Enrollment up...again!

Reunion brings alumni spirit to Hill

Monastery heritage showcased

Cover: Youth at a “One Bread, One Cup” conference process into Archabbey Church for a reconciliation service.
Br. John Mark Falkenhain published an article titled “Living Celibacy: A Proposed Model for Celibacy Formation Programs” in the summer issue of Human Development.

Fr. Denis Robinson and Fr. Meinrad Brune were appointed to the Archabbott’s Council. Their terms run from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014.

Fr. Anthony Vinson attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in July. He assisted in coordinating the Vocation Veranda for English-speaking countries.

Fr. Barnabas Gillespie has been named the monastic representative for Abbey Caskets. He will also do spiritual direction and liturgical practicum work in the school, chaplaincy work for local organizations, and be the monastery representative for Abbey News.

Archabbot Justin DuVall, retired Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel, Fr. Meinrad Brune and Fr. Pius Klein attended Mass at St. Mary’s Parish in Huntingburg, IN, on Sunday, June 2, to acknowledge and celebrate the years that monks provided pastoral care at St. Mary’s. The Diocese of Evansville resumed pastoral care of the parish in June when former pastor Fr. Godfrey Mullen became rector of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

Fr. Anthony Vinson participated in a working group that is preparing a strategic plan focusing on educational debt and vocations to religious life in the United States at St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel and Center at Yale University, New Haven, CT, in May.

Fr. Ephrem Carr was honored by the community of Sant’ Anselmo in Rome for his years of service with the school. They celebrated with a pranzo festivo on June 3. Abbot Patrick Regan, OSB, of St. Joseph Abbey was also among the retiring professors.

Fr. Pius Klein and Archabbot Justin DuVall attended the installation of Sr. Barbara Lynn Schmitz, OSB, as prioress of Monastery Immaculate Conception at Ferdinand, IN, on July 13.

Fr. Joseph Cox gave a retreat to Benedictine Sisters at Sacred Heart Monastery in Lisle, IL, on June 10-14.
Temporary Vows

Novices Matthew Sprauer and Bradley Jensen, OSB, professed their temporary vows as Benedictine monks in a ceremony on August 6 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

They have completed their novitiate, a year of prayer and study of the Benedictine way of life. As is the custom during the profession of vows, each was assigned a religious name. Novice Matthew will now be known as Br. William. Novice Bradley will be known as Br. James.

Br. William, 29, 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.

Br. James, 30, is a native of Iowa City, IA, where he was a member of St. Mary’s 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.

Temporary vows are typically for three years, which allows the monk and the monastic community to determine whether monastic life is the right vocation for this individual.

New Novice

In a brief ceremony at the monastery entrance, Dane DeDecker was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on August 5. He now begins a year of monastic formation, including study of the Rule of St. Benedict and monastic history.

Novice Dane, 36, is from Geneseo, IL. He attended Geneseo High School and studied for a year at St. Mary’s University of Minnesota in Winona. He was a member of St. Anthony Parish in Atkinson, IL.

For the past 12 years, he has been an over-the-road truck driver. As a novice, he will 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.
Enrollment Up Again

Students get an early start on spiritual formation

Seminary enrollment is again on the rise, as Fall Semester 2013 got under way at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. This is the ninth consecutive year that enrollment has gone up.

Enrollment was 160 seminarians on opening day, although three students won’t arrive on campus until the spring semester. Last year’s fall enrollment was 154.

The student body continues to have a strong international component, with seminarians from 20 countries of origin. New to the mix this year are students from Barbados, Haiti, Nicaragua and Spain.

Forty-five of the students were born in countries other than the United States and six are first-generation Americans.

Overall, the students come from 27 dioceses and eight religious communities. Two dioceses — Salina, KS, and Bridgetown, Barbados — and three religious communities — Marmion Abbey, Subiaco Abbey and St. Anselm Abbey — are sending students to Saint Meinrad for the first time.

New Spiritual Formation Week

More than half of the students arrived on campus a week early for the first Intensive Spiritual Formation Week — a new program designed to support their overall formation and enhance their spiritual development.

Fr. Bede Cisco, OSB, director of spiritual formation for the Seminary and School of Theology, said that students entering the first year of philosophy, the first year of theology and the final year of theology were participants in the program’s first session.

