Progress is visible both inside and out at Saint Meinrad with renovations in the Seminary and School of Theology continuing on schedule.

St. Bede and Newman halls are bustling with construction crews as infrastructure is put in place, new roofs and windows are installed, and new living, meeting and classroom spaces begin to take shape. The new spaces will serve the Seminary and School of Theology well, as enrollment in existing programs continues to increase and new programs get under way.

“One of the remarkable aspects, I think, of the history of Saint Meinrad is that over time we have changed quite substantially to respond to the needs of the Church,” says Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology. “I think one of the hallmarks of our Benedictine heritage is good stewardship of the resources that we’ve inherited. And so, using these buildings in a substantial and meaningful way for the service of the Church is important.”

Renovations in Newman Hall are the final project under “The Call of Saint Meinrad” capital campaign, while $8 million in St. Bede Hall renovations are being funded by Saint Meinrad and through “The Appeal for Saint Bede Hall.” Nearly $2 million of the $4 million goal has been raised.

St. Bede Hall
When St. Bede Hall was opened in the fall of 1952, it was designed as a college building with large dormitory-style rooms and community bathrooms. In recent years, it has served as lodging for “One Bread, One Cup” youth programs and several other groups, but the building’s facilities and systems were outdated.

Continued on page 4
After years of increased enrollment, seminary reaches capacity

“We’re full! We haven’t been able to say that in more than 25 years, and I think that’s incredible,” says Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, director of enrollment for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

After several consecutive years of enrollment increases, the fall semester kicked off with 142 seminarians from 31 dioceses and archdioceses and seven religious houses. Fr. Brendan says that number is very near to what the Seminary considers its maximum capacity.

“It’s not a matter of running out of rooms—not a matter of having enough seats for people,” he says. “Last year we asked ourselves, ‘What’s a good number? How many men can we really form for the priesthood in the intimate way that we do today?’

“We always want our students to be known, we want to know who they are and, more importantly, we don’t want them to feel like a number. So, not only are we at capacity, in a sense, we’re at an ideal.”

As in years past, the age of incoming seminarians is diverse, but Fr. Brendan says the average age is trending again toward a younger seminarian.

This year the Seminary welcomes the Diocese of Fairbanks in Alaska as well as the return of the dioceses of Cheyenne in Wyoming and Crookston in Minnesota. The community will also be diverse, with students from across North America as well as Africa, Asia and Europe.

“We’re enjoying a good reputation with the dioceses that we serve,” says Fr. Brendan. “One of the greatest testaments of success is when a diocese decides to send a greater number of their seminarians to Saint Meinrad.”

With building renovations continuing this year, space for school activities is at a premium. Increased enrollment means increased class sizes. Students will again be using residence rooms in Benet Hall as well as classroom space in the Archabbey Library.

“It’s a delightful challenge to have,” says Fr. Brendan. “But we will welcome the new space from renovation for classrooms, programs and meeting locations. It will also be nice to return some of the temporary class spaces to their original intents, like the Gallery.”

“With a full house, Saint Meinrad has reached an optimal level of service, and I hope we stay at this level for years to come.”
Lay Degree Program welcomes continued success

The success of Saint Meinrad’s Lay Degree Program has mirrored that of the priesthood program in recent years. This fall, 128 students are enrolled including 10 full-time students, 104 part-time students and 14 non-degree students. The program has seen huge increases in numbers over the last decade, both in terms of enrollment and number of credit hours taken.

The program has also seen a generous increase in students taking advantage of online credit hours, as more classes are offered in a variety of formats. While only a limited number of overall credits can be taken online, expanded offerings have given students more flexibility in how they complete their degrees, says Kyle Kramer, director of the Lay Degree Programs.

Flexible formats help reduce the impact of housing and travel expenses for students. This year, students are coming from as far away as Missouri, Texas and Delaware to work toward degrees.

“Even as we’re growing in terms of numbers, we’re also growing in quality,” says Kramer. “We have more classes and greater choice of formats and subject areas. We have more student life and formation events, and more student liturgies. We also brought on Agnes Kovacs this year as our associate director. This kind of growth is ultimately more important—it’s how well we serve each student.”

Endowment will benefit priesthood program

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology has learned of a generous bequest from a longtime benefactor. The gift from the trust of Catherine Gaither will benefit the Seminary’s priesthood formation program.

The bequest will be used to create the John F. Gaither and Catherine W. Gaither Endowment Fund, which will benefit two academic departments in the Seminary: the Division of Systematic Studies and the Division of Biblical and Historical Studies. The endowment is expected to be worth about $5 million.

“We feel blessed to receive this generous gift from Mrs. Gaither. Her spirit of charity and her dedication to learning will live on through this endowment,” said Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary.

Annual distributions from this permanent endowment fund will be used for the support and enhancement of teaching men who are priests and men who are candidates for the priesthood, in accord with the donor’s wishes.

Mrs. Gaither lived in Evansville, IN, and was a strong proponent of independent school education. She was a teacher and administrator at Evansville Day School for 30 years. She and her husband John, who survives, have been longtime benefactors of Saint Meinrad.

