The newly renovated spaces in St. Bede Hall and Newman Hall were blessed by Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, in a special ceremony on October 6.

Following Mass in the Archabbey Church, monks, students, faculty, co-workers, the boards of Overseers and Trustees, benefactors and guests processed to the area between the buildings for the dedication.

“Countless people have contributed to making the restoration and renovation of these buildings a reality through the investment of their material and spiritual means,” Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, remarked at the blessing. “Generous friends contributed to the funding, creative minds considered possibilities and skilled hands brought it into a reality – all while kind souls everywhere prayed for the safe and successful completion of the project.”

After the buildings were blessed, small groups moved inside to bless the individual rooms and hang crucifixes. Following a luncheon, tours of the buildings allowed guests to get a close-up look at the new spaces.

**St. Bede Hall**

Renovating this 60-year-old building improved the infrastructure, added technological capabilities, upgraded elevator access to five floors, and reworked the space for flexibility and better use.

Since Saint Meinrad College closed in 1998, the building has seen limited use. It is now home to the programs of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates and the many groups who are hosted by the Office of Group Accommodations.

**Celebrate! Renovated St. Bede and Newman ready for use**

Continued on page 2
RENOVATION  Cont. from page 1

Infrastructure
The building’s roof was replaced, and new flashing, gutters and downspouts were installed. Energy-efficient windows and a new heating and cooling system are in place. All rooms have individual controls for heating and cooling.

The elevator, formerly a freight elevator that traveled only as far as the fourth floor, has been modernized for passengers and extended to the fifth floor.

Classrooms/conference rooms are equipped with built-in technology (i.e., videotaping, projection, Internet access and television reception).

New Configuration
On the first floor, which houses the 500-seat St. Bede Theater, work is under way to update the theater. During the renovation, the theater became the staging area for construction materials, so its completion is the last part of the project. It should be ready for use in spring 2013. The addition of air conditioning to the building will allow the theater to be used year-round for events.

Also on the first floor is the Office of Group Accommodations. Visiting groups will make this their first stop for registering and picking up room keys.

The second floor of St. Bede Hall features a small chapel that seats 50-60 people; the chapel can be used by groups or as a practice chapel for students. Office space for the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates (IPP) is also located on this floor.

The St. John Vianney Center, where the IPP will host life skills training, is the centerpiece of the third floor. The Center includes a fully equipped teaching kitchen, dining area and living room. Across the hall are two large classrooms/conference rooms. Fifteen guest rooms and a small lounge are also located on the third floor.

Another 22 guest rooms are on the fourth floor, along with a lounge and vending area. All guest rooms include private baths and wireless Internet access.

The fifth floor, now accessible by elevator, houses a large conference room that can be divided into two smaller rooms.

Newman Hall
Newman Hall renovations represent the final phase of the projects that resulted from “The Call of Saint Meinrad” campaign that concluded in 2006. Renovations to Newman Hall began in 2010 and encompassed all five floors of the building.

Some of the major changes include:
• A wellness center for fitness equipment and exercise classes was created on the ground floor, along with showers, changing rooms, lockers and a classroom.

Brett Stenftenagel, with Jasper Lumber Company Inc., presents the final construction documents to Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, during the Rite of Blessing.
• The Scholar Shop relocated to the first floor directly across from Newman Dining Room, providing more convenient access for students, faculty and other patrons.
• The east-west wing of the second floor creates space for three new classrooms that can handle 40 to 50 students each.
• The Information Technology department and photography-video studio moved from the third floor to the second.
• The south end of the north-south wing of the second floor now contains a conference room.
• The Mader Center, which offers reading and writing assistance and assists students who speak English as a second language, moved to the third floor and includes space for a larger classroom, where students can learn at computers or around small tables.
• A third practice chapel and public restrooms are now located in the north-south wing of the third floor.
• A counseling center on the third floor has been updated with soundproofing, new heating and air conditioning, lighting, technology and windows.
• The north-south wing of the fourth floor was renovated to include four apartments for faculty, public restrooms and a laundry area.
• The Spiritual Formation Department relocated to the fourth floor, where the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates was located before moving to St. Bede Hall.

Mary Kay Wolford, Deacon Alan Carter and Joe Cook listen while Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, prays during the Rite of Blessing.

Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB, gives the homily during the dedication Mass.

Chef Kevin Maloney of Volare Italian Ristorante in Louisville, KY, refills dessert plates in the St. John Vianney Center.

Fr. Jonathan Fassero, OSB, hangs a crucifix on the fourth floor of St. Bede Hall during the Rite of Blessing.
Nine members join Board of Overseers

Four new and five returning members have joined the Board of Overseers, the advisory board for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The Board advises President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on matters related to the school’s programs and performance and addresses strategic questions related to the future of the school. Each member serves a three-year term.

The new members are Paul Timothy (Tim) Cox, Deacon Marc Kellams, Stephen Mullins and Deacon Mark Rougeux. Returning members are John Chappell, John Pulcini, John Lueken, Suzanne Yakimchick and Fr. Jason Gries.