The week has several goals, including introducing students to various types of prayer — both communal and personal. “One of the focuses of the program is lectio divina (a prayerful reading of Scripture and other religious texts),” said Fr. Bede.

“Because of the importance of Scripture in the life of the priest, building on lectio divina and encouraging that commitment and interest in Scripture are foundational for his spiritual life.”

The students in both I Philosophy and I Theology devoted time to learning lectio divina. In some of the evening sessions, they practiced the prayer with IV Theology students as their leaders.

“This gave the IV Theology seminarians a chance to begin practicing spiritual leadership,” according to Fr. Bede.

Those in their final year of priesthood studies also attended classes and activities that centered on preparing to make the transition from seminary to their first parish assignments.

Spiritual formation, of course, continues throughout the school year, but this program jump starts the process and gives students a foundation for what will come later. “We devote a week to it, and then it’s complemented and developed through the other programs,” said Fr. Bede.

During the four to six years that a seminarian attends Saint Meinrad, additional topics and components flesh out the program and enhance the future priest’s overall formation. One of the program’s goals is to help each student recognize God’s presence in action in his life, said Fr. Bede. “We want to help them as they appropriate the spirituality of the diocesan priesthood and help them have a self-understanding of one who is called to priesthood.”

The program will be expanded next year and, eventually, each class of students will participate.
Lay Degree Program
The Lay Degree Program is also off to a strong start this fall. Program Director Kyle Kramer said 101 students are enrolled in courses, including four full-time students. Last fall, 98 lay students were enrolled.

He said the program just finished a busy summer, with the highest-ever number of credit hours (401) enrolled during a summer session, thanks in part to additional online course options.

According to Kramer, there are some promising signs in the program’s future. “Our non-degree programs, such as our spiritual direction graduate certificate and our new Graduate Certificate for Campus Ministers – based on a new partnership with the Catholic Campus Ministry Association – provide new opportunities for growth.”

In addition, some new options in the Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology) degree for permanent deacons and their wives should significantly expand the student base. Kramer also noted some changes in the Spiritual Formation Program offered to lay degree students. The current program, which has been in place for more than 10 years, has never drawn large numbers of students.

After consultation with staff and advisory board members, the program is being revamped to include a flexible array of workshops, retreats, theological reflection groups and other spiritual formation opportunities.

“All of these components are optional, but some award academic credit,” Kramer said. “The content of spiritual formation workshops has been beefed up, and students have the option of earning one academic credit for each workshop, up to a total of six.”

In 2014, a new three-credit course will also be offered. “Prayer and Community” will focus on spiritual formation and practical strategies for providing spiritual leadership as a minister.

Kramer noted, “We remain firmly committed to providing the strong spiritual formation for which Saint Meinrad is rightly so well known, but with flexible options that allow more students to avail themselves of it.”

Permanent Deacon Formation
Fall also means a new year of formation begins in the Permanent Deacon Formation Program. This year, 13 dioceses are using Saint Meinrad’s program, for a total of 165 deacon candidates.

Although the Permanent Deacon Formation Program is relatively new at Saint Meinrad, this is its 15th year and Director Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, says it’s become an established part of the institution.

“We’re working with our third and fourth cohorts for a number of dioceses. That’s a real endorsement of our program,” he said.

Besides the obvious advantages of bringing the program to each diocese rather than asking deacon candidates to travel to Saint Meinrad, Fr. Julian believes an essential element of the program is the quality of the faculty.

“One of our strengths is surely our lecturers (men and women from colleges, universities and seminaries around the country) who are committed to working with us to form and educate permanent deacons,” he explained. “Some of our lecturers have been with us since the early years of the program; others have more recently come on board.”

He continued, “Our niche continues to be personal instruction in the diocese – no Web courses, no teleconferencing, etc. The expertise of our faculty gives us confidence that they will represent Saint Meinrad well.”

The deacon candidates do get a taste of the full Saint Meinrad experience, however, as each class comes to campus for a week of intensive instruction in homiletics. Saint Meinrad’s facilities and instructors offer an opportunity for the students to get practical experience in preaching.

John Horan, a seminarian from the Diocese of Joliet, gives new students a campus tour – including a look at the monastic Chapter Room.
What attracted you to the priesthood?
The attraction was, and is, more about a continued growth. I challenge myself and God challenges. He wants His children to grow, to flourish, and He will point us in the direction that is best for us.

