.

• **Hearing firsthand accounts** of who Blessed Stanley Rother was, and about a massacre that occurred in Santiago Atitlán on December 2, 1990. The group gathered in the room where Blessed Stanley was martyred to hear from Don Andrés, who was a boy when Blessed Stanley came to Guatemala on a diocesan mission. They became close friends and Blessed Stanley had a huge impact on his life.

Later that day, the group traveled to Parque de la Paz, the Park of Peace, where the massacre took place. Felipe Coché Pablo was a boy when he peacefully marched with his unarmed family and neighbors. The Guatemalan military opened fire killing 13,

including three children. Since then, the Guatemalan military has been banned from Santiago. These firsthand accounts made the people and events more real for the seminarians, deepening the understanding of the experience.

• **Going to the Catholic school** founded by Blessed Stanley, Colegio Católica Padre Aplás. Last spring, Saint Meinrad held a fundraiser to buy a new tuba, desks, and computers for the school. In the fall, a fundraiser was held to provide pencil pouches, made by Artesanía Hermanos Down, filled with school supplies for each child.

The children assembled in the courtyard and the band played music featuring the new tuba. When the children returned to the classrooms, the seminarians distributed the pencil pouches and candy. The children also had an extended recess where they played soccer and other games with the seminarians. It was an uplifting end to the group’s time in Santiago.

• **Volunteering** with special needs individuals at Virgen del Socorro, one of the social works inspired by the

life and service of Hermano Pedro. Hermano Pedro was devoted to social work, serving the most vulnerable and needy.

The residents of Virgen del Socorro do not receive many visitors and the seminarians were encouraged to talk to them, hold their hands, and rub their backs. Some seminarians helped feed residents their lunch or took them outside for a walk.

The pilgrimage and retreat taught the seminarians what it means to be a missionary through the examples of Blessed Stanley Rother and Hermano Pedro’s lives.

“Without these experiences there is a risk of staying in the head with one’s nose in the books. With this experience, the ‘classroom’ becomes life, prayer, pastoral care, theology that is praxis,” explains Fr. Jim. “These retreats and pilgrimages are essential to the formation of priests in the Church. They give flesh to what is learned in other ways in the seminary and help the seminarians become shepherds who don’t run, just like Jesus the Good Shepherd, who went all the way to the cross.” ✚



Time to reconnect: Alumni Reunion will be July 29-31



The Saint Meinrad Alumni Office is gearing up for the 96th annual Alumni Reunion that will be held this summer from July 29-31 on the Saint Meinrad campus. The event provides an opportunity for alumni to step back from the busyness of life and return to their alma mater for rest, spiritual renewal, and reconnecting with classmates.

Guests who arrive on Sunday are welcome to attend Vespers and Compline with the monastic community in the Archabbey Church. A social will be held in the Alumni Commons at 7:30 p.m. and the 2023 movie, *Wonka*, will be shown in St. Bede Theater.

Reunion events will officially kick off at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July 29. Alumni can choose to participate in a golf scramble at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus, IN, or attend a presentation by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, titled, "Men Too, New Perspectives on the Sexual Abuse Crisis."

Fr. Denis serves as the 14th president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology. He holds doctorates in philosophy and sacred theology from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

In the afternoon on Monday, director of Saint Meinrad's Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry, Ana Perez, will give a presentation on navigating Hispanic

ministry. Perez, originally from Mexico, moved to the United States at the age of 15. She studied at Marian Heights Academy, Ferdinand, IN, before the school closed, for her sophomore and junior years of high school and graduated in 2001 from Heritage Hills High School. Perez studied social science at Oakland City University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 2005.

Before the evening events, alumni will also have the opportunity to tour the new Saint Meinrad History Museum or attend an art tour led by Fr. Denis.

On Monday evening, the anniversary class banquet will recognize the classes of 1964 (60th anniversary), 1974 (50th), 1984 (40th), 1994 (30th), 1999 (25th), 2014 (10th), and 2019 (5th). Socials will follow at the UnStable and Alumni Commons.

A Day of Recollection will be held on Tuesday, July 30, led by Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB. Fr. Simon will present in the morning and afternoon on, "When all else fails: Peace."

Fr. Simon serves as director of donor relations and young adult engagement at Saint Meinrad. He joined the monastic community in January 2015 and professed his solemn vows in 2019. He earned a Master of Arts in Catholic philosophical studies in 2017 and a Master of Divinity in 2021, both from Saint Meinrad

Seminary and School of Theology. Fr. Simon was ordained a priest in June 2021.