Tim Cox is the supervisor of corrosion control for Indiana for Vectren – Wagner Operations Center in Evansville, IN. Tim and his wife, Amy, live in Rockport and are the parents of four children. They are members of St. Bernard Parish.

He received a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Indiana University in 1978, a master’s degree in management from Brescia University in 2002 and a Master of Business Administration in finance from Murray State University in 2007. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the National Association of Corrosion Engineers.

Steve Mullins serves in business development and marketing for Lanier Asset Management, where he is a partner. Steve and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Louisville, KY, and are the parents of two children. They belong to St. Margaret Mary Parish.

He received a bachelor’s degree in business from the University of Louisville in 1979 and a Master of Business Administration from Bellarmine University in 1984. He earned the designation of chartered financial analyst in 1984 and is a member of the CFA Society of Louisville.

Steve’s work with charitable and religious organizations includes Archdiocese of Louisville Finance Council, Bellarmine University, The Catholic Education Foundation, The Library Foundation, Metro United Way and the Sisters of Mercy. He also is a board member and chairs the Investment Committee for the Kentucky Deferred Compensation Authority.

Deacon Marc Kellams is a judge for the Monroe Circuit Court II in Bloomington, IN, and a former adjunct assistant professor of law at Indiana University Maurer School of Law. He and his wife, Chris, are the parents of three children. They belong to St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, where Marc has served as a permanent deacon since 2008.

Deacon Mark Rougeux is an adjunct professor of theology at Bellarmine University, an instructor for the Permanent Deacon Formation Program at Saint Meinrad.
Deacon Mark received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Kentucky in 1974, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of North Carolina in 1976. In 1997, he earned a master’s degree in theology from The Catholic University of America. He anticipates receiving a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2013 from Catholic University.

John Chappell is an attorney with the law firm Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP in Jasper, IN. He and his wife, Jane, have two children and are members of St. Joseph Parish.

John earned a bachelor’s degree in 1969 and a juris doctor degree in 1972, both from Indiana University. He is a member of Jasper Chamber of Commerce, Jasper Kiwanis Club and the American, Indiana State and Dubois County bar associations. He was secretary of the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Indiana from 1992-2007 and is a director of Indiana Furniture Industries Inc.

He is beginning his fifth term as an Overseer and is a former board chair.

John Pulcini and his wife, Barbara, reside in Evansville and are the parents of five children. They are members of Holy Rosary Parish.

John graduated from Loyola University in 1962 and received his medical doctorate from St. Louis University Medical School in 1966. He completed surgical residencies at the University of Wisconsin Medical Center. In 1973, he began work as a plastic surgeon with Evansville Plastic Surgical Association. He retired from active surgical practice in June 2008.

John holds several memberships, including the Vanderburgh County Medical Society, the Indiana State Medical Association, American College of Surgeons, American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the Ohio Valley Plastic Surgical Society.

He is beginning his third term on the Board of Overseers.

John Lueken is an attorney and partner at Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP in Louisville, KY. He and his wife, Stacie, are members of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, IN.

John is a native of Jasper, IN. He was awarded a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Evansville in 1985. He received his juris doctor degree from the University of Louisville in 1992. John is also a certified public accountant. He holds memberships in the American, Kentucky and Louisville bar associations and is a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

John is a member of the Downtown Louisville Rotary Club, the Louisville Zoo Foundation Bequest and Planned Gift Council, Estate Planning Council of Louisville and the Southern Indiana Estate Planning Council. This is his third term on the Board of Overseers.

Fr. Jason Gries was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Evansville in 2004 and serves as pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Daylight, IN. He also serves as the associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Evansville and chaplain of the Southwest Indiana Teens Encounter Christ movement.

Fr. Gries received his bachelor’s degree in Catholic studies from the University of St. Thomas in 2000 and graduated from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 2004. He begins his third term on the Board of Overseers.

Suzanne Yakimchick resides in Indianapolis and is a member of St. Ann Parish. She retired in June 2008 from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, where she served as chancellor and director of lay ministry. Since her retirement, Suzanne has taught theology as an adjunct faculty member at Marian University and has led workshops with the Saint Meinrad Permanent Deacon Formation Program.

She received her bachelor of arts and juris doctor degrees from Indiana University in 1970 and 1977, respectively. She earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1998.

Suzanne is a member of the Marian University Board of Visitors, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Eiteljorg Museum and Southside Art League. A former chair of the Board of Overseers, she is beginning her fifth term on the Board.

Fr. Gries began his terms on the Board of Overseers in 2004.

On The Hill is also available on the Web:
www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill
Meet Student:
Mark Bernhard

Diocese: Diocese of Joliet
Hometown: Elwood, IL

What attracted you to the priesthood?
I was able to walk shoulder-to-shoulder with many young men as they had conversions toward God and became disciples of Jesus. This made me want to dedicate the rest of my life in helping bring people to know the love, mercy and compassion of our Lord as His priest.

