Alumni prepare for Day of Service

Two monks join faculty

Students ‘warm up’ to ministry

Cover: The monks pray during Mass on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception.
Monks’ Personals

Fr. Tobias Colgan and Fr. Denis Robinson attended the 10th anniversary celebration at Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary in Indianapolis, IN, in mid-September.

Archabbot Justin DuVall and Fr. Julian Peters attended the installation liturgies for the new bishop of Toledo, Bishop Daniel Thomas, on October 21-23.

Fr. Denis Robinson attended a VOCARE meeting, a celebration of vocations, in Owensboro, KY, on September 26.

Br. Zachary Wilberding and the retreat staff for the Branchville Correctional Facility presented a daylong retreat, on location, titled “Blessed are the Merciful” on September 27.

Archabbot Justin DuVall traveled to St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, LA, to take part in the celebration of its 125th anniversary.

Fr. Timothy Sweeney was appointed administrator for St. Isidore Parish in Bristow and St. Martin Parish in Siberia. He will reside at St. Isidore. He will continue his work in the Archabbey Archives.

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein returned to the monastery from Scenic Hills in Ferdinand, IN, on December 22, following physical therapy for hip replacement surgery.

Fr. Edward Linton accepted membership on the Board of the Friends of the Benedictines in the Holy Land in late October. He will also serve as the coordinator of guest services and of the monastic continuing formation programs offered at Sant Anselmo, Rome.

Br. Francis Wagner has been appointed secretary to the archabbot. He will continue his writing for the Publications Department at Abbey Press.

Fr. Joseph Cox gave a retreat to the monks of Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, CA, on December 7-12.

Br. Noël Mueller joins the formation staff for the Seminary and School of Theology.

Br. William Sprauer has been asked by Abbot President Vincent Bataille to be the webmaster for the Swiss-American Congregation’s website, http://www.swissamericanmonks.org.
Fr. Anthony honored by NRVC and two monks join faculty

Fr. Anthony Vinson, OSB, received the 2014 Recognition Award from the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), at its anniversary banquet on November 9 in Chicago.

Fr. Anthony has served two terms on the NRVC national board and has served on various committees, including as chair of the finance committee. In 2013, he was one of the NRVC site coordinators for the English-speaking venue for World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

He also served on an advisory group to study the establishment of a fund to assist religious institutes in their welcome of candidates with student loans. The culmination of this group’s work was the recent development of the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations.

Fr. Anthony will serve as secretary-treasurer of the new fund’s board of directors.

Currently, Fr. Anthony serves as administrator of St. Meinrad (St. Meinrad, IN) and St. Boniface (Fulda, IN) parishes and as the director of pastoral formation for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Two monks join faculty

Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, and Fr. Thomas Gricoski, OSB, have joined the faculty of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Fr. Christian is an assistant professor of systematic theology. He anticipates completing his doctorate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in May.

A graduate of Indiana University with a degree in history and religious studies, he formerly taught history and theology at St. Benedict High School in Chicago, IL.

During this time, he earned an MA degree from Loyola University in pastoral studies with a concentration in religious education. He entered Saint Meinrad Archabbey in 2003 and professed his solemn vows in 2008. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2009.

From 2009-2014, he studied at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, where he also served as a priest-in-residence at Flather Hall. His primary area of research is the theology of vocations and states of life, and his dissertation concerns the ecclesial mission of religious order priests.

Fr. Christian is also interested in sacramental theology and spirituality. With Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, he is the co-editor of The Tradition of Catholic Prayer (2007).

In addition to duties on the seminary faculty and formation staff, Fr. Christian is coordinator of the “One Bread, One Cup” College Ministry Internship Program.

Fr. Thomas is an assistant professor of philosophy. He anticipates receiving his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Louvain. His dissertation is on the meaning of being in the philosophy of St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein, d. 1942).