Who or what influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?
Involvement in Christ Renews His Parish, my pastor, and my prayer life and relationship to God.

What were you doing before you came to the seminary?
I worked 12 years as a physical therapist assistant in multiple settings, from hospital to nursing home to home health.

Favorite saint and why?
St. Pio of Pietrelcina, for gratitude. And St. Teresa of Avila, for her prayerfulness and introspection.

Favorite Scripture verse and why?
Isaiah 2:4 (“They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks…”). This is not so much my favorite, but it inspires me as I have given up tournament karate to put my body at the service of the Lord.

Hobbies?
Martial arts, woodworking, restoration of furniture, travel and camping.

What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?
The growth of my prayer life and relationship to God and others, which has helped me get to know myself.

What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?
Overcoming my self-centeredness.

Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?
If you want to serve the people of God, know yourself and help them to know who they are in the eyes of God.

Other comments?
I have noticed more and more that we are all on a journey. This journey does not stop just because we want it to. The destination is important, but we should not neglect the path, the scenery or our companions along the way. I know that there is much further to go, more to be seen and many people to meet.
Fr. Richard Hindel, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on August 7, 2013, in the monastery infirmary. He was a jubilarian both of profession and ordination.

Fr. Richard was born in Indianapolis, IN, on July 1, 1922, to Carl and Grace (Lucas) Hindel. He received the name George William at his baptism, and attended Holy Angels and Cathedral schools in Indianapolis.

He then entered the minor seminary at Saint Meinrad and entered the novitiate in 1942. Fr. Richard professed his simple vows on August 6, 1943, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1947.

After ordination, Fr. Richard began teaching in the science department of the Minor Seminary. He pursued graduate studies at Loras College and The Catholic University of America, where he earned a Master of Science degree in 1961.

He continued his professional education through membership in the American Fern Society and the American Society of Botanists.

These associations helped hone his botanical expertise to the point where his introductory botany course, still known to a whole generation of alumni as “roots, fruits and shoots,” achieved near-legendary status.

He also held various leadership positions in the monastery and the seminary. He was director of St. Placid Hall, the school for oblate brothers; subprior (third in leadership); kitchen master; superintendent of buildings and grounds; theology dean of students and vice rector.

Fr. Richard also served for several decades as national education chairman and board member of the National Executive Housekeepers Association Inc., acquiring knowledge and experience that made him a valued member of various building and renovation committees and energy task forces at Saint Meinrad.

In 1993, he began a succession of assignments as pastor or parish administrator throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

These assignments included St. Isidore, Bristow; Holy Cross, St. Croix; St. Augustine, Leopold; St. Mark, Perry County; St. Bartholomew, Columbus; St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora; Our Lady of the Springs, French Lick; Christ the King, Paoli; St. John, Starlight; and St. Matthew, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette and St. John the Evangelist, Indianapolis. He also served as dean of the Tell City Deanery (1993-95).

The funeral liturgy was celebrated on August 10 in the Archabbey Church, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.

If you’re over age 70½, tax laws now allow you to make charitable gifts through your traditional or Roth IRA, through the end of 2013. Gifts must be made by the IRA custodian directly to the charity and may not exceed $100,000.

For questions, contact: Barb Balka, Director of Planned Giving Saint Meinrad Archabbey 200 Hill Drive St. Meinrad, IN 47577 (800) 682-0988 bbalka@saintmeinrad.edu

Use your IRA to make a gift – and save taxes

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Six monks celebrate jubilees of Monastic Profession

The Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey celebrated jubilees of monastic profession for six of their confreres on July 28. Honored for his 70-year jubilee was Fr. Richard Hindel. Also honored were Fr. Damian Schmelz, Fr. Columba Kelly and Fr. Mel Patton, celebrating 60 years of monastic profession; and Fr. Noël Mueller and Fr. Ephrem Carr, 50 years.

**Fr. Richard** was a native of Indianapolis, IN. He professed his vows on August 6, 1943, and was ordained a priest on May 27, 1947. He had a long career as a teacher and administrator in Saint Meinrad’s high school and college seminary. He earned a master’s degree in biology in 1961 from The Catholic University of America.