Who influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?
As a FOCUS missionary at the University of Nebraska, I was blessed to work with holy priests who loved their vocation and, more importantly, loved Jesus Christ. Seeing priests who were joyful and filled with the zeal of the New Evangelization made me want to have what they had.

Favorite saint and why?
St. Francis Xavier. St. Francis was an amazing evangelizer! Through his preaching and way of life, Xavier brought many souls to Christ. His missionary zeal forced him to stop at nothing in bringing the gospel to the world. I often find myself praying for the same zeal for souls as St. Francis Xavier had.

Favorite Scripture verse and why?
This question is even harder than the last! St. Peter’s confession, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68) has always resonated with me. It reminds me that when nothing else in life makes sense, Jesus does and that is enough.

Hobbies?
I love playing sports! My favorite sports to play are basketball, volleyball and golf. I also enjoy reading, lifting weights, being outside and swimming.

What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?
The most rewarding aspect of seminary life has been building relationships with the other men in formation. There aren’t many other places where one can live with 150 other men who are all striving to be men of God. The opportunity to share similar goals and aspirations with like-minded men has been a blessing and a great source of joy.

What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?
The most challenging aspect of seminary life for me has been learning to die to self.

I found that with this comes many trials, but at the same time many blessings and a great amount of joy. As our Lord said, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” The seminary has been a great place for me to try and follow the request of dying to self.

Best advice you have heard in seminary?
Fall deeper in love with Jesus every day. I don’t think there is anything more important that I can do in seminary than to try to follow this advice. The more we fall in love with Jesus, the more our lives will illuminate Christ and we will become a more effective disciple.

Novice professes first vows

Novice Anushka Fonseka, OSB, professed temporary vows as a Benedictine monk in a ceremony on August 6, 2012, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Br. Peduru Fonseka, OSB

He has completed his novitiate, a year of prayer and study of the Benedictine way of life. As is the custom during the profession of vows, he was assigned a religious name. Novice Anushka will now be known as Br. Peduru. Temporary vows are typically for three years.

Br. Peduru, 29, was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka. He was a member of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Battaramulla and attended St. Joseph’s College in Colombo, both in Sri Lanka. In 2008, he earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He then worked as a structural engineer at Barter & Associates Inc. in Mobile, until joining the monastery.

The period of temporary vows provides a continuing opportunity for the monk and the monastic community to determine whether monastic life is, indeed, the right vocation for this individual.
Seven monks celebrate jubilees

The Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey celebrated the 60-year jubilees of monastic profession for Fr. Sebastian Leonard, OSB, Fr. Aelred Cody, OSB, Fr. Aurelius Boberek, OSB, Br. Philip Ripley, OSB, and Br. Maurus Zoeller, OSB; the 65-year monastic profession and 60-year ordination jubilees of Fr. Gavin Barnes, OSB; and the 65-year ordination jubilee of Fr. Richard Hindel, OSB, on July 29.

Fr. Sebastian was born September 4, 1931, in Indianapolis, IN. He professed vows on August 1, 1952, and was ordained May 3, 1957. He received a master’s degree from Georgetown University and a doctorate from the University of Oxford.

Fr. Sebastian taught modern church history for 25 years in Saint Meinrad School of Theology. During those years, he also taught history in Saint Meinrad College and served as choirmaster for Saint Meinrad Archabbey. In 1983, he was appointed associate pastor at St. David Church in Davie, FL. Since 1995, Fr. Sebastian has served as a chaplain and teacher at the Canterbury School in New Milford, CT.

Fr. Aelred was born February 3, 1932, in Oklahoma City, OK. He professed vows on August 1, 1952, and was ordained May 3, 1957. Fr. Aelred has received a licentiate and doctorate of sacred theology from the University of Ottawa, a licentiate and doctorate of sacred scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, and two degrees from the Royal College of Music and the Royal College of Organists in London.

For 10 years, Fr. Aelred taught courses in the Old and New Testament at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome. He was the novice and junior master at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, an organist of Sant’ Anselmo in Rome, editor of the Catholic Biblical Quarterly, and procurator general of the American-Cassinese and Swiss-American Benedictine congregations.

He has written numerous books and articles and has contributed to encyclopedias and collective works. Currently, Fr. Aelred serves as a canonical advisor for several religious communities. He serves on the Legal Committee of the Abbot President of the Swiss-American Congregation. He also assists in various household tasks in the monastery.

Fr. Aurelius was born February 12, 1930, in Brooklyn, NY. He professed his vows on August 1, 1952. Fr. Aurelius was a professor and dean of students in Saint Meinrad College from 1963-66. Following graduate studies at Indiana University, he was a professor, pre-theology dean and vice rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology. Fr. Aurelius was the master of ceremonies and assistant director of the oblate program for the Archabbey.

Starting in 1997, he taught liturgy and homiletics at The American College, Belgium, was vice rector there from 1997-99 and was the first recipient of the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Medal for his service to the college. Fr. Aurelius has returned home to the monastery.