While studying at Louvain, he helped serve the pastoral needs of the English-speaking community at Sint-Kwinten parish.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Scranton and master’s in philosophy from the University of Louvain. He also has a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

He joined the Saint Meinrad monastery in 2005 and professed solemn vows in 2009. He was ordained a priest in 2010.

In addition to his faculty assignment, Fr. Thomas serves as one of the spiritual directors for the seminarians. He also is associate director in the Office of Monastery Vocations and is a member of the monastery’s Liturgy Committee.

Website

On The Hill is also available on the Web: www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill
This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Action for Community Development (CACD) program established to bring to life Catholic social teaching around St. Meinrad and surrounding areas.

In 1965, when Fr. Camillus Ellspermann, OSB, started CACD in the college seminary, students had several opportunities to serve the community. They could tutor, visit nursing home residents, provide religious education and help with Project WARM, a service to provide firewood to heat the homes of local families during the cooler months.

Today, CACD is a stand-alone, not-for-profit organization, and Project WARM is the only CACD ministry that is still active.

“There is one great need in the area still,” says Fr. Anthony Vinson, CACD president and director of Project WARM. “That is where we are able to effectively minister and connect with the marginalized in the area through the distribution of firewood.”

Project WARM is a community endeavor. It’s an opportunity for the monastic community, the seminary community and the local community to respond together to help our brothers and sisters in need, according to Fr. Anthony.

“We rely on the hearts and hands of many to realize the mission of Project WARM,” says Fr. Anthony.

Last year, 182 people from the seminary, monastery and greater community volunteered for Project WARM. This fall, 40 percent of the seminary has played a role in the program’s success.

There are three divisions to Project WARM: collection, processing and delivery. Six seminarians make up the leadership team, with a manager and assistant manager for the collection and processing divisions and a manager who oversees delivery.

Seminarian Tyler Tenbarge, of the Diocese of Evansville, is the sixth member of the leadership team and the student manager over the whole program. He has been involved with Project WARM for three years, holding leadership positions two of those years.

“When I first was asked to be on the leadership team last year for deliveries, it was a really good way to get off the Hill and get away from academics and interact and get connected in the community,” says Tyler. “Some of these people are people I could possibly be ministering to as a pastor in my home diocese.”

Fr. Anthony says one of the most valuable lessons student managers learn is how to effectively communicate with volunteers and the individuals who rely on generosity. Learning how to invite someone to share their gifts with others will be a useful skill in parish ministry.

“You can print things in a bulletin, you can make all kinds of signs, you can put things on the website, but learning how to make a face-to-face ask has been one of the biggest assets Project WARM alumni have received from the program,” says Fr. Anthony.

Keeping Project WARM running begins with the collection team, who are responsible for bringing in the wood. They work closely with Saint Meinrad’s forester, Fr. Guy Mansini, OSB, to harvest hardwood trees that have fallen on Archabbeey ground. A couple of local families also donate wood from timber stands and fallen trees on their properties.

Once the collection team brings in the wood, the largest group of volunteers split the wood to cure for the following year. Project WARM is always working a year ahead.

Lastly, as calls come in, the delivery team loads up the truck, donated to CACD by the St. Vincent de Paul.
**Society of Jasper, IN, and delivers the wood to low-income or otherwise-in-need families in Perry, Spencer and Dubois counties.**

They travel about 8,000 miles each season and serve an average of 17-21 families.

“We work closely with the families to show them how to apply for energy assistance through local cooperatives here,” says Tyler. “We try to hold them accountable so we don’t create a system that’s dependent on us. Teach them how to fish, so to speak.”

Fr. Anthony says the biggest expenses are fuel for the truck and insurance. He says there have been many minor miracles over the years. A family donated a hydraulic wood splitter and another purchased the building to house the tools and supplies. Many other individuals support the program spiritually and financially.