He served as subprior (third in leadership) in the monastery from 1955-63. Other assignments included serving as kitchen master and as superintendent of buildings and maintenance, receiving national prominence for his involvement in the National Executive Housekeepers Association Inc. He also served two years as dean of students and four years as vice rector at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

From 1987 to 2007, he served as a pastor or administrator of several parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, including St. John Parish, Starlight; St. Isidore Parish, Bristow; St. Bartholomew Parish, Columbus; and St. John the Evangelist Parish, Indianapolis. He died on August 7.

**Fr. Damian** is a native of Georgetown, IN. He professed his monastic vows on July 31, 1953, and was ordained a priest on May 3, 1958. After earning a bachelor’s degree in theology from Saint Meinrad and The Catholic University of America, he studied at Purdue University, earning a master’s in plant ecology in 1964 and a PhD in that field in 1969.

Fr. Damian taught biology at Saint Meinrad’s high school and college for nearly 40 years. He also served as academic dean, provost and vice rector of the college and was a member of the school’s Board of Trustees.

In addition, he served on the Indiana Natural Resources Commission from 1975-2008. He is known for his research on Indiana old-growth forests and his work as chair of a committee assigned to study controlled deer hunts in Brown County State Park. He is an inaugural member of the Indiana Conservation Hall of Fame and the recipient of the Lifetime Conservation Achievement Award.

In 2010, a 77-acre addition to Donaldson’s Woods Nature Preserve at Spring Mill State Park was dedicated in his honor. He has served as pastor of St. Henry Parish in St. Henry, IN, since 2001.

**Fr. Columba**, a native of Williamsburg, IA, professed his monastic vows on July 31, 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood July 5, 1958. He then studied in Rome, earning a licentiate in sacred theology from Sant’ Anselmo in 1959 and a doctorate from the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in 1963.

Fr. Columba was the Archabbey choirmaster for many years, beginning in 1964. During that time, he began composing English-language chants based on the principles used to create the original Gregorian Chant repertory. That same year, he began teaching in the Saint Meinrad schools. Fr. Columba served as
prior (second in leadership) of the monastery from 1978-84.

He taught summer sessions at the St. Joseph College Liturgical Music Program in Rensselaer, IN, from 1964-72. He has led numerous workshops on chant throughout the United States, at the Abbey of Solesmes in France and for Benedictine communities in Australia.

In addition to composing, he gives workshops and publishes extensively in scholarly journals. He also has written two books on chant. He is an adjunct faculty member at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Fr. Mel made his first profession of vows on July 31, 1953, and was ordained to the priesthood on September 22, 1956. He is a native of Fairview Village (now Fairview Park), OH. He earned his bachelor’s degree from John Carroll University, a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology and did post-graduate work at Marquette University.

Prior to coming to Saint Meinrad, Fr. Mel served in the Army from 1944-46, where he received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. He taught Latin, English, music and journalism at Saint Meinrad’s high school and college. He was also an organist for the monastic community for many years.

He has been director of retreats and director of public relations at Saint Meinrad and served as a chaplain at Fort Knox, KY, for many years.

After his career as a teacher, he was the chaplain for Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, AR, and, later, the infirmary chaplain at Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, SD. He now resides in the monastery infirmary.

Fr. Ephrem, a native of Toledo, OH, professed his monastic vows on August 15, 1963, and was ordained a priest on September 24, 1967. He received a licentiate in Eastern Church studies in 1970 from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. In 1978, he received his doctorate in theology from Sant’ Anselmo in Rome. In addition to teaching at Saint Meinrad from 1970-78 and 1981-87, he served as academic dean of the School of Theology for six years. He also served as subprior (third in leadership) of the monastery from 1978-86.

Fr. Ephrem was on the faculty at Pontifical Athenaeum Sant’Anselmo from 1986-2013, where he taught courses in Oriental liturgy, Oriental monasticism and Syriac. He is also the author and editor of many scholarly articles and books. From 2008-12, he served as president of the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy in Rome.

Fr. Noël is a native of Louisville, KY, and he professed his monastic vows on August 15, 1963. He was ordained a priest on September 22, 1968.

From 1969 to 1980, he served at Saint Meinrad’s mission in Huaraz, Peru, teaching English and religion and serving as coordinator of both the Office of Liturgy and Marriage Encounter in the Diocese of Huaraz, as well as other duties.

