The documents of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent magisterial teaching make clear that lay women and men share with the clergy a common baptismal calling to holiness, simplicity of lifestyle, generosity and service to others, and spreading the good news of the Gospel.

For more than 40 years, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology has offered master’s degrees with the lay minister in mind. Today, across the United States, Saint Meinrad’s lay degree alumni incorporate the fruits of their formation in all aspects of their lives, both personal and professional.

They share their gifts in parishes, schools and universities, hospitals and other medical settings; in social justice, youth and Hispanic ministries; in diocesan administration; in doctoral programs and many other areas.

Saint Meinrad lay degree graduates serve the People of God in varied vocations. They also continue to discern their call to discipleship, supported by their theological education and formation.

“...lay people...must no longer be viewed as ‘collaborators’ of the clergy but truly recognized as ‘co-responsible’ for the Church’s being and action....”

Pope Benedict XVI
Meet Some of Our Graduates...

Kevin Johnson (2012) – Atlanta, GA; Husband and father of three, who moved his family to Southern Indiana to study full time; currently enrolled in Candler School of Theology at Emory University for additional graduate study

Mickey King (2012) – Morton, IL; Wife and mother of three; pastoral associate intern at Blessed Sacrament Parish

Tom Malewitz (2007) – Louisville, KY; Husband and stepfather, catechist, musician, theology teacher at St. Xavier High School; enrolled in doctoral program at Bellarmine University

Steve Mattern (2012) – Peoria, IL; Husband and father of six, health care executive, Benedictine oblate

Melinda Prunty (2010) – Owensboro, KY; Wife and mother of three, grandmother, director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro, KY

Hear their voices in the pages that follow...
Mickey: In my young adult life, I felt the desire to become more actively involved in parish ministry. The more active I became in ministry, the more challenging the questions became. I felt incredibly ill-equipped and ineffective in assisting others on their faith journeys. But, God is patient as well as persistent. It took many years before the intriguing idea of studying theology even entered into my heart; but, at that moment, I knew without a doubt that this unique path was intended for me.

Why Study Graduate Theology?

Thinking theologically requires **courage** to be open to the unknown, to different theological perspectives. 
—Kevin Johnson
Steve: The decision to come back for a second graduate degree, this time in theology, was one that I discerned for some time. I felt led to go to the roots and sources of our Catholic theological tradition so that I could be truly formed by these sources.

As a health care executive – working as a vice president – I could have taken other meaningful paths of study. I am extremely pleased that I was called to Saint Meinrad. Theological studies enabled me to develop the capacities to minister to others and to see from a deeply Christian worldview. It has enabled me to think, reflect and continue learning for the sake of the ministry in which I am serving.

Theological studies have enabled me to grow into a more full stature in Christ, through grace. I am striving to be a better husband and father as a result of these studies.

Studying theology opened my eyes to the beauty and richness of our tradition. It helped me understand more fully who God is.

—Tom Malewitz
Why Study at Saint Meinrad?

Tom: The director of religious education in my parish was a graduate of Saint Meinrad. She encouraged me to look into the program since the weekend format fit my schedule. The very first weekend was overwhelming, but I knew that this was the place I needed to be.

I had a sense of peace. I have found an extremely welcoming atmosphere: the monks, lay students, faculty, administrators all went out of their way to make me feel welcomed. The beautiful environment allows one to think, to challenge and to assimilate.

Asking questions is part and parcel of studying here. It was the right place for me. God will take you to places you’ve never been to prepare you for what is next. Saint Meinrad was that place of growth for me.

Mickey: I believe that formation is probably the most critical component for those who are in leadership roles in the Church today. My adult faith life has been directly influenced by a friend of mine who went through seminary at Saint Meinrad and who I feel has been truly well-formed for the priesthood – he simply is an incredible pastor.

The fundamental formation process at Saint Meinrad engages the entire person. It is a place to be challenged and to grow, not only intellectually, but also personally, spiritually and pastorally.

I was very drawn to the idea that I could pray, study and socialize with lay men and women, seminarians and a monastic community under the same roof, so to speak. As more and more programs offer merely online experiences, this opportunity that Saint Meinrad can provide will become even more valuable.
Why Saint Meinrad?

I loved every minute of my four years there: classes, faculty, students and the great books we read … all of it! It was an added bonus that I had a chance to build relationships with the seminarians from our diocese.

—Melinda Prunty
How does it make a difference in your life and in the world?

Kevin: While I am still discerning, I feel that my calling is in teaching. My experience at Saint Meinrad showed me how important teaching theology is, and how it improves one’s faith. This is the reason I am continuing my own education in theology. I would like to teach someday at the college level.

My goal is to help others learn to think theologically and grow spiritually. I’d like to facilitate encounters with God through my teaching. There is an opportunity in every walk of life to be an example of Christian living: “Preach the Gospel all times; if necessary, use words” (St. Francis of Assisi).

Melinda: My education gave me a solid foundation and broad knowledge of faith, which is essential in youth ministry. I am better able to take ownership of my faith and I’ve developed skills for building bridges and engaging in dialogue, within the Church and in an ecumenical setting.

National associations and the U.S. Catholic bishops are working hard to raise the bar for youth ministers and youth ministry. So, I’m trying to set a personal example to other youth ministers, as well as to family members and parishioners, of professionalism, ongoing education and accountability at every level.
I am in the process of becoming who **God** created me to be and Saint Meinrad has been instrumental in leading me through this process.

—Mickey King
An Invitation to Be Transformed and Make a Difference...

Come, experience quality theological, human, pastoral and spiritual formation informed by Benedictine values, such as the centrality of prayer, love of learning, hospitality and community support.

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology offers academic degrees flexible enough to meet your needs. Our programs provide a strong foundation in philosophy and Roman Catholic history, tradition and teachings, while allowing opportunities to meet particular academic or ministerial goals.

We admit students year round and offer a variety of class formats, including weekday, weekend, Web-hybrid, podcast and online courses. Study at Saint Meinrad is affordable, thanks to competitive tuition and generous financial aid opportunities.

Contact us today.

...“so that in all things God may be glorified.”

—Rule of St. Benedict, Ch. 57
“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”
—John 10:10