Project WARM has created several opportunities for the seminarians who volunteer. It gives the men an opportunity to socialize informally outside the seminary. It promotes wellness and camaraderie. And it gives them practical, hands-on experience ministering to the marginalized.

“There’s something very valuable about giving out of your time and talent that cannot be returned to you. You’re doing something because it’s the gospel message,” says Fr. Anthony. “In my own spirituality, in my own sense ofpastoring and serving others, we are the hands of Christ. To go out and be able to comfort and serve those in need, Project WARM is a tangible way in which so many of us can do that.”
Q. What attracted you to the priesthood?
The nature of the priesthood above all else, but more specifically the sacrificial aspect of that nature. I think there is something very appealing about sacrificial love that speaks to our very identity as men. When I thought about setting aside my own desires and giving my life completely for the greater glory of God, His Church and His people, I was filled with a great love, joy and peace.

Q. Who or what influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?
There were numerous priests who were instrumental, but probably my two most recent pastors, Fr. Phillip McKenna and Fr. Jan Zagorski. The parishioners of my home parish were also very instrumental. They took the time to ask me if I’d ever thought about priesthood, but they also told me why they thought I would possibly be a good priest. Their affirmation was crucial in my decision.

Q. What were you doing before you came to the seminary?
I spent about seven years after college working mostly as an insurance adjustor.

Q. Favorite saint and why?
St. Ignatius of Antioch because of his confidence and lack of fear. This is very evident when you read his letters while he is on his way to his martyrdom in Rome. You can tell he was a man who walked with purpose and did not wander through life without direction.

Q. Favorite Scripture verse and why?
“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Tim. 4:7) It’s a reminder that there will be much struggle along the way in life, but how you deal with that struggle will determine everything. Do we roll over and give up when things get tough or do we persevere and overcome to the finish line of eternal glory?

Q. What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?
Apart from the lifelong friendships that I’ve formed during these past five years, it would have to be the formation I’ve received. Many people think seminary is all about training to be a priest. While that is true, it is so much more than that. I’ve learned how to be a better man of God, which is, first and foremost, the foundation of priestly preparation.

Q. What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?
Any time 130+ men with various backgrounds and different personalities live under one roof in such close proximity, tensions can sometimes get high.

Q. Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?
Be yourself and then give that to the formation process.

Q. Hobbies?
Anything to do with football. Playing, watching or talking about it, especially the NFL. I also enjoy just listening to classic country, honkytonk and bluegrass music. It’s the sound of the heavenly choir.

Q. Other comments?
Please throw a Hail Mary my way in your prayers as I enter my last 1 ½ years of seminary and approach diaconate ordination in May. I’d appreciate it. Peace.
Events on the Hill

February 10
Black History Lecture given by Dr. Lamin Sanneh.

March 3-5
Guest House Retreat: “Fully Alive at Mass: Putting the Most in to Get the Most out” by Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB.

March 6-8

March 12
Thomas Lecture given by Dr. Keith Egan.

March 23-27
Guest House Retreat: “Hospitality in an Anonymous World” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

April 1-5
Guest House Retreat: “Holy Week Retreat” by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB.

April 13-17
Guest House Retreat: “Beyond the Cloister: Benedictine Principles in the Life of a Parish Priest” by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB.

April 17-19
Guest House Retreat: “A Weekend with St. Teresa of Avila” by Fr. Mark O’Keefe, OSB.

April 28-30

April 30-May 3
Guest House Retreat: “Sleeper, Awake!” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

May 15-17
Guest House Retreat: “A Monastic Witness to Non-violence” by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher at (812) 357-6501 or visit our website www.saintmeinrad.org

Answers to common questions about bequests

The question may have crossed your mind: How is a bequest to Saint Meinrad handled? This is a common occurrence: A notice is sent to us by an attorney that someone has died and Saint Meinrad was included in this individual’s will. We are usually notified as the probate process is beginning, although typically the gift is not received for a year or longer.