He earned a master’s degree in English literature from the University of Louisville in 1985 and taught for 13 years at Saint Meinrad College. He has also served as monastery guest master, and as associate director of continuing education and associate dean for housing and food services for the School of Theology.

Currently, he serves as the secretary to the archabbot and as a spiritual director and retreat director.

Deacon Digest marks 30th anniversary

Deacon Digest, a magazine published by Abbey Press, is celebrating its 30th anniversary this fall.

Like the ministry of the permanent diaconate, the magazine has grown and evolved over the past three decades. Jim Alt, along with his wife Audrey, founded the magazine and published it until October 2010.

At that time, they sold it to Abbey Press, which had been printing the magazine since November 1989. In the most recent issue, Jim called the transition to a new printer “a turning point.” He wrote, “The vastly improved quality of paper and the printing...set the stage for what have been many years of improvement of Deacon Digest.”

The publication was started when the Alts were asked if they would be interested in taking over publication of The Diaconal Quarterly. Begun in 1972, the Quarterly had been edited by Deacon Samuel Taub, who was resigning to become secretariat of the Bishops’ Committee on the Permanent Diaconate. At that time – 1984 – there were about 7,100 deacons in United States.

The Alts, based in De Pere, WI, changed the name to Deacon Digest and began their ministry of providing permanent deacons with a publication designed especially for their vocation. It remains the only national publication for permanent deacons and their families.

In tandem with the growth of the permanent diaconate (now totaling more than 18,000 deacons, candidates and aspirants), the magazine has expanded to offer a richer assortment of articles, columns and photos.

For more information on how to subscribe or give a discounted gift subscription to a deacon or deacon candidate, please visit www.deacondigest.com.

First issue: 1984
Five members join Board of Overseers

Two new and two returning members and one emeritus member 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 Mary A. (Annette) Mandle-Turner and Corazon A. Veza. Returning members are Donald (Don) Mucci and Mary Kay Wolford and the emeritus member is Bernard (Bernie) Niehaus.

Mary Kay Wolford is a retired educator for the New Albany-Floyd County Schools in New Albany, IN. She received a bachelor degree in elementary education from Spalding University in Louisville and a Master of Education degree from the University of Louisville.

She and her husband Carl are members of Holy Family Catholic Church in New Albany.

Corazon Veza is a doctor of medicine with her own practice in Elizabethtown, KY. She is also a general partner of Amberwood, LLC.

Veza attended the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines, where she received a bachelor degree in pre-medicine and her M.D. degree.

She and her late husband, Gregorio, are the parents of three children. She is a member of St. James Catholic Church in Elizabethtown.

Don Mucci is an independent insurance agent and an owner of Garrett-Stotz Company in Louisville. He earned his bachelor degree from Bellarmine University in 1981.

Mucci is a past trustee, overseer and alumni board member of Bellarmine University and a past alumni board member of St. Xavier High School. He is the current president of the Louisville Board of Independent Insurance Agents and is involved in healthcare reform.

He and his wife, Caryn, live in Louisville and have three children. They are members of St. James Catholic Church in Louisville. He previously served on the Board of Overseers for 12 years.

Mary Kay Wolford is a retired educator for the New Albany-Floyd County Schools in New Albany, IN. She received a bachelor degree in elementary education from Spalding University in Louisville and a Master of Education degree from the University of Louisville.

She and her husband Carl are members of Holy Family Catholic Church in New Albany.

Annette Mandle-Turner is the executive director of the Office of Multicultural Ministry at the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY. Her past positions include chief executive officer of Turner Mandle Turner, LLC; history teacher and archdiocesan director for the African American Catholic Office.

She received bachelor degrees in counseling and sociology from the University of Louisville. She also received a Master of Science in human resources from Strayer University in Louisville.

Mandle-Turner is on the board of directors of the West Louisville Community Ministry, Sacred Heart Village Advisory Council and One Church, One Child. She is the former president of the National Association of Black Catholic Administrators, the founder of the National African American Catholic Youth Ministry Network and was in Leadership Louisville.

She and her husband, Jim, live in Louisville and are the parents of two children. They are members of St. Martin de Porres Parish.

Bernie Niehaus is chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Niehaus Companies Inc., which is comprised of 11 companies. He is an alumnus of Saint Meinrad High School. He received a bachelor degree in lumber merchandising from Michigan State University after he earned an associate degree from Vincennes University.