Saint Meinrad hosts national oblate directors conference

Saint Meinrad Archabbey hosted the biennial meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors July 1-6. More than 80 participants attended sessions on the theme, “Embracing Creation with Reverence and Hospitality: Listening to Scripture and Rule Speak.”

The group heard talks by Sr. Kathryn Huber, OSB, of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN; Kyle T. Kramer, director of Lay Degree Programs at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology; and Sr. Sheila Marie Fitzpatrick, OSB, of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, IN.

Oblate representatives from Saint Meinrad were Gail Chambers of Memphis, TN, and Rev. Bill Wilson of Huntington, WV.

Oblate volunteers from Saint Meinrad Archabbey, Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Monastery Immaculate Conception and St. Walburg Monastery in Villa Hills, KY, assisted at the gathering, under the direction of Saint Meinrad oblate Michael Refett and oblate director Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB.

Monastic Worship Forum meets at Saint Meinrad

The first conference of the Monastic Worship Forum was held at Saint Meinrad Archabbey July 12-16. The Forum was created out of two groups, the Benedictine Musicians of the Americas and the Monastic Liturgy Forum.

Co-hosted by Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN, the event focused on how the new translation of the Roman Missal might be effectively received and used in monasteries, according to one of the conference organizers, Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB.

The group heard talks by Dr. Julia Upton, RSM, provost of St. John’s University in New York; Dr. Paul Ford of St. John Seminary in California; Sr. Patricia Ann Toscano, OSB, of Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD; and Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB.

The group also traveled to Ferdinand to tour the monastery church and attend Evening Prayer, dinner and a concert. In addition, the membership chose a new core committee and agreed to hold the 2013 conference in Schuyler, NE.

More than 30 participants attended the conference. Information about the Monastic Worship Forum is available at http://sites.google.com/site/monasticworshipforum/home.

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The elevator was old and slow, there was no air conditioning or efficient heating in the building, windows needed to be replaced and the facilities no longer served the needs of the Seminary and School of Theology. “Our programs have grown and now we need the facilities to accommodate them,” says Fr. Denis.

When complete, St. Bede Hall will provide a full-service facility for the Office of Group Accommodations and the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates (IPP), two groups that will use the building substantially. Other additions will include housing on two floors of the building, meeting rooms on another floor, administrative offices and a chapel. The auditorium will remain, with some minor upgrades, including central heating and air conditioning.

As you walk through each floor of the building, changes are evident, even through the dust and clutter of drywallers, electricians, plumbers, framers and painters. On the second floor, college-era music practice rooms and language labs are gone and the space is being transformed into the administrative area for the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates as well as a new chapel that will accommodate up to 65 people.

On the third floor, areas once devoted to science classrooms for the college are taking shape as the IPP Life Skills Center, where priests can learn skills they need for pastoral ministry and to transition into priesthood. New residence areas and conference rooms are also in their early stages, commanding breathtaking views of the Saint Meinrad campus and surrounding area through new energy-efficient windows.

On the fifth floor, which once housed a maze of small rooms devoted to the college television and radio stations, a large open conference room is being created. The space will serve not only programs housed in St. Bede Hall, but also seminary and other programs held more regularly on the Hill.

“One of the goals of all the space is flexibility,” says Fr. Denis. “We’re using the space that we’re creating now to write the next chapter of Saint Meinrad’s service to the Church. Certainly, all of our programs will benefit from the renovation of St. Bede Hall.”

Newman Hall
In Newman Hall, all four floors of the north/south wing and portions of the east/west wing have been gutted. Infrastructure work has begun that will ensure central heating and air conditioning and modern technology improvements.

The lower level of Newman, formerly the Scholar Shop bookstore and Newman Conference Center, is being renovated into an air-conditioned fitness facility for students, monks, co-workers and guests. One floor above, a vast open space awaits a relocated Scholar Shop.

Newman Hall will also accommodate the information technology offices, a new home for the Mader Learning Center, classrooms and conference rooms.

Outside, a new tile roof is nearing completion and most windows have been replaced with energy-efficient ones in the traditional “Saint Meinrad red.”

The renovation projects are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2012.
Our Daily Bread: A new serving of spiritual formation

Saint Meinrad’s priesthood program involves more than just earning credit hours toward a Master of Divinity degree. Besides classes in philosophy and theology, students engage in human, pastoral and spiritual formation.

The faculty and staff of the Seminary and School of Theology recently assessed the spiritual formation program looking for areas of improvement. The revamped program, “Our Daily Bread,” was launched this fall.

Fr. Joe Moriarty, director of spiritual formation for the Seminary, is pleased with the outcome. “The formation offered is particularly priestly and is geared toward cultivating spiritual leadership in the future priest,” he explains.

The program encourages each seminarian to grow in his faith and to begin to adopt the spiritual practices, habits and attitudes of a priest. In addition, he learns the skills needed to become a spiritual leader and to assist others in their spiritual development.

“Our Daily Bread” relies on various tools and techniques to achieve these goals. Among them is spiritual direction, where a seminarian meets with a priest spiritual director every two to three weeks. In this confidential setting, students can discuss personal history, relationships, prayer experiences and other topics.