A bequest gift may be included in a donor’s estate plan as a part of a will, living trust or as a beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy, commercial annuity or retirement plan.

Some bequest donors have ideas for how their gifts should be used. Perhaps they want to fund a specific program, create or add to an endowment fund, finance a project or event or other designation. Others decide not to designate their bequest, preferring to let Saint Meinrad make that decision at the appropriate time.

Saint Meinrad is committed to preserving the legacy of bequests, thus providing confidence for donors who consider bequests to us when planning their estates. We also recognize how important estate gifts are to our mission and our financial strength. The work of preparing leaders for the Church would not be possible without the generous support of our donors.

Do you have a will or a living trust? Is it current? Does it include a bequest amount for Saint Meinrad Archabbey or the Seminary and School of Theology? Is the bequest designated for a specific purpose or project?

Saint Meinrad can provide sample bequest language for unrestricted and restricted gifts, including endowments, to donors and their attorneys to ensure the bequest is properly designated. Call or email Darren Sroufe at (800) 682-0988 or dsroufe@saintmeinrad.edu to have this information sent to you.

The Most Rev. Joseph Tobin, Archbishop of Indianapolis, spoke during a dinner with the Seminary and School of Theology in October.
Facult y busy authoring new books

Several faculty members at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology have published books in recent months.


This is the second book in a three-volume series that presents scriptural, liturgical, and preaching commentary for Sundays, solemnities, and feasts throughout the year. Each Sunday’s resources are presented in three sections: exploring the Scripture, connecting the Lectionary with the liturgy, and a homiletic strategy. DeBona takes the preacher through a meditation on the language of the Missal, suggests parallels to the Sunday Lectionary, and gives practical homiletic strategies using core themes and images.

Fr. Columba Kelly, OSB, adjunct assistant professor of Church music, published the assembly edition of *St. Meinrad Entrance and Communion Antiphons: Modal Settings of Roman Missal Texts in Modern Notation* (Oregon Catholic Press, 2014).

This book includes chant-style entrance and communion antiphons for all the Sundays, solemnities and feasts of the three-year liturgical cycle. Fr. Columba composed the melodies for both the antiphons and the congregational refrains on the collection, and Raymond Henderson wrote the optional keyboard accompaniments as an aid to singers who are not familiar with the various chant modes or this speech-inspired style of singing.


The book is a practical guide for those who make regular use of the sacrament of Reconciliation, for those who do not and for those who fall somewhere in between. The book is meant to be a handy guide for those who do not know how to go to confession. It also offers new resources to those familiar and comfortable with the sacrament.

All of the books are available at Saint Meinrad’s bookstore, The Scholar Shop, or online at store.saintmeinrad.edu.
Saint Meinrad Archabbey has released a free app for smartphones and tablets that allows you to “tour” the grounds and buildings at the 160-year-old Benedictine monastery.

The tour has two versions – an interactive version that allows you to “tour” the campus from anywhere and a version that can be used as an on-site tour while visiting in person. The app also includes extra features, such as chant recordings, prayers, 360-degree panoramas and digital postcards to share with others.

To download the free app for iOS and Android devices, visit this link: http://www.saintmeinrad.org/tour-app/

Seminarians Will Banowsky, left, and Edwin Nalagan bread fish for the fall Around the World event.

Members of the Saint Meinrad soccer team, Vic Luong, from left, Dua Nguyen, Grant Monning, Joe Lee, Br. Simon Baker, OSB, and Jon Hilber cheer after their team scores a goal during a soccer tournament in October.

Seminarians Joseph Stoverink, from left, Marc Bentley and Colby Elbert dress up as the Archabbey Church bell towers and King Kong during the seminary Halloween party.

Tyler Tenbarge gives the sign of peace to William Burmester during a Mass in October.
Photos, beginning at top left: Fr. Cletus Miller, OSB, from left, Archabbot Emeritus Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB, Br. Benedict Barthel, OSB, Fr. Rupert Ostdick, OSB, and Abbott Alan Berndt, OSB, are all members of the 90+ club. Joining the nonagenarian club in March will be Fr. Mel Patton, OSB.