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 has served as president, regional director, and on the executive committee of the Indiana Lumberman’s and Building Supply Association. He has served as director of the American National Bank and AMBANC Corporation.

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In 2007, Bernie was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Business from Vincennes University. He was also named Citizen of the Year by the Civitan Club. He received the Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2012. He was a member of the Board of Overseers for 18 years.

He and his wife, Patricia (Patty), are the parents of five children and are members of St. John Parish in Vincennes.

New book features Lincoln plays

A new book featuring two play scripts written by Benedictine monk Fr. Gavin Barnes has been published. The plays are titled “The Indiana Years” and “Between Friends.”

Fr. Gavin is a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, where he taught and directed theater for 38 years in the seminary. During his career, Fr. Gavin has written a number of play scripts. The two included in this book feature Abraham Lincoln, the 16th U.S. president.

“The Indiana Years” recounts young Abe’s boyhood in Spencer County, IN, where he lived for 14 years. It was performed as part of the Indiana sesquicentennial celebration in 1959.

“Between Friends” was a feature of the 2012 season at the Lincoln State Park Amphitheatre in Lincoln City, IN. The action takes place during the Civil War, where a friendship develops between Lincoln and his generals, Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman.

The softcover book costs $5.99. It is available at the Scholar Shop and Saint Meinrad Gift Shop or online at www.saintmeinradgiftshop.com.

New seminary degree added this fall

This fall, in affiliation with the Pontifical Atheneum of St. Anselm in Rome, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology will begin offering students enrolled in the Master of Divinity program the opportunity to earn a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB) simultaneously.

Seven IV Theology students are currently enrolled in the program. If they complete the current MDiv requirements, as well as write a 40- to 50-page thesis and pass a theological exam, they will receive an STB from St. Anselm.

There is a growing trend in American seminary education to offer canonical degrees. Saint Meinrad recognized the increasing interest among seminarians and Catholic bishops and began exploring the possibility of affiliating with a school a couple of years ago.

“We found a very good partner in St. Anselm, which is also a Benedictine institution, so we have a natural affinity,” says Dr. Robert Alvis, academic dean and associate professor of Church history for the Seminary and School of Theology.

The program will create the opportunity for students to pursue a major research project, which has not been a requirement in the MDiv program.

“For most seminarians, it will likely be a year-plus of concentrated research in one area of interest to them,” says Dr. Alvis. “And I think that is going to enrich their intellectual experience here.”

The degree could also make it easier to pursue studies for higher canonical degrees, such as the Licentiate of Sacred Theology (STL) or Doctor of Sacred Theology (STD).

“The most important thing is that the formation of seminarians is always done in a context that is larger than just the situation at Saint Meinrad or the diocese or religious communities in which they are going to be ordained,” says President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB. “It’s done in the context of the larger Church. The pontifical degree helps to connect the work that we do at Saint Meinrad with the work of the larger Church.”

Deacon John Huether (O’78, PDP’13) offered the cup to Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB, at Mass on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the Archabbey Church.
Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, leads a bread baking class during the Alumni Homecoming. Alumnus Ed Seckinger’s (’65) granddaughters join in.

Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, gives a day of recollection on “The Year of Faith: Experiences of Faith in the Life and Ministry of Jesus.”

Adam Paquette, son of alumnus James Paquette (’97), enjoys a painting activity during the Alumni Homecoming.

Alumni and guests listen to a talk on the New Evangelization given by Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB.

Visit alumni.saintmeinrad.edu to view photos and download audio recordings from the Reunion.
Fr. Joseph Mills (O’52), Diocese of Owensboro, prays during the Alumni Reunion Mass. Ordained in 1953, he recently celebrated his 60th anniversary.

Fr. Joseph Voor (O’50), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, shares fond memories from his time in school during his Distinguished Alumnus Award acceptance speech.

Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at Christmas Lake Golf Course during the Alumni Reunion.

Bishop Anthony Taylor (O’80), Diocese of Little Rock, presided at the Alumni Reunion Mass. Here, with Deacon Ken Johanning (PDP’05), left, and Deacon Steve Durkee (O’75), he leads the chanting of “Salve Regina” at the Shrine of Our Lady of Einsiedeln.