On Tuesday afternoon, tours will be available of the Saint Meinrad campus and the Abbey Caskets workshop. The reunion Mass will take place at 3:00 p.m. in the Archabbey Church. Bishop Erik Pohlmeier, C'94, of the Diocese of St. Augustine, FL, will preside.

Bishop Pohlmeier studied mechanical engineering at University of Arkansas from 1989-1991. In 1992, he attended college at Saint Meinrad, graduating with a bachelor's in philosophy. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from Gregorian University in Rome in 1997. In 1998, he received a master's in spiritual theology from University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome.

Bishop Pohlmeier was ordained a priest on July 25, 1998, for the Diocese of Little Rock, AR, where he served as pastor for 24 years. In May 2022, Pope Francis appointed him the 11th bishop of St. Augustine. He was ordained and installed as bishop of St. Augustine on July 22, 2022.

On Tuesday evening, Dcn. Christopher Malone, PD'03 (99-03), of Mechanicsville, VA, will be honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award during the reunion banquet. Read more about Dcn. Malone on page 10.

Reunion details and updates can be found at <https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu> and on the alumni Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni. ✚



**Like us on
Facebook**

Share stories and pictures
from past reunions or let
your classmates
know you are attending.

Saint Meinrad **DAY OF SERVICE**



Over 370 alumni, oblates, friends of Saint Meinrad, seminarians, and monks participated in service projects in 12 cities for this year's Saint Meinrad Day of Service in March.

More photos are available to view at: <https://saint-meinrad.smugug.com/Alumni/Day-of-Service-2024>

DISTINGUISHED

Alumnus

Dcn. Christopher Malone balances a life of service to his family, clients, and community

As a husband, father, lawyer, and deacon, Dcn. Christopher Malone wears many hats and serves the people of his community and family with grace and professionalism.

Dcn. Malone was born in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Alexandria, VA. He completed his primary education in Catholic schools and graduated from Bishop Ireton High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA, in 1976. From there, he went to law school at the University of Virginia and graduated in 1979. He has been in private practice of law ever since. He clerked for the State Supreme Court for two years, then went on to work for his current firm for 43 years.

Being a husband and a father, Dcn. Malone "was blessed with a lovely wife and five children." The Malone family fostered many international refugee children over the years, serving as a great blessing to their family. He has been actively involved in many ministries in the Church as well. When the Diocese of Richmond announced the deacon formation program, he was asked directly if he would become a deacon. After praying about it and talking with his wife, they decided he would do it. He was ordained with the first cohort of deacons in the Diocese of Richmond on February 22, 2003.

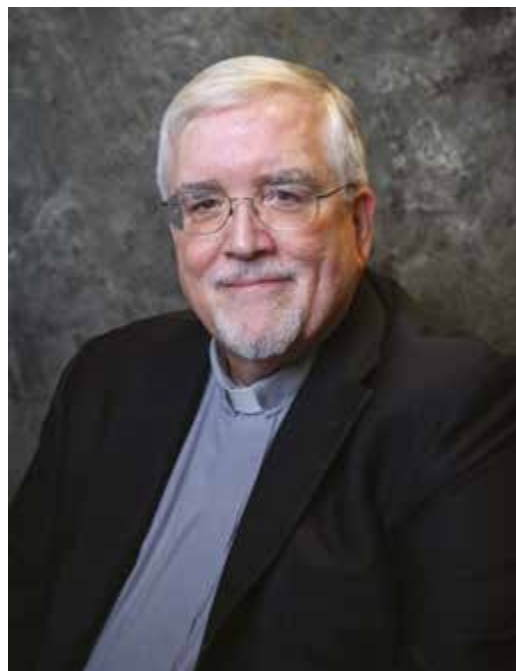
He says, "My interaction with Saint Meinrad came in a very blessed way in the

sense that we were the first class of deacons that Saint Meinrad formed. So, we have the distinction of being the guinea pigs, the lucky first people, and had tremendous exposure to a lot of the priests."

He praised Saint Meinrad based on his experience, saying, "There was, from the very first day, an awareness of the pastoral side of ministry and the importance of integrating what you learn, but also changing your heart as part of the process and becoming more humble each and every day."

After ordination at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, in Richmond, VA, by Bishop Walter Sullivan, Dcn. Malone was assigned as parish deacon to the Church of the Redeemer, Mechanicsville, VA. He completed a master's in theology from St. Leo University. Several years later, he was reassigned to serve at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in the heart of the city of Richmond, VA, where he still serves.