Fr. Aurelius was born on June 24, 1932, in Tiffin, OH. He professed vows on August 10, 1952. Br. Philip served as an assistant in the bakery from 1951-1955 and then as the assistant to the Saint Meinrad High School librarian. Since 1974, he has served as housekeeper and sacristan at St. Mary Church, Evansville, IN.

Br. Philip was born on August 6, 1932, in Paducah, KY. He professed his vows on August 10, 1952. Br. Philip worked in the tailor shop from 1950-1955 and then as the assistant to the Saint Meinrad High School librarian. Since 1974, he has served as housekeeper and sacristan at St. Mary Church, Evansville, IN.

Br. Maurus was born on November 15, 1927, in Bedford, IN. He professed vows on August 1, 1947, and was ordained on May 3, 1952. Fr. Gavin earned a licentiate of sacred theology from Sant’ Anselmo in Rome and a master’s degree in speech from Northwestern University.
ENROLLMENT  Cont. from page 16

With the increased enrollment, students and faculty are looking forward to using the newly renovated classrooms and conference areas in Newman and St. Bede halls.

“The spirit at Saint Meinrad is very high this year; our seminarians are very enthusiastic about their formation.”
President-Rector
Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB

“The spirit at Saint Meinrad is very high this year; our seminarians are very enthusiastic about their formation,” says Fr. Denis. “In particular, we are very much engaged with the opening of the new buildings, completing the renovations of all of our spaces. Saint Meinrad is not only a state-of-the-art seminary physically; our programs are very much in the forefront of meeting the needs of seminarians and our dioceses and religious communities.”

LAY DEGREE PROGRAM

Enrollment in Saint Meinrad’s Lay Degree Program has fallen slightly from last year, with 98 students enrolled in coursework this fall. The program has nine full-time students, 80 part-time and nine non-degree students. This year, lay degree students represent 12 states and are traveling from as far away as Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Delaware.

“We saw the decrease coming, since in May of 2012 we graduated 38 students, the largest-ever lay degree class,” explains Kyle Kramer, director of the Lay Degree Program. “Also, for several years there has been a national trend of contraction among lay ministry formation programs, and although we have been able to buck that trend, we aren’t entirely immune.”

The Lay Degree Program has four strategies to maintain and build the program’s strength. Those include a marketing strategy that involves regional web, print, radio and television media; making master’s degrees more accessible to permanent deacons and their wives; diversifying the program offerings beyond graduate degrees to include non-credit and non-degree opportunities; and, finally, always striving to increase the quality of the programs.

“We are also offering a number of new retreats, workshops and reflection groups, all of which help to retain our current students, attract new students and provide all with the high caliber of ministry formation students expect from a Saint Meinrad degree,” says Kramer.

Recently, the names and curricula of both lay degrees were revised to make them more focused and effective and to line up with the Association of Theological Schools accreditation standards. The program now offers two academic degrees with a common core curriculum, but different subject concentrations: a Master of Arts (Theology) and a Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology). The Master of Theological Studies degree is being phased out.

The Lay Degree Program continues to look toward and plan for the future. “I’m especially excited to launch, in January 2013, the first cohort of our graduate certificate in spiritual direction,” says Kramer. “The Church has a great need of well-trained spiritual directors, and our rigorous program will train men and women to help meet that need.”

PERMANENT DEACON PROGRAM

Last year, 112 men were ordained deacons after completing the Permanent Deacon Formation Program offered through Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. The program continues this fall with 178 participants from 12 dioceses.

Dioceses starting the program for the first time this fall include the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, with 21 candidates, and the dioceses of Memphis, TN, and Jackson, MS, are combining for one program with 33 participants. The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV, has had deacons complete the program in the past and is returning this fall with 17 candidates.

“I’ll be making the rounds, visiting each new program sometime this semester,” says Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, director of the Permanent Deacon Formation Program. “I think it’s important to begin fostering the relationship with Saint Meinrad early on.”

Three dioceses that ordained deacons this past year are returning with new programs this fall. The Diocese of Owensboro, KY, is returning with a one-year aspirancy program for 13 aspirants, and the dioceses of Springfield, IL, (14 candidates) and Lexington, KY, (29 candidates) are beginning four-year formation programs.

“I’m excited about the five new programs beginning this year,” says Fr. Julian. “We’ve worked with Springfield, IL, Lexington and Wheeling-Charleston for previous classes, but these will be the first cohorts for Louisville and Memphis/Jackson to go through our program.”

With seven dioceses starting up, there are five dioceses returning already in process. Those include the dioceses of Wilmington, DE, (11 candidates), Evansville, IN, (13 candidates), the Archdiocese of Nassau, Bahamas, (10 candidates), and the dioceses of Belleville, IL, and Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO, that combine under one program with 17 candidates.

To continue the growth and success of the Permanent Deacon Formation Program, Saint Meinrad hosted a two-day workshop in July for program lecturers to assess the academic formation component of the program and adjust things as necessary.