Participants in the Benedictine Hills Pilgrimage walk up the hill to Monte Cassino Shrine on October 18. The pilgrimage was sponsored by Monastery Immaculate Conception and Saint Meinrad Archabbey. Youth participants walked from Saint Meinrad, stopped for a break at Monte Cassino Shrine, and ended the journey at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand.

International seminarians play music outside the Monte Cassino Chapel before a Mass in September.

Edwin Nalagan, Jon Hilber and Chaz Dunn line up outside St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel before the Advent Lessons and Carols service on December 7.

Deacon Mike Keucher serves Communion during Mass on the feast day of the Immaculate Conception.
Second Annual
Saint Meinrad Day of Service

Plans are under way for the second annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service. This year, the day of service will be Saturday, March 14, in Indianapolis, IN, Louisville, KY, and Evansville, IN. The event is organized by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association in partnership with the Alumni Office and is open to any participants, not only alumni.

“The Day of Service is a time for alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad to gather together, build relationships, pray with one another and serve their local communities in partnership with a service organization,” explains Christian Mocek, director of alumni relations. “It is an opportunity to live the mission of Saint Meinrad at home with their fellow classmates and friends.”

Keeping with last year, Ora et Labora, Prayer and Work, is the theme of the event.

“Our service is prayer and work; it is about bringing the heart of Saint Meinrad to our local communities,” says Mocek. “It was developed to bring together those connected with Saint Meinrad in a way that makes an impact, while staying true to the mission of this place.”

The service project details for each location are still being finalized, but each location hopes to begin the day with prayer and end with Mass.

This Year’s Projects

In Indianapolis, Alumni Association Board members Ann Tully and Bill McGuire have decided to team up with an organization called Hearts and Hands of Indiana Corporation.

The organization buys old houses near the west side of Indianapolis, rehabilitates them and sells them to people who otherwise would not be able to afford them.

McGuire explains that the concept is similar to Habitat for Humanity, only the group rehabs houses that already exist.

Hearts and Hands was the vision of Saint Meinrad alumnus Fr. John McCaslin T’02, who wanted to rebuild the neighborhood around Holy Trinity and St. Anthony parishes. The organization relies on volunteers and generous donors to realize its mission.

Alumni Board members Tom Norris and Betsy Dunman are working with New Directions Housing Corporation in Louisville. New Directions provides

Participants in the 2014 Saint Meinrad Day of Service head out to clean Wesselman Park in Evansville, IN.

Participants in the Saint Meinrad Day of Service clean the pews at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, IN, on March 15, 2014.
Alumni Board elects president, welcomes new members

Ann Tully (‘96-03), of Indianapolis, IN, was elected president of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors on October 20. She will finish the term of Darren Sroufe, who resigned when he accepted a position as director of planned giving for Saint Meinrad.

The new board president is serving her second term on the board. She is a judge instructor/assessor for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Metropolitan Tribunal. In addition, she is a volunteer in Catholic ministries at the Indiana Women’s Prison and chair of the Liturgy Committee at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Indianapolis.

She and her husband Tim have two sons.

Two new members have joined the board to replace resigning members Msgr. James Ramer and Sroufe.

Joseph Pfennig T’98 (‘93-94; ’00-01), of Indianapolis, IN, has been a theology teacher at Cardinal Ritter High School since 2001. He earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Wabash College and a master of arts in Catholic thought and life from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Deacon Gregory Clodi C’86 (‘82-86), of Kankakee, IL, is a produce clerk in South Chicago Heights. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Saint Meinrad College in 1986.

He was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Joliet, IL, in 1999 and currently serves at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Kankakee, where he is chair of the Worship Committee and a member of the parish council.