Dcn. Malone was appointed as the Central Vicariate Deacon assisting the last three bishops and deacon directors administering the largest number of deacons of all of three Vicariates. As new cohorts began to form, he served as a member of the formation team for selection and evaluation of aspirants and candidates.



He said, "Because I participate in formation of our deacons, I pass along a lot of what I learned from Saint Meinrad to the next classes."

As a parish deacon, he serves on the Parish Council, chairs the Social Justice Committee, visits the sick and homebound, and leads various prayer groups. Dcn. Malone is deeply involved with the Haiti committee and has been to Haiti numerous times, maintaining ongoing relationships with the twin parish in Carissade, Haiti, and coordinates visits. He oversees the annual grant process for distribution of funds to local agencies and programs serving the needs of the area



"My interaction with Saint Meinrad came in a very blessed way in the sense that we were the first class of deacons that Saint Meinrad formed. So, we have the distinction of being the guinea pigs, the lucky first people, and had tremendous exposure to a lot of the priests."

poor. He also leads the parish initiative to become a member congregation in an ecumenical group involved in a city-wide effort to strengthen the Richmond community. With the Cathedral being surrounded by Virginia Commonwealth University, he is also involved in supporting campus ministry.

Dcn. Malone serves as president of the Board of Directors of St. Francis Home and actively serves in providing an assisted living facility for the poorest elderly. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Chesterfield Alternatives, Inc. to develop housing for developmentally disabled and chronic mentally ill individuals. He is active in Boy Scouts of America both locally and at the diocesan level. Dcn. Malone served on the Board of Visitors for

St. Gertrude Catholic School High School for three years.

As a lawyer, Dcn. Malone is able to minister to people as well. He says, “the pastoral side of being a deacon is of tremendous use to me in even my work as a lawyer. I have a little better ability to steer [people] towards the right thing.”

He provides pro bono legal services to clients in need of legal assistance and assists regularly in formation of new non-profits to aid the poor, including local St. Vincent de Paul chapters. He maintains an extensive adoption and family law practice. As an adoptive parent of three, he has experience with the process and assists families and child-placement agencies resolve disputes to establish homes for

children. Dcn. Malone has admission to the U.S. Supreme Court, and all Virginia courts. He has been recognized by Greater Richmond Bar Foundation as Volunteer of the Year (2018), The Best Lawyers in America© for Litigation (2023), and numerous other awards.

“It’s been a blessing,” he says. Twenty-one years and we’re forging forward.” When asked about his time as a deacon, he says, “The best part of ministry is just being there for people, period. I find that’s the most important thing. It’s not the liturgical role so much as it is being present to people.” Dcn. Christopher Malone will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Alumni Reunion banquet on July 30, 2024. ✝



Photos, from top, left to right: Dr. Rosemary Heredos, left, and Amy Cox, right, participate in a schola rehearsal during the 2024 Winter Chant Workshop on January 24; Seminarians Bobby Denne, left, and Daniel Cooper, right, of the Diocese of Knoxville, were installed as acolytes by Archbishop Charles Thompson of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on February 15, 2024; Dcn. Caleb Scherzinger puts ashes on the head of Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, during the seminary's Ash Wednesday Mass on February 14; The 2023 Mardi Gras king, Kristofer Garlitch, sets the stage to announce this year's king during the seminary Mardi Gras party on February 13. Seminarian Michael Hickey was named the 2024 king.

[Meet the Student]

Evrard Muhoza

Diocese: Archdiocese of Louisville, KY

Hometown: Rushubi, Burundi

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

My uncle is a priest. Since I was young, I saw him as the one who united the families. If there was any conflict among my other uncles, or the neighbors, or even my parents, he would be the one who would come to calm things down and unite them again. The priesthood for me was a sign of unity, especially when I saw how my uncle united everybody. I wanted to be a man who brings unity to others.

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

There have been many priests who influenced me in my discernment. One of them was my parish associate priest, who helped a lot within my discernment. In my second year living here in the United States, I went to him and told him that I wanted to go to the seminary, but I was afraid because I did not know English. I was also afraid because I have always prayed in Kirundi, and I did not know any prayer in English. Since then, he started to teach me the prayers. He also taught me the history of the diocese, and the basic things I needed to know.