“We’re always interested in how we can make a good thing better,” says Fr. Julian. “It was also an important opportunity to foster the connection our lecturers have with the actual place called Saint Meinrad; many of them are adjuncts and don’t have a lot of personal experience of the Hill. Those two days provided us the chance to discuss our work together, but also to pray together and enjoy each other’s company.”
Matthew Eckert named treasurer and business manager

Matthew Eckert has been named the new treasurer and business manager at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, effective August 31. He succeeds Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB, who held the position for the past two years.

As treasurer and business manager, Eckert is responsible for the financial and business affairs of Saint Meinrad, as well as overseeing human resources and physical facilities.

Eckert had been general manager of Holiday World and Splashin’ Safari in Santa Claus, IN, since August 2007. Before that, he served as the company’s controller for seven years.

He also was a senior auditor for Arthur Anderson LLP of Indianapolis.

Eckert is a graduate of Indiana State University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and insurance. He is a certified public accountant.

His professional memberships include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Indiana CPA Society, Indiana State University Accounting Advisory Board, and the Society of Human Resources Management.

He is an International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions Certified Attractions Executive and has served on its Human Resources Committee.

Eckert and his wife Tonya live in Schnellville, IN, with their three children, Abigail, Claire and Drew.

Two novices join Saint Meinrad

In a ceremony at the monastery entrance, Matthew Sprauer and Bradley Jensen were clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on August 5. The two novices begin a year of monastic formation, including study of the Rule of St. Benedict and monastic history.

Novice Matthew, 28, is from Piqua, OH. He was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Centerville, OH, and attended Piqua High School.

He is a 2006 graduate of Ohio University with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. He has more than five years of experience in software development for the defense industry.

Novice Bradley, 29, is a native of Iowa City, IA, where he was a member of St. Mary Parish and attended Regina Catholic Education Center.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Iowa and a master’s in accounting science from Northern Illinois University. He passed the Certified Public Accountant exam and worked in corporate finance before coming to Saint Meinrad.

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.

Jubilees

He taught speech and drama at Saint Meinrad College for 42 years and, during some of that time he served as the assistant to the novice and junior master in the monastery. Fr. Gavin has also served as the dean of students for Saint Meinrad College, as the chairman for the building committee and as a senior adjunct priest for parishes in St. Meinrad, Pulaski and Siberia. Each summer, he conducts workshops for the “One Bread, One Cup” youth conferences hosted by Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Gavin was the 2007 recipient of the Spencer County Arts Award for his work as drama director at Saint Meinrad College for 38 years and for promoting the arts and supporting the effort to create the Lincoln State Park Amphitheatre.

Most recently, Fr. Gavin wrote and co-directed Between Friends, a play about the relationships between President Abraham Lincoln and his generals William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War. The play opened the 2012 season at the Lincoln State Park Amphitheatre. Fr. Gavin currently serves as director of public reading and as the head reader at evening meals in the monastery.

Fr. Richard was born July 1, 1922, in Indianapolis, IN. He made his profession of vows on August 6, 1943, and was ordained May 27, 1947. He received a master’s degree in biology from The Catholic University of America in 1961.

Fr. Richard held a long career in Saint Meinrad’s high school and college as a teacher and administrator. He served as subprior in the monastery from 1955-63. During that time, he also served as kitchen master and, from 1964-70, Fr. Richard was the superintendent of buildings and maintenance. He received national prominence for his involvement in the National Executive Housekeepers Association Inc.

Fr. Richard served as dean of students for two years in Saint Meinrad School of Theology and four years as vice rector before taking on several parish assignments around Indiana. Fr. Richard has returned home to the monastery.
Photo highlights from the Alumni Reunion

President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, confers the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Bernie Niehaus O'63.

Msgr. Jack Bendik O'67 introduces Bernie Niehaus O'63 as the newest Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus, during the Reunion banquet.

Fr. Donald Wolf O'81 reflects on his time in school and his current ministry after being honored as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award. At the table are the Most Rev. Charles Thompson, bishop of Evansville, IN, (center) and Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB.

Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB, at right, leads a presentation on “Ministry to the Marginalized,” along with Dr. Michael Blank of Wayside Christian Mission, Louisville, KY, (left) and Rev. Mike Kough of Potter’s Wheel Ministry, Evansville, IN.

Fr. Ron Knott, director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates (back to camera), describes some of the functions of the teaching kitchen in the St. John Vianney Center. Alumni toured the facility in St. Bede Hall.

Saint Meinrad alumni reflect during the reading of the names of deceased alumni at the Reunion Mass.

Msgr. Jack Bendik O'67 introduces Bernie Niehaus O'63 as the newest Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus, during the Reunion banquet.
Alumni Board members Dr. Mark Ambre O’77 (left) and Ann Tully T’03 (center) participate in the Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church.

Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, at the podium, enlightens the crowd about “Catholicism and the Anglican Communion,” one of the workshops offered during the Alumni Reunion.

Some members of the College class of 1972 celebrate their 40th anniversary during the Reunion.