“Spiritual direction offers the seminarian an invaluable support, challenge, and assessment of his continuing development and discernment,” says Fr. Moriarty.

One of the new components of the program is a series of hour-long webinars on topics ranging from homily preparation to Liturgy of the Hours. Some webinars focus on spiritual guides in Catholic history, such as St. Teresa of Avila, Blessed John Henry Newman and St. Benedict.

The webinars are produced by the deacon class – students in their final year of priesthood studies. “It’s a very creative idea,” says Fr. Moriarty. “It really meets the needs of this generation.” Seminarians can download the webinars onto their MP3 players to listen to anywhere they go, or they can use them in their spiritual reflection groups or with parish groups during summer assignments.

Another area that received attention was the annual retreat, which in recent years was an all-school retreat held on campus. Now each class will have an off-campus retreat, although not on the same topic.

“Breaking it up [by class] gives us more versatility in addressing where they may be spiritually and where they need to grow,” says Fr. Moriarty.

Regular days of recollection are also on the calendar. “We were very cautious not to add too much to an already-busy schedule, but at the same time, I think it’s important to offer opportunities where spirituality can be the centerpiece,” he says. A day of pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Theodora Guérin at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, is one example.

Overall, Fr. Moriarty expects the program will accomplish exactly what it sets out to do: make spiritual formation as nourishing for the spirit as bread is for the body.

New novice joins Benedictine community at Saint Meinrad

In a brief ceremony at the monastery entrance, Anushka Fonseka 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 Anushka, 28, 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.

As a novice, he will take a year off from formal studies and/or 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.
MEET
Student:
Scott Woods

Diocese: Toledo
Hometown: Toledo, Ohio

Q. What attracted you to the priesthood?
I have learned much from the selfless example of many devoted diocesan priests in northwest and north central Ohio, and I hope to continue the good work they have done and are doing. While my eyes were opened to the examples before me, my ears were also opened to hear the Spirit’s gentle whispers through the promptings of loved ones and strangers who encouraged me to consider discerning ordained ministry.

Q. Who influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?
A priest at Toledo Central Catholic, my alma mater, invited me to consider again the possibility that the Lord desires to use my gifts in service to God’s people as a priest. His invitation was affirmed while I was a student and campus minister at Corpus Christi University Parish at the University of Toledo (UT). There the pastor modeled servant leadership and fostered the ongoing development of my ministerial skills.

I also remember that one Holy Thursday after the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, a UT student showed me the engagement ring he planned to present his soon-to-be fiancée after the Easter Vigil liturgy at his home parish. I asked him why he decided to propose marriage now instead of several months later as he had originally planned, to which he replied that he knew he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her, so why wait? His answer resonated deep within me and challenged me to discern my vocation more seriously.

Q. What were you doing before you came to the seminary?
I served as pastoral associate/campus minister at Corpus Christi University Parish in Toledo for five years before coming to Saint Meinrad. In that role, I was a co-advisor to UT’s Catholic Student Association, facilitated a weekly Bible study, coordinated many retreat experiences for UT students each year and helped prepare parish liturgies.

Q. Favorite saint and why?
There are several saints whose examples I seek to emulate, though one saint I often quote is St. Augustine of Hippo, who, in his Confessions, reminds us that we are made by and for God, and that we are restless until we find our rest in him. This bit of Augustinian wisdom makes even more sense at this point in my life.

Q. Favorite Scripture verse and why?
One of my favorite passages is Luke 4:16-21, in which Jesus takes the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaims that the Spirit of the Lord has anointed him to lift up the poor and oppressed, and then announces the fulfillment of the Scripture in the hearing of the gathered assembly. I believe that all Christians, filled with the Spirit of the Lord by virtue of their baptism, are called to fulfill this Scripture passage in their own time and place by making Christ present through our words and actions that serve to build up the Kingdom of God.

Q. Hobbies?
When he was installed the seventh bishop of Toledo, Bishop Leonard Blair quipped that, as such, he was also bishop of Cedar Point. Indeed, northwest Ohioans are fortunate to have “America’s Roller Coast” in their backyard, and I get to the Point as often as possible. Since coming to Saint Meinrad, I have also enjoyed visiting Holiday World, which has been recognized as thefriendliest and cleanest park in the world. It is an impressive place and only 15 minutes from the Hill!

Q. What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?
Although I was a bit disappointed at first to be assigned to Saint Meinrad because of the distance from home, being on the Hill for formation has been a real gift. I am particularly grateful for the holy presence, rich spirituality and good example of the monastic community. I and many others who have come to this holy place have benefited greatly from the Benedictine hospitality and spirituality that permeates these hallowed halls and challenges all of us to grow in discipleship.

Q. What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?
Distance from home has been both a challenge and an opportunity. As a result of being away from home, I am challenged to cultivate new relationships and maintain those with family and friends who have accompanied me on this journey, and who remain connected in thought and prayer.

Q. Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?
I have not received any bad advice from anyone at Saint Meinrad, though I especially appreciate Fr. Denis’ annual exhortation to “be here” during the formation year. The past was great and the future looks bright, so it is sometimes a challenge to live in the present and to consciously be at Saint Meinrad after we arrive in August. I think living in the present and being attentive to the Spirit’s gentle whispers is a challenge we all face in the midst of this fast-paced society in which we live.