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

Before I joined the seminary, I was a student at Jeffersontown High School in Louisville, KY.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

St. Maria Goretti is my favorite saint. She was a role model for me in my first years here in the United States. The way she forgave Alexandro inspired me to also

forgive those who wanted to kill my parents, forcing us to flee Burundi. Also, she is my favorite because I grew up singing in a children's choir at my home parish that was named after her.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

The compassion of Jesus (Matthew 9:35-38). This verse reminds me of the compassion that Jesus had for the people he encountered in his ministry. In a way, I see the call to priesthood coming from this compassion. God responds to the troubled and abandoned by sending them those who remind them of his love.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I have a lot of hobbies. Recently, my main hobbies have been playing soccer, singing, dancing, slowly learning how to play piano and the organ, and learning a new language.

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

The entire seminary community has been most rewarding, especially my brother seminarians in my class and my diocesan brothers. I am most fulfilled by the friends that I have made who often challenge me to grow, and whom I share with when I am having good days or difficult days.



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

The academic aspect of seminary life has been the most challenging for me. One would think that having lived in the United States for 10 years that I am fully fluent in English, but I still find it difficult sometimes. I am often challenged when I am reading some of the reading assignments.

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

The priesthood is not a license or a right, it is a gift.

Q. *Other Comments?*

I have really enjoyed being here at Saint Meinrad. I do think that I am where I should be. I also should not forget to mention that I like working at the UnStable in the kitchen. It has been wonderful to spend Monday evenings with my diocesan brothers making all the things that everybody likes from the UnStable kitchen. ✝

Unstructured, subsidized young adult retreats a wild success

Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, director of donor relations and young adult engagement at Saint Meinrad, has a passion for engaging young adults in their faith. Some benefactors have encountered his zeal for building relationships with young adults, and they want to support Saint Meinrad's work in connecting with this age group.

In 2023, Fr. Simon and Cassie Schutzer, director of Saint Meinrad's Young Adult Initiative, were brainstorming some ways the benefactors' gifts could be used.

"I was on a walk talking with Cassie. She said there was a participant in our Young Adult Initiative program from a nearby parish who enjoys spending quiet time here at Saint Meinrad," he recalls.

Cassie told him that Saint Meinrad has become a spiritual home for this young adult, but the cost to attend a weekend retreat can be steep for people in the 18-39 age bracket. That started Fr. Simon's creative wheels spinning.

"What if we used the benefactors' gifts to help offset the cost of retreats for young adults?" he thought.

He set out to find some dates that would work with Guest Services. In total, he was able to host 23 young adults for \$50 retreats that spanned three days and two nights in 2023. This cost included a guest room and all meals during the young adult's stay.

"We have many themed retreats that our Guest Services organizes," Fr. Simon notes. "I wanted to try something different with the young adult retreats. Rather than giving conferences, I left the retreat days unstructured. They could pray with us monks, sleep in, hike around the Hill, find a quiet spot to pray, and meet with me for spiritual direction or confession."

Fr. Simon describes these unstructured retreats as a "wild success." It gave the young adults the space to unplug and step away from their normal routine. It also

2024 YOUNG ADULT RETREATS
YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-39

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, a Benedictine monastery in southern Indiana, is hosting unstructured retreats for young adults for \$50 for the following weekends. The cost includes a guest room and all meals. Join the monks in prayer, explore the beauty of the campus, and find some time for quiet and rest with God. Fr. Simon will be available for one-on-one meetings.

May 3-5, 2024 (Full)
August 2-4, 2024
October 18-20, 2024
November 29-December 1, 2024
December 27-29, 2024

Contact Director of Young Adult Engagement:
Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, at yae@saintmeinrad.edu,
or Scan the QR code for more information.

allowed them to spend time in community with one another on retreat.

An unstructured retreat can be a little intimidating for some people, but he encourages them to give it a try. Fr. Simon recommends that young adults attend the retreat with a friend or spouse. It can ease the discomfort of showing up on retreat at a new place.

"Young adults, especially if they have not been to Saint Meinrad or another retreat center, might find it a little difficult to muster the courage to spend time at a new place," he says. "However, I think when they settle in, they can make the room and space for God to soften their heart and let them rest and rejuvenate on retreat."

The benefactors and Fr. Simon know that \$300 or \$425 (for a single or double occupancy, respectively) for a retreat can

be expensive for a young adult who may be paying off loans, starting a family, settling into a new place, etc. They want to allow young adults to experience the beauty and quiet of Saint Meinrad.

"Benedictines pride themselves in extending God's hospitality to guests," he says. "I do not want the cost to be prohibitive in allowing young adults to find peace and care from God here at Saint Meinrad."