He and his wife Deborah have two children.

The Day of Service in Evansville will include a clean-up day at Wesselman Park and is being organized by Darren Sroufe, director of planned giving and foundation relations in Saint Meinrad’s Development Office and a former member of the Alumni Board.

How to Get Involved

To stay up-to-date on project details, and to register as a Day of Service participant, visit the Saint Meinrad alumni website at: http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/events-reunions/alumni-day-of-service/

There is no cost to participate and each participant will receive a free t-shirt, courtesy of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

The Saint Meinrad Day of Service does not have to be limited to these three locations. If you would like to start a Day of Service in your area, please contact the Alumni Office at (812) 357-6501 or email Christian Mocek at cmocek@saintmeinrad.edu.

low-cost housing and helps the elderly and handicapped whose homes are in need of repair or painting.

“I look on the Day of Service as an opportunity for alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad to make practical the teaching of Jesus to love our neighbors,” says Norris. “There is so much need and so little time in most of our lives to participate in this kind of effort. It is also an opportunity to pray together, socialize together and encourage one another in order to strengthen the Body of Christ.”

The Day of Service in Evansville will include a clean-up day at Wesselman Park and is being organized by Darren Sroufe, director of planned giving and foundation relations in Saint Meinrad’s Development Office and a former member of the Alumni Board.

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Mark Your Calendars!

Saint Meinrad Day of Service
March 14, 2015

Saint Meinrad 87th Annual Alumni Reunion
August 2-5, 2015
Mr. Ronald Richard Allen O’64 (’52-55), of Evansville, IN, died on October 8, 2014.

Mr. Anthony L. Benedict O’55 (’43-48), of Indianapolis, IN, died on September 24, 2014.

Fr. William J. Brennan O’49 (’45-49), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on August 31, 2014.

Ms. Barbara DeChatelet Sab (’04), of Chicago, IL, died on July 22, 2014.

Mr. Kenneth M. Eberhard O’74 (’62-66), of Evansville, IN, died in September of 2014.

Fr. Adolph M. Egloff O’40 (’29-40), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on October 2, 2014.

Sr. Norma Rosa Garcia, CCVI, Sab (’97), died December 23, 2013, in San Antonio, TX.

Fr. Ralph Gillis O’59 (’54-56), a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, died on October 18, 2014.

Fr. James Bacik O’62 (’54-56), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, received the Pope St. John XXIII Award at the 2014 annual assembly of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests.

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB, T’04 (’96-04), of Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL, participated in the “Good Book Club” segment of a radio program with Spirit Catholic Radio in Omaha, NE.

Mr. Joseph G. Bozzelli O’83 (’79-83) received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) in May 2014. He is currently director of pastoral care at St. Elizabeth Healthcare in Edgewood, KY.

Fr. Jerry Byrd T’12 (’06-12) and Fr. Douglas Marcotte T’13 (’07-09) were initiated into the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus on July 14, 2014, at St. Ambrose Church in Seymour, IN.

Fr. Jim Chamberlain T’86 (’81-86), a priest of the Diocese of Austin, TX, has been working in the Archdiocese of

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Fr. Donald Goetz O’68 (’62-67; ’97), a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, died on December 4, 2014.

Mr. William L. “Bill” Grantz O’52, (’41-45), of New Albany, IN, died on September 13, 2014.

Dr. Wayne Graves O’74 (’62-68), of Maumee, OH, died on December 5, 2014.

Mr. Charles F. Gropp O’60 (’51-52), of Terre Haute, IN, died on November 17, 2007.

Fr. Leonard A. Kistler, CPPS, Sab (’03), died on June 9, 2014, at Carthagena, OH.

Mr. Steve Kreisle O’68 (’56-57), of Costa Mesa, CA, died on July 26, 2014.

Mr. Frederick J. Lilly O’70 (’58-66), of Altadena, CA, died on August 30, 2014.