Website
On The Hill is also available on the Web:
www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill
Three new members will join Board of Overseers

Three new 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.

New members are John Patrick (J.P.) Engelbrecht, Fr. Steve Giannini and M. Diane Murphy.

J.P. Engelbrecht

J.P. Engelbrecht is the chief executive officer of South Central Communications in Evansville, IN. He and his wife, Tammy, are the parents of two young children, Ellie Grace and John William. They are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

In 2002, he graduated from Xavier University with a Bachelor of Science in business administration degree. He is the former vice president/chief operations officer of South Central Communications. He is also a director for Habitat of Evansville, the past chair of Junior Achievement and the director of the International Planned Music Association.

Fr. Steve Giannini

Fr. Steve Giannini is the vicar for clergy and parish life coordinators and the vice chancellor of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He serves as sacramental minister at several churches within the archdiocese. He is also an associate judge for the Metropolitan Tribunal. He graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977 and a Master of Science degree in 1981. He earned a Master of Arts and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He was ordained on June 5, 1993.

He is a member of the Italian Heritage Society of Indiana. Fr. Giannini has served on the Council of Priests, Priests Personnel Board, Board of Consultants and Deacon Personnel Board for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. At Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, he has been a member of the advisory board for the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates.

M. Diane Murphy

M. Diane Murphy of New Albany, IN, is president of Your Community Bank Charitable Foundation and senior vice president of community relations at Your Community Bank in New Albany.

She is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, where she is active as a lay minister, lector and member of the Finance Committee.

She attended Indiana University Southeast and then did graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Ms. Murphy is a member of the advisory boards of the Salvation Army, LifeSpan Resources and Gerin Inc. She is on the board of trustees of Floyd Memorial Hospital.

Archabbot Justin DaVall, OSB, speaks at the prayer service held by the St. Meinrad American Legion on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
The Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey celebrated the 60-year monastic jubilee of Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB; the 50-year jubilees of Br. Dominic Warnecke, OSB, Fr. Warren Heitz, OSB, and Br. Mario Ibison, OSB; and the 25-year jubilees of Fr. David Rabenecker, OSB, and Fr. Edward Linton, OSB, on July 31.

Fr. Cyprian was born September 9, 1930, in Washington, DC. He made his profession of vows on August 1, 1951, and was ordained on May 3, 1956. Fr. Cyprian graduated from Saint Meinrad College, earned a licentiate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America, and a licentiate and doctorate in historical sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium).

He has received honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame in 2001, the Catholic Theological Union in 2002, St. Vincent's College, Latrobe, PA, in 2003, and The Catholic University of America in 2006.

He is the author of The History of Black Catholics in the United States, which received the John Gilmary Shea Award from the American Catholic Historical Association in 1991. In 2002, he was awarded the Johannes Quasten Medal for excellence in scholarship and leadership in religious studies from The Catholic University of America. In 2004, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

Fr. Cyprian is emeritus professor of Church history at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and the archivist for the Archabbey, the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation and the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, of which he was a founding member in 1968.

Br. Dominic was born October 6, 1941, in Delphos, OH. He made his profession of vows on May 11, 1961.

From 1961-64, Br. Dominic worked in the monastery’s art shop and bakery. In 1964, he served as house brother. From 1964-67, he served as head waiter and head cook at the Guest House. From 1967-71, he worked on the farm. He then became refectorian and assistant groundkeeper for both the Archabbey and vineyard, where he served for 10 years.

From 1981-85, he worked at Saint Meinrad’s priory in Huaraz, Peru. He then served as manager of the grounds and vineyard until 2000. He currently works as a delivery service clerk and infirmary assistant.

Fr. Warren was born May 30, 1940, in Huntingburg, IN. He made his profession of vows on August 15, 1961, and was ordained on May 1, 1966. Fr. Warren has a bachelor’s degree in biology from Saint Meinrad College, a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, and a Master of Science in institutional administration from the University of Notre Dame.

From 1967-73, Fr. Warren served as the Archabbey’s assistant business manager. From 1973-77, he was the associate pastor at St. Mary’s Parish in Huntingburg, IN. In 1977, he became the associate pastor at St. Benedict Parish in Evansville, IN, where he remained for five years.

From 1982-1999, he served in a variety of positions, including refectorian, director of monastic personnel, director of transportation, and administrator at both St. Boniface Parish in Fulda, IN, and St. John Chrysostom Parish in New Boston, IN. In 1999, he was named director of alumni relations, where he served for three years. Currently, he serves as assistant to the ordofex.

Br. Mario was born August 5, 1938, in Evanston, IL. He made his profession of vows on November 12, 1961.

Since then, Br. Mario has served in several different positions, including as plumber, assistant librarian and shoe repairman. He currently works in Saint Meinrad’s Physical Facilities Department.