He continues, "Life is messy and joyful, and God can handle it all. Part of my work during the unstructured retreats is to let the young adults know that no matter where they find themselves in their journey, God cares for them. What a gift our benefactors make possible – partnering with our engagement efforts – to help young adults embrace their faith!" ✝

ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, T'87 ('85-87), is now pastor of St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church, Philadelphia, PA, and Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church, Lawrenceville, NJ. Fr. Carmen and his wife Pat reside in Philly.

Mr. Mark G. Boyer, O'76 ('72-76), of Springfield, MO, has released four new books in 2023. *Smothered in Inexhaustible Mercy: An Anthology of Poems*, *Spirituality for the Solitary: A Handbook for Those Who Live Alone*, *Seasons of Biblical Spirituality*, and *Biblical Names for God* are all available at wipfandstock.com or Amazon.com.

Mr. T. Michael Egan, C'71 ('64-69), and **Mr. Paul Gabonay C'71 ('67-71)** are co-chairing "All Things Spiritual" (ATS), a project initiated last year in honor of their classmate, the Rev. Noah J. Casey, a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and former monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, who died in July 2015. ATS offers opportunities for persons from various walks of life to ignite or renew their

spiritual selves through conversations and activities linking faith to everyday life. Mini grants from the ATS fund held with the Central Indiana Community Foundation support this effort. Further information about ATS's purpose and goals may be obtained by contacting Mike or Paul at: egan3912@att.net and gabonay@sbcglobal.net.

Fr. Ron Hodges, T'04 ('99-04), a priest of the Diocese of Davenport, IA, has written the book *Homemade and Handmade: Understanding the Paschal Mystery While Rediscovering Timeless Arts*. It is available on Amazon.com.

Fr. Philip Mahalic, O'83 ('79-83), of Schertz, TX, has published the book, *A Heart Knows Reasons That Reason Will Never Understand: What Does God Want Me to Do with My Life: The Process of Discernment*. It is available on Amazon.com. He is currently the director of Catholic ministries for Joint Base San Antonio, Randolph AFB.

Mr. Shawn Massey, C'95 ('91-93), of De Pere, WI, has been appointed vice president of sales, Americas for Arcserve Data Protection/Data Resilience.

Mr. Michael Perigo, GTP'14 ('05-13), M.A.T., CFRE, of Newton, KS, retired as business development/foundation director at St. Luke Hospital and Living Center and St. Luke Hospital Foundation in Marion, KS, on December 31, 2023. He was a professional fundraiser for 37 years in Indiana and Kansas. He is an oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Newton, and member of Knights of Columbus Council (Leo Council 727) in Emporia, KS.

Fr. John Schwartzlose, T'00 ('95-00), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, received a master's in Public Administration from the University of Louisville in August 2022. He is currently serving as the director of mission for the Catholic Charities of Louisville. ✝

Bernie Niehaus, alumnus and emeritus overseer, dies February 27



Bernie Niehaus

Bernie Niehaus, O'63 ('51-54), died at home in Vincennes, IN, on February 27, at age 86.

Niehaus attended Saint Meinrad Seminary, spending three of his high school

years here. He earned an associate degree from Vincennes University and then a bachelor's degree in forestry and business from Michigan State University. In 2007, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Business from Vincennes University.

He was chairman of the board and retired chief executive officer of Niehaus Companies, Inc.

Niehaus served as a member of Saint Meinrad's Board of Overseers from

1995-2013 and as an emeritus member the past eleven years. He received the Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2012.

Niehaus is a past chairman of the board of Vincennes University and served on that board for 23 years. He is a past chairman of the Vincennes University Foundation and served as president, regional director, and a member of the executive committee of the Indiana Lumberman's and Building Supply Association. He also served as director of the American National Bank and AMBANC Corporation.

In addition to being past chairman of the board of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Evansville, he also served on the Priest Retirement Committee for the diocese. He was chairman of the Christian Education Foundation fundraising committee for Rivet High School, president of the Red Skelton Museum and

Educational Foundation, and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

He most recently was honored with the C. James McCormick Community Leader Award by the Knox County Chamber in 2022 and the Outstanding Philanthropist Award by the Indiana Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2023. ✝

Save the Date!

July 29-31

Alumni Reunion 2024

August 4-6

Alumni Reunion 2025

July 27-29

Alumni Reunion 2026

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Charles “Charlie” Belch, O’64 (’52-59), of Fort Wayne, IN, died on December 17, 2023.

Sister Joan Desmond, SS ’79, of Cambridge, MA, died on December 29, 2010.