Mr. Vincent J. Mannino Sr. O’51 (’40-49), of Waterloo, IL, died on August 15, 2014.

Mr. Kenneth V. Reis SPH (’37), of Evansville, IN, died on October 28, 2014.

Fr. James H. Rogers O’39 (’28-39), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on October 1, 2014.

Fr. Toan Do C’99 (’95-97), of Horse Cave, KY, died on August 21, 2014.

Mr. Gilbert L. Sievers SPH’50 (’46-50), of Vincennes, IN, died on September 4, 2014.

Mr. John Aldon Schum SS (’74), of Louisville, KY, died on December 14, 2014.

Mr. Joseph Fey T’89 (’81-87; ’94-95) was initiated into the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus on July 14, 2014, at the Mighty Mo Ukulele Festival near Herman, MO, in July.

Fr. Ken Kelly O’79 (’71-79), pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Mission, KS, was voted “Best of the Jam” from among 20 ukulele acts at the Mighty Mo Ukulele Festival near Herman, MO, in July.

Ms. Tammy Flippo LDC (’11-14) is pastoral associate at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Louisville, KY.

Sr. Margaret Ann Hagan, OSU, SS’84 (’79-84) began a term as councilor as part of the leadership team for her congregation in Louisville, KY.

Mr. Don Hale C’84 (’80-84) is assistant vice president for development at the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

Fr. Christopher House C’98 (’95-98) has been named chancellor of the Diocese of Springfield, IL, and pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

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Oklahoma City since August 2011. He pastors local parishes, works and travels with the Water Center, teaches as an adjunct professor at University of Oklahoma and leads students on service trips to emerging regions. He has a doctorate in environmental engineering and earth sciences.

Mr. William Cunningham O’74 (’66-70) is director of apostolic works at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH.

Fr. Toan Do C’99 (’95-97) has been appointed to a postdoctoral fellowship at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. His book, Rethinking the Death of Jesus: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Hilasmos and Agape in 1 John 2:1-2 and 4:7-10, was published in 2014.

Mr. Joseph Fey T’89 (’81-87; ’94-95) is director of lifelong faith formation at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Newton, IA.

Fr. Robert J. Weithman O’55 (’49-51), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on October 14, 2014.

Mr. Scott M. Fitzgerald LD’04 (’02-04) is pastoral associate at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Otisville, MI.

Mr. Denis E. Russell O’60 (’47-54), of Louisville, KY, died on October 17, 2014.

Most Rev. William M. Wathen LD 2000 (’96-00), of Louisville, KY, died on April 24, 2014.

Mr. Scott M. Fitzgerald LD’04 (’02-04) is pastoral associate at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Otisville, MI.

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Mr. Steve Smith O’65 (‘54-58) received the Silver Circle award from the Lone Star Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The award is presented for longtime contribution to the television broadcasting community. Smith anchored television news in Houston, TX, for 30 years before retiring in 1999.

Mr. Bernard J. Lally O’69 (‘57-59) and his wife Marilyn, of Carmel, IN, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

Fr. Guerric Letter, OSB, T’12 (‘07-12), of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, has completed his certification in pastry and baking from Johnson County Community College’s Culinary Academy.

Fr. Joel Melvin, OCSO, O’62 (‘50-63), celebrated 55 years as a monk on August 15, 2014. As a Benedictine monk, he served as prior at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey foundation in Peru. In 1980, he was professed as a Trappist monk at Miraflores Abbey in Chile, where he now lives.

Mr. Jerome Moeller SPH’54 (‘50-54) is the recipient of the Timothy P. Galvin K.S.G. Outstanding Catholic Layperson Award, which was awarded during the Knights of Columbus state convention in Indianapolis. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus Evansville Council 565 and Annunciation Parish in Evansville, IN.