Former Saint Meinrad Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB, imparts his wisdom during a two-part day of recollection.

Keep sharing your memories of the 2012 Alumni Reunion!

Go to this link, http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/?page=2012AlumniReunion, to:

• View, download or purchase photos taken during the Reunion.
• Visit the iTunesU page to listen to or download the presentations.
• Order DVD/CD recordings of the presentations.

Keep sharing your memories of the 2012 Alumni Reunion!
AAGP receives strong response

The final calculations have been tabulated for the 2011-12 Alumni Annual Giving Program with an overall response rate of 25.3 percent. “We are very fortunate to have alumni who appreciate the education they received here and are willing to give back to ensure that our current and future students receive the same quality education they did,” says Duane Schaefer, Saint Meinrad’s director of development.

Gifts from alumni for the program year amounted to $590,142. The five classes with the best participation rate were:

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<th>Class</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
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<td>46.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>O'67</td>
<td>45.3%</td>
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Gifts to the Alumni Annual Giving Program enable Saint Meinrad to keep its tuition competitive with other seminaries. The amount Saint Meinrad charges each student does not cover the full cost of a student’s education. These charges cover approximately 64 percent of the costs involved in their education. Schaefer says annual gifts from generous alumni and friends help make up the difference.

“As our programs continue to grow, the financial support of our alumni is more important than ever,” he comments.

This year’s premium is a Saint Meinrad swivel desk clock. The clock features an analog display in modern black finish and the Saint Meinrad logo. Alumni can qualify for the clock by making a gift of $200 or more or by making a first-time gift of $100 or more.

Please consider a gift to your alma mater and pray for its continued success.

Alumni Board slate approved

Six alumni have been approved to serve on the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors. Each will serve a three-year term.

The board members are: Thomas L. Norris O’64 (’58-64) of Louisville, KY; Fr. Frank Torres O’81 (’74-76) of Queen of All Saints Parish in Michigan City, IN; Deacon George C. Stonikinis Jr. PDP’03 (’99-03) of Elizabeth City, NC; Deacon Kenneth Johanning PDP’05 (’01-05) of Jasper, IN; Ann Tully T’03 (’96-03) of Indianapolis, IN; and Msgr. Joseph Semancik O’53 (’47-53), Whiting, IN.
Whatever happened to…?
By Bill McGuire

How many times have we asked this question about one of our classmates, or a friend we knew from another class while students at Saint Meinrad? How have we “stayed connected” with Saint Meinrad, our classmates or other Saint Meinrad friends?

I get the impression that, for the most part, “staying connected” has not been a priority for many. Then I ask myself: why? Frankly, I don’t know. And for a long time, it was not a priority for me.

I know that many wonderful relationships were established by many students during their time on the Hill. That is evident when we gather for the annual Alumni Reunions. All you have to do is eavesdrop on almost any conversation and you will hear comments or stories that bear this out. But apart from the reunions, what is your “connection” to your classmates?

My awakening to “staying connected” happened in 1996, when my very best friend from our high school years attended the annual Alumni Reunion for the first time. The last time we had seen each other or talked with each other was at the end of the school year in 1954. From the time of that reunion until his death, we spent time together every year, either at the reunion or visiting at each other’s house, or both.

That is when “staying connected” became a priority for me. It became obvious to me that there were many other classmates I would like to see, be able to talk with, rehash old memories and be able to ask, “Whatever happened to…?” And also to be able to answer the question when someone asked me, “Whatever happened to…?”

The outgrowth of that realization became a mission on my part to “connect” to as many classmates as possible, including searching for and finding many classmates for whom the Alumni Office had no information. I now “connect” on a somewhat regular basis to about 70% of our still-living classmates.

Probably the biggest value to being able to contact this many classmates is to make known to all of our classmates the needs of fellow classmates; to support them in their time of need, be it prayers for healing, notice of death or other significant events in one’s life; to celebrate accomplishments and provide encouragement for what they might be struggling with.

Naturally, it is also a great tool to encourage attendance at reunions or to pass along any other newsworthy events. In today’s world of cell phones and unlimited long distance, it is easy to “stay connected” in a more personal way with those special friends we made while at Saint Meinrad.

It is never too late to rekindle some of those relationships. Phone numbers, email addresses, Facebook and other social media provide the avenue to do so. U.S. Postal Service works, too. And don’t overlook the Saint Meinrad Alumni website. Make sure you register and become a member of the site if you haven’t already done so. The address is http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu.

And if you haven’t accessed Saint Meinrad Alumni on Facebook, I suggest you do so: https://www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni. The Alumni Office can provide phone numbers, addresses and, in many cases, email addresses. You are closer than you think to getting the answer to “Whatever happened to…?”

I would especially encourage the most recent alumni and the current student population, be it seminary, deacon program or lay degree program, to start thinking about how you will “stay connected” to each other and to Saint Meinrad once you complete your studies and leave this Holy Hill. By the way, whatever happened to…?