Mr. Patrick J. Doherty, C’83 (’79-83), of Middleton, WI, died on January 13, 2024.

Fr. Hugh Fullmer, O’72 (’70-72), of Fontana, WI, died on March 1, 2024.

Deacon Gerald A. Gagne, PD’05 (’01-05), of Jasper, IN, died on January 27, 2024.

Mr. James Grande, O’54 (’44-50), of Greenfield, IN, died on December 13, 2023.

Mr. Patrick “Pat” J. Hurla, O’81 (’73-79), of Topeka, KS, died on January 17, 2024.

Mr. Donald E. Keefer, O’57 (’51-54), of Huntington, IN, died on January 9, 2024.

Mr. Thomas G. Lauck, O’73 (’65-67), of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 28, 2024.

Mr. Michael W. Lewis, O’51 (’45-46), of Denver, CO, died on November 28, 2023.

Fr. Ramon Marrufo, O’76 (’72-76), of San Diego, CA, died on November 15, 2023.

Mr. Daniel J. McCoy, O’72 (’64-65), of Carmel, IN, died on September 24, 2023.

Fr. Isaac Stephen McDaniel, O’78 (’75-78), of Louisville, KY, died on February 12, 2024.

Mr. Charles “Chuck” Meny, O’55 (’43-51), of Evansville, IN, died on February 18, 2024.

Fr. Charles R. Murphy, T’91 (’86-87), of Oklahoma City, OK, died on December 18, 2023.

Fr. Martin B. Nassr, O’67 (’59-63), of Toledo, OH, died on December 14, 2023.

Mr. Bernard G. Niehaus, O’63 (’51-54), of Vincennes, IN, died on February 27, 2024.

Mr. Clement “C.J.” Joseph Sauer, SPH’58 (’54-58), of Evansville, IN, died on December 8, 2023.

Mr. George Charles “Woody” Schupp Jr., O’74 (’70), of Ekron, KY, died on January 9, 2023.

Fr. Joseph B. Sheets, O’57 (’45-57), of Columbus, IN, died on November 5, 2023.

Mr. Edwin J. Spahn, O’62 (’50-58), of Lake County, FL, died on October 4, 2023.

Ms. Mary Ellen Spitznogle, MTS’84 (’83-84), of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 6, 2024.

Mr. Jerry Herbert Swanson, O’82 (Summer TSS ’78), of Bear Lake, MI, died on May 8, 2023.

Deacon Lawrence E. Todd, PD’16 (’12-16), of Lexington, KY, died on January 25, 2024.

Mr. James C. Whelan, O’68 (’56-57), of Trail Creek, IN, died on February 7, 2024.

Mr. Warren J. “Andrew” Wimmer Jr., O’83 (’79-83), of Ballwin, MO, died on January 22, 2024.

Monsignor Richard F. Zollinger, O’55 (’49-55), of Knox, IN, died on January 29, 2024.

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 ✝

Phonathon raises over \$29,000

For four evenings in February, seminary students gathered in the Development Office to make calls as part of the annual Alumni Phonathon. An additional two evenings in March were spent calling non-alumni donors for the Friends Phonathon and Thankathon.

Over the course of those evenings, \$29,080 was raised to support the work of the Seminary and School of Theology. In addition to the money raised, students

personally contacted nearly 300 friends to thank them for their support.

“The phonathon and thankathon give our students the opportunity to connect with our alumni and friends, thank them for their past generosity, and ask for their ongoing support,” says Duane Schaefer, vice president for development. “It’s also a ministry opportunity and it’s gratifying to know so many alumni and friends had a personal

conversation with one of our seminarians.”

Gifts to the phonathon help fund classroom instruction, financial aid, spiritual formation programs, ministry opportunities, library resources, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds.

Alumni can make gifts to the 2023-2024 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu. ✝

Alumni can make gifts to the 2023-2024 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To make a gift online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu.



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Photos, from top, left to right: Members of the seminarian schola, Quinton Thomas, from left, Seth Hickey, Ben Seago, Dcn. Rolando Perez, and Ben Keating, sing during the opening Mass of the spring semester on January 29; Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, incenses the altar during Sunday Mass in the Archabbey Church on February 18, 2024; Graduate Theology student, Alfonso Vidal of Newburgh, IN, participates in a discussion about fair wages for parish staff during a Catholic Social Ethics class on February 18; Fr. Jim Deiters taught a session on Developing Adult Relationships with Authority during the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates Associate Pastor workshop on February 7.