Fr. David was born September 9, 1963, in Louisville, KY. He made his profession of vows on August 6, 1986, and was ordained on May 4, 1991. Fr. David has a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Saint Meinrad College and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

From 1988-1989, Fr. David served as assistant refectorian. From 1991-94, he was associate pastor at St. Benedict Parish in Evansville. In 1994, he became
associate dean of students for Saint Meinrad College, as well as director of service formation, part-time instructor and part-time spiritual director. In recent years, he has worked in prison ministry. He currently serves as chaplain at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, KY.

Fr. Edward was born June 2, 1962, in Louisville, KY. He made his profession of vows on August 6, 1986, and was ordained on May 4, 1991. Fr. Edward has a bachelor’s degree in history from Saint Meinrad College and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

He earned a master’s degree in English literature from Middlebury College in Vermont and taught English at Saint Meinrad College from 1992-98. He then earned a doctorate in speech communication at Southern Illinois University. He served as associate pastor of St. Benedict’s Parish in Evansville, IN. Currently, he is pastor of St. James Parish in Chicago, IL.

Faculty and staff offer new resources

Two faculty members of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology have recently released a new book, an e-book and a report.

A BISHOP AND HIS PRIESTS TOGETHER

In November 2010 the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates (IPP) hosted an exploratory conversation with several bishops to discuss ways in which bishops, primarily, could work to build more unified presbyterates. That gathering was the genesis of this latest resource from the IPP.

In A Bishop and His Priests Together: Resources for Building More Intentional Presbyterates, Fr. Knott brings together a number of articles, reflections, Church teachings and practical tools for building unified, intentional presbyterates. A great resource for bishops, priests and seminarians, the various contributions contain timeless truths for anyone who lives and works in relationship with superiors and subordinates, providing insight into how to better achieve common goals.

A Bishop and His Priests Together is published by Sophronios Press and is available for $15.95 at The Scholar Shop bookstore and through the store’s website: http://store.saintmeinrad.edu

E-BOOK: WORKING SMARTER, NOT HARDER: A SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR CATECHISTS


The book is written by Dr. Tom Walters, professor of catechetics in the Seminary and School of Theology, and his wife Rita.

They are also the co-authors of the National Survey of Parish Catechetical Leaders, the first in a series of reports on the National Profile of Parish Catechetical Leaders Study that they are conducting.

The report can be found at http://trresearch.web.officelive.com/default.aspx

This site is designed to provide Roman Catholic catechetical leaders with current research on their profession and on their efforts to catechize effectively in the communities they serve.

The survey provides a unique perspective and helpful information on the state of catechetical ministry in the United States and its leadership. More than 2,800 catechetical leaders from 150 dioceses took part.

Coordinator for international students named

Sr. Kateri Visocky, FSE, has been named the coordinator of international students for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Sr. Kateri came to Saint Meinrad three years ago to pursue a Master in Theological Studies. She has completed her classes in the Seminary and School of Theology and is working on the final paper required for the degree. She also has a master’s degree in music education and did some graduate study in music at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Throughout most of her religious life as a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist, she has been a music teacher. Other assignments have included catechetical work with the Filipino and Tlingit-Haida cultures in southeast Alaska; teaching classes in conversational English to Japanese businessmen on campus in Duluth, MN; and a principal buyer for her community’s Little Portion General Store in the San Juan Islands.

In her new position, Sr. Kateri will help students keep their visas up to date and assist those obtaining driver’s licenses, Social Security cards and other documents. She will also coordinate transportation for those who have medical or other appointments off campus.

Have a “green” Christmas with Snail’s Pace eco-friendly cards, gift wraps & more. Enter code SP20 at checkout for 20% off! www.snailspacepaper.com
Alumni Reunion 2011 brings hundreds back to the Hill

Fr. Harry Hagan and Br. John Mark Falkenhain perform during a sacred music concert in the Archabbey Church.

Alumni Director Tim Herrmann addresses those attending the Monday night banquet honoring anniversary classes.

Alumni and guests attend a day of recollection with Fr. Vincent Tobin in the Gallery.

Fr. Jeremy King and Carney Strange sing during the Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church.

Colette Kennett gives a talk on youth ministry, one of several presentations given during the Reunion.

Alumnus Bishop William Medley of the Diocese of Owensboro was the principal celebrant and homilist at the Reunion Mass on Tuesday.
Jasper Lumber Company President Brett Stenftenagel leads alumni and guests on a tour of the ongoing renovations in St. Bede and Newman halls.

Socials offered time for alumni to mingle and share stories.

It’s not too late to share in the memories created at the 83rd annual Alumni Reunion held at Saint Meinrad July 18-20.

Audio and video recordings and photographs can be found on the alumni website at alumni.saintmeinrad.edu. Follow the links to the 2011 Alumni Reunion under the Reunions tab on the main page.

You can find:
- Information on downloading or viewing photos of anniversary classes, the full group on the Archabbey Church steps and other Reunion events.
- A YouTube playlist including a slideshow of images from the Reunion and videos of the Mass and banquet.
- Free downloads of Reunion presentations on our iTunes U page.
- Information about ordering recordings on CD/DVD by mail or online.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar for the 2012 Reunion on July 23-25.
Mr. Owen K. Caster Jr. O’51 (’47-48), of Louisville, KY, died June 7.