Fr. Shawn O’Neal T’00 (‘94-00) received an honorable mention award for best coverage of immigration by the Catholic Press Association for works published in the newspaper of the Diocese of Charlotte, NC, along with editor Patricia Guilfoyle and writer Annette Tenny. He has served as a liaison for the USCCB’s Justice for Immigrants Campaign since 2007.

Fr. Victor Schinstock, OSB, T’13 (‘10-13), of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, played on the winning team in the “Pitching for Priests” softball game in Kansas City, KS.

Fr. Donald Senior, CP, O’67 (‘65-67), was a keynote speaker on the theology of the Word in Dei Verbum, at the 2014 annual assembly of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests in St. Louis, MO.

Fr. Francis Tebbe, OFM, O’74 (‘62-66), is the director of mission and spiritual care services for the Franciscan Alliance hospital in Munster, IN.

Fr. Peter Ullrich, OSB, T’87 (‘84-87), of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, is director of the Abbey Guest Center. In June, he attended the General Chapter of the Swiss American Congregation at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, CA.

Fr. Charles Walker O’81 (‘76-81) is the new fulltime chaplain for Catholic campus ministry at the University of Louisville.

Mrs. Rita Tyson Walters SS’90 (‘84-90), along with Thomas Walters and Brian Starks, conducted a national study of diocesan directors of religious education. The study, published in 2014, compared the current situation to surveys done in 1998 and 2003.

Alumni whose gifts qualify will also receive this year’s premium, a 32-ounce aluminum water bottle with the Saint Meinrad logo imprinted on it. The Phonathon will take place on weeknights during February and March.

The Phonathon connects alumni and friends

The annual Alumni Phonathon gives current students on the Hill a chance to talk with alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad from around the country. Five evenings will be devoted to calling alumni. On two evenings, calls will be made to non-alumni friends.

“Taking time off from their studies for an evening of connecting with alumni and others is a worthwhile activity for the students,” says Associate Director of Annual Giving John Huether O’78, who organizes the event. “It’s an experience that helps them understand and appreciate the breadth and diversity of our alumni and other benefactors.”

The annual Phonathon also gives students an opportunity to share firsthand news from the Hill, to thank alumni and friends for their past generosity, and invite them to continue their support of Saint Meinrad’s work of preparing future leaders for the Church.

Gifts to the Phonathon help make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, upkeep of buildings and grounds, wellness activities and many other day-to-day operations.

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2015 Reunion will honor classes of 1965, 1975, 1990 and 2005

The dates for the 2015 Alumni Reunion have been set for August 2-5. It will be the 87th annual gathering of former Saint Meinrad students.

“We’re planning a wonderful event to welcome home our alumni, who embody the spirit of Saint Meinrad out in the world,” says Alumni Director Christian Mocek. “There will be time for learning, spiritual renewal and relaxing with fellow classmates.”

Events will include a day of recollection, workshops, golf scramble, a special Reunion Mass, and an anniversary banquet to honor those from the classes of 1965 (50th anniversary), 1975 (40th), 1990 (25th) and 2005 (10th).

On Monday, August 3, the golf scramble will get under way that morning at Christmas Lake Golf Course in nearby Santa Claus. For non-golfers, Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, will present a day of recollection on “Benedictine Wisdom for Everyday Living.”

Fr. Brendan holds various positions in the Seminary and School of Theology, including director of Lay Degree Programs and assistant professor of religious education.

Also on Monday, a wellness workshop will be conducted by Ann Rohleder and Jill Memmer, staff members of the Saint Meinrad Health Service who gave a popular session at the 2013 Reunion.

On Tuesday, August 4, alumni will have their choice of several workshops. Details of the topics and speakers have not yet been released. The Alumni Association annual meeting is also planned for Tuesday.

The Reunion Mass will be held in the Archabbey Church in the afternoon, followed by a reception and banquet.

No alumni was chosen for a Distinguished Alumnus Award this year, but departing members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors will be recognized for their service following the banquet.