Bill McGuire O’64 (’52-58) is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

School website is redesigned

A redesigned website for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology was launched on August 15. The web address remains: www.saintmeinrad.edu.

The updated website is part of a project that began last year, when Saint Meinrad decided to create a website for the monastery and its programs. That website is www.saintmeinrad.org.

The front page of the “edu” website features an accordion-style banner that highlights each of the school’s programs: priesthood formation, lay degrees, permanent deacon formation, the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates and the “One Bread, One Cup” youth program.

A link to the Office of Group Accommodations, which hosts groups on campus for various events, is also on the front page.

Fr. Alex Zenthofer T’05 (’01-05), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, practices cooking skills during a New Pastors Workshop held in September at Saint Meinrad.
Mr. Donald Bagert LD’08 (’06-08), of Rolla, MO, is the campus minister at the Rolla Newman Center, which serves the Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Mr. Stephen C. Baker C’99 (’95-97) has accepted the position of business applications analyst for Kimball International in Jasper, IN.

Rev. Dr. Christian F. Brocato O’76 (’68-71) is the rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Cambridge, MA.

Mr. Frederick Chandler O’72 (’64-68), of Indianapolis, IN, with his wife Doris, have provided extra child care for a set of triplets who were born seven weeks prematurely in 2008. Though childless themselves, they have counted it a blessing that they have been able to dedicate a day a week to the children of this young family.

Fr. Robert Dale Cieslik O’82 (’74-82), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, is pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Taylorsville and has served as Bellarmine University basketball chaplain for seven years.

Mr. Paul Davisson O’66 (’54-56) is the grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 13139, St. Peter Parish, Jupiter, FL, for the 2012-2013 term.

Fr. Martin J. Dobrzynski T’84 (’76-84), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, is co-chair for the 2012 Catholic Services Appeal in the diocese.

Mr. Jerome K. Finn SS’86 (’81-84) is executive director of Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County, New Albany, IN. He received the Sam Day, Kightlinger & Gray Professional of the Year Award at the 24th annual One Southern Indiana Business Awards dinner in May.

Fr. Amador Garza T’85 (’80-85), of the Diocese of Brownsville, TX, has been designated 2012 Humanitarian of the Year for Easter Seals of the Rio Grande Valley. He is the rector of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle, San Juan.

Sr. Ruth Gehres, OSU S (’95-96), of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, Maple Mount, KY, celebrated her 60th jubilee on July 14. She is currently ministering at the Dianna Ortiz Ursuline Center for Women in Chillan, Chile. Brescia University of Owensboro, KY, bestowed on her its highest honor, its Distinguished Alumna Award, April 28, for her 18 years as a professor and nine as Brescia president.

Ms. Carol J. Griesemer SS’74 (’69-73), of Neosho, MO, attended the biennial American Benedictine Academy conference held in Duluth, MN, at St. Scholastica College, August 2-5. She does volunteer counseling at Catholic Charities in Joplin and prepares second graders of St. Canera Parish in Neosho for First Reconciliation and First Communion.

Mr. Patrick C. Henn O’61 (’49-53), of Greenwood, IN, was one of those recognized by the Catholic Youth Organization with the 2012 Msgr. Albert Busald Award on May 1 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Ms. Emily Herr LDC (’11-12) is the coordinator of religious education at St. Joseph Church, Dale, IN.


Ms. Susan Isaacs LD’08 (’03-08) is the coordinator of adult faith formation at St. Mary Parish in Lanesville, IN. She was cited in an article by Sean Gallagher in the May 18 issue of The Criterion on how modest goals can help parishes carry out a big mission.

Msgr. Jerome J. Martinez y Alire O’76 (’72-76), of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM, is pastor of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe del Valle de Pojoaque, in Pojoaque, after having served many years as rector of the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi in Santa Fe.

Mr. Joseph S. Mecham T’86 (’82-84), of Norman, OK, was promoted to Living Choice Project Director at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority in November 2011. He works with a team of five to provide coordination of transition services from nursing facilities to the community for the state of Oklahoma.

Joe Sprug O’47 (’36-46) received the Librarian Emeritus Award earlier this year from Mount Angel Abbey Library, St. Benedict, OR. At 90, he still works 35 hours a week as a volunteer librarian at the abbey library, as he has for nearly 25 years.

Sprug’s career at the abbey library began after his retirement as a librarian, author, indexer and lecturer at various educational and governmental institutions, including Catholic University, U.S. Air Force Academy and St. Edward’s University in Texas.

Sprug has cataloged more than 24,000 books at the abbey library. Among them are about 4,000 volumes of pre-1800 rare books, which had never been cataloged since they were purchased in the 1930s.

He also spends time sharing the rare books with library patrons who have an interest in viewing such treasures as oversized illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages or miniature prayer books.
Mr. Kenneth Glenn Morgan C’95 (’90-95), of Tallahassee, FL, is public relations manager at Visit Florida, the official tourism marketing organization for Florida.