Mr. Denis A. Conrady O’56 (’44-48), of Terre Haute, IN, died June 13.

Mr. John E. Gillig O’57 (’51-57), of Decatur, IN, died June 27.

Sr. Mary Zita Green, OSF S’96, of the Sisters of St. Francis, Mt. Alvernia Motherhouse, Millvale, PA, died January 11.

Fr. Robert J. Hammond O’52 (’48-52), of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN, died May 8.

Mr. David L. Hazelip O’54 (’50-54), of Charlottesville, VA, died March 16.

Deacon William Heberling PDP’05 (’01-05), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died June 4.

Mr. John J. Hettel O’67 (’55-59), of Vermilion, OH, died May 26, 2005.

Mr. Donald T. Higgins O’54 (’42-49), of Glendale, AZ, died October 11, 2001.

Mr. Donald A. Litzelman O’43 (’31-34), of Indianapolis, IN, died July 18.

Mrs. Karen Donovan Magan SS (’87), of Evansville, IN, died May 10.

Fr. Maurice R. Miller O’49 (’40-49), of the Diocese of Lafayette, IN, died June 1.

Fr. Gregory Obee, OSB O’56 (’48-50), of Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL, died May 16.


Fr. Richard V. O’Shaughnessy, SM O’47 (’44-48), of the St. Louis, MO, Province, died July 3.

Mr. Edward Pierle O’58 (’46-48), of Brownsburg, IN, died June 14.

Fr. Leo S. Reinhardt O’55 (’49-55), of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died June 3.

Fr. Stephen A. Sanchez O’82 (’78-82), of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, NM, died May 4.

Mr. Joseph E. Sheehan O’49 (’38-44), of Indianapolis, IN, died May 5.

Mr. Patrick J. Sherry O’71 (’59-62), of Williams Bay, WI, and Aurora, IL, died April 30.

Mr. Charles R. Tewell O’44 (’32-35), of Beltsville, MD, died November 19, 2009.

Mr. James P. Tracy O’55 (’49-54), of Hernando, FL, died January 12.

Alumni giving increases

When the 2010-11 fiscal year ended on June 30, it was apparent that support of the Alumni Annual Giving Program (AAGP) had increased with an overall participation rate of 25.4 percent.

“I was very pleased with the response to the Alumni Annual Giving Program,” says Duane Schaefer, Saint Meinrad’s director of development. “Despite the tough economic conditions, alumni giving increased 15.4% from the previous year. It’s obvious from their generosity that our alumni are committed to Saint Meinrad.”

The top five classes by participation rate were:

- O’1954, 52.63%
- O’1976, 50%
- O’1950, 47.37%
- O’1967, 43.22%
- O’1952, 42.86%.

Total gifts from alumni for the year amounted to $593,542.

“Like all educational institutions, Saint Meinrad depends on the generosity of its alumni to help fund its ongoing programs,” notes Schaefer.

Gifts to the AAGP help Saint Meinrad keep its tuition competitive with other seminaries. Last year, student tuition, room and board covered about 50 percent of the operational budget for the Seminary and School of Theology. Alumni annual gifts help make up the difference.

“I was very pleased with the response to the Alumni Annual Giving Program. It’s obvious that our alumni are committed to Saint Meinrad.”

Duane Schaefer
Director of Development

Through annual gifts, Saint Meinrad alumni make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, wellness activities and many other programs that give today’s students the same advantages that alumni had when they attended Saint Meinrad.

This year’s premium is a full-color 18” x 24” poster (see photo) depicting seven well-known crosses and crucifixes around Saint Meinrad. Included in the images are the Christus in the Archabbey Church, the stone Celtic cross in front of St. Gregory Hall, and crucifixes located at Monte Cassino Shrine, in the Archabbey Cemetery, in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel and in the two dining rooms on campus.

Alumni will qualify for the poster by making a gift of $200 or more or by making a first-time gift of $100 or more.

Next year’s program is already under way. Alumni received a kick-off letter from President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, in September and will be receiving letters from their class chairs in November.

Please consider a gift to your alma mater—a sign of your commitment to the institution—and pray for its continued success.
The more I reflect on my life, the more I am finding ties to Saint Meinrad. After moving here and organizing boxes full of items from my past, including numerous scrapbooks my mom compiled over the years, I came across my kindergarten graduation program booklet.

Lo and behold, I see the opening prayer was read by then-Deacon Ron Schock (C’91) – now Fr. Ron Schock of the Diocese of Toledo. At the time, he was serving his pastoral year in Findlay. Upon further reflection, I realize now that I had many more connections to this Holy Hill in St. Meinrad, IN.

Circa the sixth grade, Fr. Mike Hohenbrink (O’74), now a monsignor and an emeritus member of Saint Meinrad’s Board of Overseers, journeyed to Findlay, Ohio, to begin his work as pastor at St. Michael the Archangel Parish.

The former pastor, also an alumnus, Fr. Marty Nassr (O’67), was up for reassignment to a new parish in the Toledo diocese. In my time as a parishioner in Findlay, other Saint Meinrad alumni served at the parish: Fr. Paul Fahrbach (T’84), Fr. Ron Schock (C’91), Fr. Keith Stripe (T’96) Fr. Joe Weigman (T’91), Fr. Dave Beck (O’67) and Fr. Jeff McBeth (T’06).