Mark your calendar: the 2014 Alumni Reunion is scheduled for July 28-30.
Mr. Norman C. Bohnert O’73 (’61-64), of Knightstown, IN, died on June 16, 2013.

Mr. Ralph A. Brescher, SPH (’43-44), of Jasper, IN, died on June 19, 2013.

Mr. Vernon L. Center, SPH (’58-61), of Walkerton, IN, died on May 26, 2013.


Mr. Ambrose J. Frey O’47 (’39-48), of Santa Maria, CA, died on July 1, 2013.

Sr. Mechtilde Gogel, OLVM, SS (’75), of Huntington, IN, died on July 1, 2013.

Mr. Elmer C. Grahl, SPH (’45-50), of Sandusky, OH, died on June 28, 2013.


Fr. Clemens Hut O’36 (’25-36), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, living in Tempe, AZ, died on July 1, 2013.

Mr. Thomas J. Long O’64 (’52-60), of Bethesda, MD, died on July 25, 2013.


Br. Vincent Malham, FSC, Sab ’95, of Memphis, TN, died on May 2, 2008.

Mr. Stephen A. McCallister O’75 (’67-71), of Evansville, IN, died on May 23, 2013.

Mr. Virgil W. Merkel O’63 (’51-58), of Fort Wayne, IN, died on May 25, 2013.

Dr. Charles E. Pearce O’48 (’37-41), of Louisville, KY, died on March 26, 2013.


Fr. Harold A. Ripperger O’58 (’46-58), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on June 8, 2013.

Mr. Brad D. Rutherford O’83 (’77-79), of Ann Arbor, MI, died on June 5, 2013.

Mr. James L. Will Sr. O’59 (’47-48), of Evansville, IN, died on May 25, 2013.

Mr. William A. Zopfi O’51 (’44), of Toledo, OH, died on May 12, 2013. ✭

- Member of The Einsiedeln Society

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Results are in for the 2012-13 Alumni Annual Giving Program

The final calculations have been tabulated for the 2012-13 Alumni Annual Giving Program, which had an overall response rate of 24 percent.

“Saint Meinrad is blessed to have generous alumni who understand the importance of giving back to their alma mater. It’s a real testament to their loyalty and their love for Saint Meinrad,” says Duane Schaefer, Saint Meinrad’s director of development.

Gifts from Saint Meinrad alumni for the program year amounted to $570,359. The five classes with the best participation rate were:

- O’49 80%
- O’52 51.6%
- O’51 50%
- O’76 50%
- O’75 43.3%

To keep its tuition competitive with other seminaries, the amount Saint Meinrad charges students covers only about 59 percent of the costs involved in their education. Schaefer says annual gifts from generous alumni and friends help make up the difference.

“Theyir support helps to ensure that Saint Meinrad’s work will continue for generations to come,” he comments.

This year’s premium is a 14-ounce ceramic mug with the Saint Meinrad logo imprinted on it. Alumni can qualify for the mug 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—a sign of your commitment to the institution—and pray for its continued success. ✭

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Alumni Board Slate Approved

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

New board members are:

- Fr. Alan Carter T’13 (’07-13) Diocese of Lexington, KY
- Betsy Dunman T’01 (’94-01) Louisville, KY
- Dr. Lanny K. Hollis C’80 (’76-80) and T’86 (’82-86) Cleveland, OH
- Msgr. James K. Ramer T’86 (’80-86) Diocese of Peoria, IL

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Deacon Emil Altmeyer O’66 (’54-56, ’05-09), of Evansville, IN, was given the 2013 Mother Teresa Award at a Catholic Charities dinner on May 8.

Mr. Joel Buchman C’86 (’82-86), of Tucson, AZ, earned his certification as a professional in human resources, by the HR Certification Institute, on June 29.

Fr. Andrew Corona C’90 (’86-89), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, has been appointed diocesan spiritual director for the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

Msgr. Dennis O’Donovan O’70 (’66-69), of the Archdiocese of Portland, OR, retired on June 30 and moved to Phoenix, AZ, after serving as vicar general and moderator of the curia for the archdiocese since 2000.

Mr. Paul W. Gabonay O’75 (’67-71), of Avon, IN, retired from his position as director of career services at the University of Indianapolis on July 5.

Mr. Jeremy Goebel T’15 (’11-13), of Evansville, IN, married Kate Ginter on May 18 at St. Joseph Church in Jasper, IN.

Fr. John Hollowell T’09 (’04-09), pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil, IN, was the keynote speaker at the Sanctuary of Life dinner on March 14.

Fr. Christopher House C’98 (’95-98), currently vocation director for the Diocese of Springfield, IL, is an associate dean of formation at Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL.

Rev. Wayne Jorgenson O’69 (’63-67), of Petaluma, CA, retired in 2012 after 29 years of teaching Church history and Greek as an associate professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI.

Fr. David Kime C’92 (’88), pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Lake Station, IN, was named co-chair for the 2013 Catholic Services Appeal for the Diocese of Gary.

Fr. Stephen Lintzenich O’74 (’62-70), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, received the Niel Ellerbrook Community Service award, presented by the United Way of Southwestern Indiana.

Mr. Chad Lueken C’97 (’94-97), of Jasper, IN, has been appointed field agent for the Jasper Knights of Columbus Council 1584.

Fr. Michael McKinley T’85 (’81-85), of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, was guest speaker at the May 23 gathering of Seeking Evangelization through Eucharistic Devotion (SEED).

Fr. Charles Mosley C’81 (’78-81), pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Hammond, IN, led a prayer service on April 9 to pray for newly elected Pope Francis.

Fr. Glenn O’Connor O’80 (’74-80), pastor of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, IN, received a copy of the governor’s proclamation designating May 27 as IndyCar Ministry Day. He has been a pit crew member at the Indianapolis 500 since 1975.

Mr. Paul Poirrier C’94 (’91-94), of Mount Dora, FL, married Alexandra Larsen on July 13.

Mr. Robert Rivers T’02 (’96-00) received his doctor of ministry degree in Christian spirituality from Washington Theological Union on May 4. His doctoral writing topic was “Spiritual Formation for Wives of Permanent Deacons, Deacon Candidates, and Aspirants.”

Dr. Stephen Ross C’80 (’76-80), Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, JCL, T’84 (’79-84) and Msgr. Robert Schulte O’75 (’67-75) have been named to the Diocesan Review Board in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN.

Fr. Travis Stephens T’12 (’08-12) and Fr. Dominic Young O’76 (’68-72, ’82) taught Catholic spirituality courses during the summer in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

Mr. William Staun O’74 (’63-64) was ordained to the permanent diaconate for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati on April 27. He was assigned to Holy Trinity Parish in Norwood, OH.

Fr. Joseph Ziliake O’62 (’50-58), retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, led an Easter sunrise ecumenical service at the Newburgh Locks and Dam.

Sr. Maria Klosowski, RSM, SS’78 (’73-78), of Farmington Hills, MI, was one of six sisters elected in April to lead the West Midwest Community of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

The new members of the leadership team began their five-year terms on July 1. They will live in Omaha, NE, where the central office for West Midwest Community is located.

Most recently, Sr. Maria ministered to and advocated for immigrants in southeast Michigan. Prior to that, she was a teacher and worked in parish youth ministry and religious education.

She also served as a senior housing consultant for Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS in southeast Michigan and ministered to survivors of domestic and sexual violence in northern Michigan. For six years, she was the new membership coordinator for the Sisters of Mercy, Detroit Regional Community.
For years, historical artifacts of Saint Meinrad Archabbey have been stored and moved around from place to place, with no real home. Some of those items are now at home in St. Gregory Gallery.

With the completion of renovations in St. Bede Hall, the seminary community no longer needed the Gallery for conferences or gatherings, and its central location was ideal. That’s when Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology, approached Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, with the concept of The Heritage Display.

“We live our lives forward, but understand them only by looking backward,” Fr. Denis quotes St. Augustine. “Our past heritage is important and vital to inform our present and help shape our future.” He and Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, are curating the displays.

The display will showcase artifacts and exhibits that represent the Archabbey’s history and works, such as items from the Jasper College, the farm, the stone quarry, Abbey Press, the original Abbey Church and the Archabbey Church prior to the 1969 renovation.

There are also displays on monk-craftsmen and artists, including Fr. Geoffrey Gaughn, Fr. Donald Walpole, Fr. Eric Lies, Br. Lawrence Shidler and Br. Columban O’Brien.

Visitors are welcome to view the displays at any time, as the Gallery is always open. ✖️