Dr. Ryan P. Peirson C’98 (’94-99), of Cincinnati, OH, is the director of the Division of Community Psychiatry at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He holds the Ohio Department of Mental Health Professorship in Public Psychiatry and serves as the chief clinical officer for the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Montgomery County.

Fr. Alan Phillip, CP O’67 (’65-67, ’69), of His Monastic Name is Kyriakos. His OCSO, has published a book: From Blues to Smiles to Joy—How to beat everyday depression, Spirit of Hope Publishing.

Fr. John Pitzer, OP T’89 (’84-86), of New Orleans, LA, is vocation director for the Southern Dominicans and promoter of development. He was part of a team giving a Lenten mission March 26-28 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church on the Purdue campus in West Lafayette, IN.

Ms. Kathleen Polansky SS’83 (’78-88), of New Salisbury, IN, retired from Providence Junior/Senior High School in June 2011. She had taught for 36 years. She was theology department chair for the past 27 years. She was honored with the establishment of The Kathleen Polansky Theology Award, to be given to a graduating senior each year. She received the Saint Theodora Guerin Award for excellence in teaching in March 2010 at a National Catholic Education Association conference in Minnesota.

Mr. John W. Reynolds O’61 (’49-52), of Mesa, AZ, has retired from Skyline Productions.

Mr. Mark K. Rowlands C’91 (’87-91), of Indianapolis, IN, was recently named a partner in Freeman Heyne Financial Services based in Cincinnati, OH. He will head the Healthcare Services Division of the firm, based in their Indianapolis office.

Fr. Daryl M. Rybicki O’79 (’75-79), of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN, is the pastor of Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend. He has led the faithful in prayer nearly every year at the Medjugorje Conference held at the University of Notre Dame.

Fr. Adam D. Schnitt O’57 (’51-57, ’76, ’92) and Fr. James F. Seculoff O’62 (’56-62), of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN, received certificates of appreciation from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the annual appreciation dinner of Fourth-Degree Knights of Columbus Council 451, for their 55 and 50 years of priestly service.

Ms. Theresa Secord LD’99 (’97-99) is a pastoral associate at St. Agnes Parish, Louisville, KY.


Fr. Robert N. Sherry O’66 (’54-62), of the Diocese of Rockford, IL, has retired from his parish ministry and is now working with Matthew Kelly at Dynamic Catholic Outreach, of Boca Raton, FL. He makes appeals on behalf of worthy Catholic causes.

Mr. James R. Smith II C’80 (’76-78), of Bombala, New South Wales, Australia, joined the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1983 in Nashville, TN. He served in the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in Jerusalem as a rassaphore-monk from 2003-2006. He transferred to Holy Transfiguration Russian Orthodox Monastery in Bombala in 2007 and was tonsured a small-schema monk in 2011. His monastic name is Kyriakos. His duties include sacristan, hand-weaving and librarian.

Dr. William E. Sweet PD’12 (’08-12), of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, was awarded the St. George Emblem, the highest adult award in Catholic Scouting, at St. Pius X Church in Owensboro, March 18. He was ordained a permanent deacon on September 15.

Plans under way for 2013 Reunion — family style

Saint Meinrad will host the 85th annual Alumni Reunion next summer from July 29-31, 2013. In addition to the traditional Reunion, a Family Reunion is planned for the weekend leading up the Reunion: July 26-28.

The Family Reunion is a great opportunity to bring the family to the Hill to show them your old stomping grounds, where you received your permanent deacon homiletics training or where you spent numerous weekends over the years to earn a theology degree.

In whatever way you are connected to Saint Meinrad, we encourage you to bring along your families, too, to help them connect to this Holy Hill.

Ideas are in the works for the Family Reunion, so we encourage you to save the date and plan to visit us for a few days to reconnect with classmates and share the spirit of Saint Meinrad with your family.

Alumni are invited to attend one or both of these Reunions next summer. Email or call the Alumni Office for more information: alumni@saintmeinrad.edu or (800) 682-0988.

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(800) 682-0988.
Seminary enrollment tops 150

“What do we expect this year?” President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, asked during his convocation speech on August 27. “We expect to change. We anticipate growth in life and the spirit. We look forward, always forward with new vigor, new energy, new vitality, new friendship, new love.

We plan for it and God gives the growth. He truly gives the growth.”

God has provided growth in seminary enrollment this fall. There are 53 new seminarians this year, bringing total seminarian enrollment to 154, a number the school hasn’t been close to since 1985. The seminarians represent 26 dioceses and archdioceses and seven religious houses.

“Our increased enrollment is a strong testament to the reputation of Saint Meinrad throughout the world,” states Fr. Denis. “Our cultural diversity represents the composition of many of the presbyterates that we serve, so that men are being formed for the realities they will encounter once they are ordained.”

The seminary community is representing 21 countries of origin this year, with 44 seminarians born outside the United States and five who are first-generation Americans. Some of those countries include Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Seminarians begin their studies with various backgrounds and work experiences. This year, several students have backgrounds as teachers, while others have experience as dentists, graphic designers, baseball umpires, geologists, physicists and farmers.

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