Recently ordained Fr. Eric Mueller (T’09) spent a pastoral year in Findlay, and I also worked on various retreats in the diocese with Fr. Mark Davis (T’96), Fr. Dave Ritchie (C’88), Fr. Mel Verhoff (C’86), Mr. Dick McGraw (O’57), Mr. Jerry Kesner (O’81), Fr. Michael Zacharias (T’02), Fr. Eric Schild (T’07) and Fr. Doug Garand (T’01).

Needless to say, the character of these men is a testament to the good work that Saint Meinrad undertakes for the benefit of the Catholic Church, and each of them shared fond memories and stories of their time on the Holy Hill. They continue to provide spiritual and pastoral leadership in their communities and always carry the spirit of Saint Meinrad in their daily lives. Little did I realize, I would soon better understand that “spirit.”

I first visited Saint Meinrad in high school when I attended the “One Bread, One Cup” youth liturgical leadership conference. It finally put into visual perspective the beauty of the monastery, seminary and school of theology.

Then, during college at the University of Dayton, my dad nudged me to find a summer job. I emailed Fr. Anthony Vinson, OSB, who served as director of “One Bread, One Cup” and the College Ministerial Internship Program regarding an internship opening. I was hired and worked as an intern on the Hill for summers 2007-2009, helping facilitate the youth conferences and then staying afterward to serve at two alumni reunions.

Throughout college and after graduation, I ventured back to Saint Meinrad to spend time with the monks I met, make retreats, pray and relax, unaware that my trips would become a daily ritual to this peaceful place.

One day while scanning Saint Meinrad’s website, I saw the Director of Alumni Relations position become available. At first, I was hesitant about applying, and I shelved the idea. I think God pushed the idea off the shelf and encouraged me to reconsider this connection to Saint Meinrad. Well, I did reconsider, and here I am.

Ultimately, I believe God, in an uncanny way, led me to Saint Meinrad to continue connecting with alumni and friends to hear and share their stories. I look forward to the many new and exciting connections I will make here at Saint Meinrad.

Please call us, email us, send us letters or join us on Facebook to share your story so we can continue spreading the spirit of Saint Meinrad, like so many women and men have done and continue to do.

Alumni website: http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu
Alumni Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni

Board slate approved

Six members 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: Fr. Wilfred E. (Sonny) Day O’67 (’61-67), of St. John the Baptist Parish in Floyds Knobs, IN; Roger Doane SPH’57 (’53-57), of Bloomfield, IN; William P. McGuire O’64 (’52-58), of Indianapolis, IN; Gregory Ernstberger C’75 (’71-75), of Floyds Knobs, IN; Martin Stout C’88 (’84-88), of Fort Wayne, IN; and Darren Sroufe, PhD, DDiv, C’90 (’86-90), T’01 (’97-01), of Boonville, IN.

Bernard Gunar Gruenke, president of Conrad Schmitt Studios Inc. of New Berlin, WI, gave the annual Dolle Lecture on September 13, talking about church building and restoration.
Mr. Wayne M. Carmello-Harper C’80 (’76-80), is senior vice president, mission integration, of St. Vincent’s Health System in Birmingham, AL, as of May 6. He had served for many years as the president and chief executive officer of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama in Anniston.

Mr. Daniel Conway O’75 (’67-75), of Louisville, KY, has published A Communion of Saints, a new book soon to be available from Theo Books. It is an autobiographical/fictional account of the people the author has encountered through various stages of his life, forming a communion of saints.

Mr. Shayne Duvall T’13 (’09-10, ’11), of Louisville, KY, is the coordinator of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Mr. Charles R. Gardner O’73 (’65-70), of Indianapolis, IN, was featured in an article in The Criterion, the archdiocesan newspaper.

Ms. Christine A. Hoehn T’94 (’92-94), of New Harmony, IN, is the Catholic campus minister at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. She was featured in the regular column “People of Faith,” by Steve Halbig in The Message, Evansville diocesan newspaper, for July 1.


Msgr. Kenneth Knapp O’63 (’51-59), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, who served as vicar general for Bishop Francis R. Shea (’88 honorary alumnus) and Bishop Gerald A. Gettlefinger O’61 (’49-61), was honored for his service at a luncheon June 6, at Sarto Retreat House in Evansville.

Mr. Keith Fritz C’99 (’95-97), of Ferdinand, IN, and owner of Keith Fritz Fine Furniture, received the inaugural William Thornton Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship given by Made in America, a nonprofit group promoting U.S. commerce in global markets. He also was named the 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year by the Dubois County Area Development Corp.

Mr. Sean P. Gallagher T’01 (’95-99, ’02), of Indianapolis, IN, received first place in the Best Regular Column, Family Life category from the Catholic Press Association for his regular column “Faith and Family” in The Criterion, the archdiocesan newspaper.

Mr. Sean P. Gallagher T’01 (’95-99, ’02), of Indianapolis, IN, received first place in the Best Regular Column, Family Life category from the Catholic Press Association for his regular column “Faith and Family” in The Criterion, the archdiocesan newspaper.

Ms. Kristine A. Hoehn T’94 (’92-94), of New Harmony, IN, is the Catholic campus minister at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. She was featured in the regular column “People of Faith,” by Steve Halbig in The Message, Evansville diocesan newspaper, for July 1.


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Mr. Shayne Duvall T’13 (’09-10, ’11), of Louisville, KY, is the coordinator of the Office of Evangelization for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Mr. Charles R. Gardner O’73 (’65-70), of Indianapolis, IN, was featured in an article in The Criterion, the archdiocesan newspaper, for June 17, “A Love Rooted in Music.” The article celebrates the fact that both Charles and his wife, Dianne, have been involved as pastoral musicians throughout their 40-year marriage.

Ms. Christine A. Hoehn T’94 (’92-94), of New Harmony, IN, is the Catholic campus minister at the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville. She was featured in the regular column “People of Faith,” by Steve Halbig in The Message, Evansville diocesan newspaper, for July 1.


Mr. Paul Lim C’99 (’95-98), of Pittsburgh, PA, and his wife, Elizabeth, had their second child, Olivia Catherine, on May 3.

Msgr. Lawrence Moran O’52 (’41-52), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, proclaims the Gospel on Catholic radio. An article on his work by Sean Gallagher T’01 (’95-99, ’02), appeared in the May 6 edition of The Criterion, the archdiocesan newspaper, reporting that Msgr. Moran had recently produced his 600th broadcast on the Terre Haute-based Catholic radio station WHOJ 93.1 FM.

Sgt. Darren T. Sroufe C’90 (’86-90,’97-01), an Evansville, IN, police officer, works with the Critical Incident/Memorial Team, the first such statewide taskforce in the country dedicated to helping departments and survivors of fallen officers. He has led the program for five years.

Fr. Frank D. Torres O’81 (’74-76), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, is the chaplain for Hispanic ministry at St. Paul Parish in Valparaiso, in addition to his assignment as associate pastor at Queen of All Saints Parish in Michigan City.

Br. Michael Whitman O’75 (’67-71), of Tawas City, MI, graduated from Loyola University in Chicago on May 12 with a master’s degree in pastoral studies—spirituality.

Several dioceses sent deacon candidates to the Hill this summer for homiletics formation. Here Dr. Rick Stern addresses deacon candidates from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Fr. Ron Knott addresses international priests during the pilot series for the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates’ new World Priest program.

Memorial Mass remembers alumnus, student of Tulsa

The Seminary and School of Theology community held a memorial Mass on September 20 for alumnus Fr. Jorge Gomez T’11 (’07-11) and seminarian Stanley Kariuki T’13 (’09-11), who were killed in a three-car collision in north Tulsa, OK, on August 21.

Fr. Gomez, who graduated in May, was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Tulsa on July 1. Mr. Kariuki, a native of Kenya who was studying for the Diocese of Tulsa, would have entered his third year of theology studies this year.

According to a story on the Tulsa World website, the car they were riding in was hit by another car that had run a red light.

In a blog post that appeared a few days following their deaths, President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, recalled both men. “Jorge was a good friend. He cared about everyone. He was also a devoted man of the Church whose single desire was to serve Christ in His people. I can never forget the joy on his face as he was ordained a priest.”

“Stanley was a quiet, studious man with a ready smile. His patience and calm helped to alleviate a great deal of tension. He was passionate about his native culture and willing and eager to share it with all. Stanley was a gentleman in every sense of the word.”

Fr. Denis noted, “The hearts of all at Saint Meinrad go out to the families of these wonderful young men. Their loss is a tragedy for the Diocese of Tulsa and the whole Church. Both of them will be sincerely missed.”

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop is now online, offering unique monastery gifts and Abbey Press Christmas Cards.

Enter code GS20 at checkout for 20% off!
www.saintmeinradgiftshop.com
Alumnus Bishop Libasci appointed to lead Manchester

Saint Meinrad alumnus Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci O’77 (’73-77) was named the new bishop of the Diocese of Manchester, NH, by Pope Benedict XVI on September 19. He attended Saint Meinrad School of Theology from 1973-77.

Bishop-designate Libasci, 59, was ordained a bishop on June 1, 2007, for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY, where he served as auxiliary bishop. He has been serving in the Rockville Centre diocese since his ordination as a priest in 1978.

When he was named a bishop in 2007, he was serving as pastor of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Montauk, NY.

During his time as auxiliary bishop, he has assisted Bishop William Murphy in the leadership of the 1.4 million Catholics on Long Island and served as the bishop’s representative for the Eastern Vicariate (Suffolk County).

Bishop Libasci graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. John’s University, Jamaica, NY. He is a native of Middle Village, NY.

Bishop Libasci is bi-ritual and celebrates the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church.

He will become the 10th bishop of Manchester, succeeding Bishop John B. McCormack, whose resignation at age 76 was accepted by Pope Benedict.

The Diocese of Manchester covers the entire state of New Hampshire and has a Catholic population of more than 287,000.

Installation has been set for December 8 at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral.