One hundred and twelve men who have been called to serve the Church will be ordained this year after completing the Permanent Deacon Formation Program offered by Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

“It is a happy coincidence and convergence of timing and circumstances that has seven of our client dioceses ordaining deacons this year,” says Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, director of the program.

Seven of the 11 dioceses participating in the program are planning ordinations. In a normal year, there are only three or four.

This year is unique because three dioceses started their programs in January and ended in December, instead of following the September to May plan Saint Meinrad usually follows. That timing caused there to be more ordinations this year than usual.

The program continues to grow in number and importance. It started with one program in 1999 in the Diocese of Richmond, VA, and now there are 10 programs continuing or starting up in the fall in dioceses across the United States.

Three of the dioceses that will hold ordinations this summer will begin new programs this fall, showing the great need for permanent deacons, according to Norma Ramsey, administrative coordinator for the program.

Permanent deacons help fill the needs of the Church by being able to proclaim the Gospel and preach at Mass. Sacramentally, a deacon can serve as a minister of baptism and as the official witness to marriage.

The permanent diaconate is for men who do not plan to become priests, but want to be ordained ministers of the Church. It is oftentimes a second career for many people, but attracts men in all walks of life.

The Saint Meinrad Permanent Deacon Formation Program is different from programs

Continued on page 5
Three longtime monks, well known for their works, die in early 2012

FR. DONALD WALPOLE, OSB

Fr. Donald Walpole, OSB, age 94, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died at the monastery on January 27, 2012. He had celebrated 71 years of monastic profession and 68 years of priesthood.

Born in Indianapolis, IN, on May 1, 1917, he was one of six children of Martin and Mary (Hannan) Walpole. He received the name Martin at his baptism. He attended St. Patrick Catholic School and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis.

Following his graduation from Saint Meinrad College in 1939, he was accepted into the novitiate at Saint Meinrad, subsequently professing his simple vows on August 6, 1940 and, on that same day three years later, his solemn vows. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 21, 1943.

His early assignments included work as an assistant in the office of The Grail magazine at Abbey Press and a brief stint teaching English in St. Placid Hall. He served as assistant pastor at St. Benedict Church, Evansville, IN (1945), and at St. Ferdinand Parish, Ferdinand, IN (1956-1957).

Fr. Donald taught an additional two years of English in St. Placid Hall in the mid-1950s, but it was his work as associate professor of art in Saint Meinrad College that assured his fame among, and his affection from, countless alumni and friends.

Returning from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1952 with a Master of Fine Arts degree (with a major in art and printing), Fr. Donald began a 45-year career teaching the history and practice of art to Saint Meinrad seminary undergraduates.

Fr. Donald was also a master artist. His portfolio reveals an impressive array of media, subjects and places. Fr. Donald poured his heart and soul into his art, and his work continues to inspire worshippers and fellow artists throughout the country.

Sketches, mosaics, murals, and canvases of Jesus, Mary and various saints (and even an occasional abbot or confrere) can be found from South Bend to the Bahamas, from Evansville to Guatemala—and throughout every building on the Hill.

Fr. Donald spent many hours working alone in his studio, but he knew the value of collaboration. In the late 1970s, when the initial planning for a new monastery at Saint Meinrad was under way, he served as secretary and member of the Monastery Building Committee. He also served as a member and officer of the Lincoln Hills Arts and Crafts Society.

Father Donald treasured good art, to which he contributed much. He delighted in a good story, of which he knew many. He reveled in his confrere’s companionship at the card table, at which he was a frequent participant.

The funeral liturgy was held January 30 in the Archabbey Church, with burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.

FR. ERIC LIES, OSB

Fr. Eric Lies, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on January 30, 2012, in the monastery infirmary. He was a jubilarian of profession and priesthood, and a participant in the Rush Religious Study on Aging and Alzheimer’s.

Surviving are a brother, Donald, and a sister, Marian Probst, both of Aurora, IL; and several nieces and nephews.

Fr. Eric was born in Aurora, IL, on October 13, 1919, to Peter and Catherine (Besch) Lies, and was given the name Robert William at his baptism. He attended Marmion High School in Aurora, before enrolling in Saint Meinrad Seminary in 1933. He was invested as a novice in 1939, professed his simple vows on August 6, 1940, and was ordained to the priesthood on February 2, 1945.
Shortly after his ordination, Fr. Eric began teaching geometry, literature, chant and elocution in Saint Meinrad Minor Seminary. During this time, he also pursued graduate studies at The Catholic University in Washington, D.C., from which he received in 1953 a Master of Arts in English.

Continuing to teach in our Minor Seminary, he also taught homiletics in our Major Seminary for the next five years. How to speak one’s own words in a way that would truly serve God’s Word became his passion. Many years after concluding his formal teaching of speech and homiletics, he continued to serve as mentor, corrector, and coach to the monastery’s lectors and table readers.

In 1950, midway through his 13 years of seminary teaching, Father Eric became the associate editor and art director of *Grail Magazine*. In 1958 he became the general manager of Abbey Press, a position he held for 10 years.

Then, in 1968, he began what would be 26 years of work in our Development Office, developing a ministry that would introduce countless groups, families, and individuals to the prayer and works of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Serving first as associate director of development, he became in 1980 the director of public relations, a responsibility he enjoyed until his retirement in 1994. During much of this time, he continued his work at Abbey Press by serving on the advisory board and as a consultant.

Just as Father Eric helped many learn how to speak God’s Word from the pulpit, he also spread that word through the frequent retreats he offered at our Guest House and Retreat Center. “Serendipity,” which he defined as God’s gift of allowing us to make fortunate, life-changing discoveries entirely by accident, was a favorite theme.

Father Eric was a long-time member of the Alcuin Society, a Canadian association founded “for lovers of books, the book arts, fine printing, and reading.” He not only loved fine printing and the book arts, but created them as well, and one can only guess at the number of walls in homes and offices that are adorned by the inspirational messages, beautifully composed and cleverly constructed from his calligrapher’s pen.

His arrangement of the popular poem “Footprints in the Sand,” which he drafted while resting briefly at a roadside park on a trip to a calligraphy seminar in Indianapolis, remains the best-selling product in the history of Abbey Press.

Father Eric grew progressively weaker as the years went by, but he was not one to give up. When he could no longer spread God’s Word through his retreats or his skill with the pen, he continued to offer the Lord’s peace to all whom he encountered with his ever-optimistic smile and his ever-ready good word.

Even when eventually confined to his wheelchair, he continued to attend meals and coffee breaks with his confreres until late July 2011, at which time it became necessary for him to remain in bed.

The funeral was held February 3 in the Archabbey Church, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.

**FR. BONIFACE HARDIN, OSB**

Fr. Boniface Hardin, OSB, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on March 24, 2012, at an Indianapolis nursing home. He was 78.

Fr. Boniface

He was born in Bardstown, KY, on November 18, 1933. He came to Saint Meinrad in 1947 as a high school student. He was invested as a novice in 1953, professed his simple vows on July 31, 1954, and his solemn vows in 1957. A jubilarian of both monastic profession and priesthood, Fr. Boniface was ordained to the priesthood on May 11, 1959.

After his ordination, Fr. Boniface served as assistant treasurer of the Archabbey for six years. In 1965, he was appointed assistant pastor at Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis.

In his first years in the parish, located in an African-American neighborhood, social tensions ran high and the threat of violence was imminent. Fr. Boniface became a speaker for, and leader of, the black community in the search for justice and civil rights.

In 1969, he founded the Martin Center, an Institute of Afro-American Studies, named in honor of St. Martin de Porres and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Center aimed to combat oppression, particularly as minority individuals and groups encountered it through racial prejudice. The Center’s mission also included assistance to those affected by sickle cell disease and associated disorders through its supportive services, education and advocacy.

The Martin Center was but one of Fr. Boniface’s major contributions to the Indianapolis community. With an associate, Sister Jane Schilling, he founded Martin University in 1977. Through their hard work, funds were raised, donations and grants were received, and relationships and loyalties within the community were established and nurtured.

The university’s original mission of serving low-income, minority and adult learners continues to be its primary focus, although, as from its beginning, it welcomes students from all backgrounds. Martin University reflects, and promotes well, its founders’ dream of being a “university without walls.” Fr. Boniface retired as the university’s president in 2007.

For a number of years, Fr. Boniface was instrumental in introducing many seminarians from dioceses throughout the United States to the ethos and needs of the black community through a program in which participating students would reside and work with the black community in Indianapolis for several weeks.

Fr. Boniface was the recipient of many awards and honorary doctorates, among them the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1997 from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The funeral Mass was held March 30, with burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.
It has proven to be a valuable resource for the Seminary and School of Theology.

Jeff Jenkins, director of the Mader Learning Center, and Clare Haden, oral communication specialist, are now certified to help foreign students speak English better. In January, they traveled to Houston, TX, to take courses in the Compton Pronouncing English as a Second Language (P-ESL) Foreign Accent Modification program.

This program begins where conventional English as a Second Language (ESL) courses end. The courses identify specific accent “habit” patterns and find ways to reduce pronunciation problems.

How will the Compton Method be utilized at Saint Meinrad? Any new seminarians who come to Saint Meinrad from another country can get assessed during their first semester. From that assessment, 19-20 target sounds will be chosen as the focus in improving their speech.

To customize the program, Jenkins and Haden reviewed the new Roman Missal and pulled words and sentences to use as practice material. They used the structure of the Compton Method, but redesigned it with liturgical and Biblical words that students will frequently encounter during their formation. It’s a Catholic version of the Compton Method, they explain.

The process is extensive, but they will continue to build on it throughout the semester and in semesters to come.

Jeff Jenkins and Clare Haden: Certified to help students speak English better

IPP plans cruise retreat for priests

If you’re a priest, you have probably discovered that finding time to take a retreat and get in some vacation days is becoming more and more difficult. However, a program of Saint Meinrad’s Institute for Priests and Presbyterates lets you combine both.

The IPP is hosting a four-night Bahamian cruise retreat. “Preparing for Preaching Advent” will be directed by Fr. Guerric DeBona, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and an assistant professor of homiletics in the Seminary and School of Theology.

The cruise on Royal Caribbean’s Majesty of the Seas is October 8-12, 2012. Pricing begins at $610.00 for an inside cabin, double occupancy. The cruise leaves from Miami, FL, and visits Nassau, Bahamas; Coco Cay, Bahamas; and Key West, FL.

More details are available by contacting the IPP at (800) 357-8477, smipp@saintmeinrad.edu or http://ipp.saintmeinrad.edu.

Would you like to make a gift to Saint Meinrad and receive income for life?

For information regarding Saint Meinrad’s annuity program, contact:

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

Gift annuities are subject to state law and not available in all states.
Dr. Tom and Rita Walters were presented the C. Albert Koob, O. Praem Award by the National Catholic Educational Association on April 10. The award is given to an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution to Catholic education in one or more of these areas: teaching, administration, parish religious education, research, publication or educational leadership.

Dr. Walters is a professor of catechetics in Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He earned a bachelor’s degree from LaSalette Seminary, a Master of Arts from the University of Detroit, and Master of Education and doctorate degrees from Wayne State University.

Rita Walters earned a bachelor’s degree from Alverno College, Milwaukee, and a Master of Religious Education from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. She worked in the Saint Meinrad Development Office as a grant writer for 10 years.

Tom and Rita have worked together on surveys and publications in the areas of catechetics and ministry formation. Their publications range from a textbook series to research on generational differences among lay ecclesial ministers. They are currently concluding a national survey of parish catechetical leaders to assess how the ministry has changed over the past 30 years.

The Koob Award is presented annually at the NCEA Convention & Expo. This year’s convention was held in Boston, MA. The Walterses were honored at the President’s Award Dinner.

NEW DEACONS  Cont. from page 1

offered by other institutions in that it takes Saint Meinrad’s 150 years of experience with education out to the dioceses. Typically, a group of deacon candidates meets one weekend a month for 10 months for a four-year period.

“The spirit of what has and continues to happen here on the Hill is transmitted through the lecturers who go on site and teach on behalf of Saint Meinrad,” Fr. Julian says. “Our lecturers come from a variety of places, but each one, in his or her own way, is grounded in the ideals and principles on which the Saint Meinrad Permanent Deacon Formation Program is established.”

Dioceses holding ordinations include: Alexandria, LA, ordained 15 men on February 4 and 11; New Ulm, MN, will ordain 12 men on April 21; Cheyenne, WY, 17 men on May 15; Lexington, KY, 20 men on June 2; Springfield, IL, 14 men on June 16; Indianapolis, IN, 16 men on June 23; and Owensboro, KY, 18 men on September 15.

“I have plans to attend the ordinations in each of those dioceses, and am happy to see the culmination of our work in partnership with the diocese,” Fr. Julian says.
Meet Student: Stephanie Kornexl

Stephanie Kornexl
Huntington, IN
Studying for Master of Theological Studies since Fall 2010

Q. What influenced you to begin study for a master’s degree in theology?
At the time, I was working as an assistant editor at a national Catholic publication and was wrestling with many questions about the Church. I wanted a broader perspective and deeper, more nuanced understanding of theology and how that influences people.

I am now working at a parish in the area of children’s formation, where I hope to share my passion for social justice issues and help the students and children I work with to cultivate a love for serving Christ in the world.

Q. Favorite saint and why?
St. Elizabeth of Hungary is one of my favorite saints, because I admire her love for and generosity toward others. She was married into a royal family at a very young age, but always maintained that her riches belonged to those less fortunate, and even convinced her husband of the necessity to share their wealth.

She was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, and during her short life (she lived only until age 24) she had a hospital built where she would visit suffering patients every day.

Q. Favorite Scripture verse and why?
Matthew 25:31-46. I like the Scripture passage of the Final Judgment (“whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine you did for me”), because I always find its clarity and straightforwardness a direct challenge and a bit unsettling. It beautifully captures the heart of the Gospel message to love – particularly those whom I might be tempted to overlook, but are, in fact, Christ in disguise.

Q. Hobbies?
I like reading, playing guitar and singing, journaling, kayaking, and generally exploring new places and ideas.

Q. What aspect of your coursework has been most rewarding?
It has been immensely rewarding and fascinating to learn about the various intersections and complementarity between theology and psychology. In my Human Development and Christian Maturity course with Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, and Contexts of Care with Dr. Ryan LaMothe, there was a continual emphasis on how the one subject area enriches and enlivens the material of the other.

Whenever I find that I can relay the information I’m learning in my classes to my family or friends with enthusiasm, I’m driven to keep questioning and learning even more.

Q. What aspect of your coursework has been most challenging?
I’ve found that it can be an exhausting, sometimes-overwhelming process when you’re questioning long-held beliefs that you’ve had since childhood or re-examining the ways you’re engaging your faith.

It can also be a challenge to balance the rigors of academics and full-time ministry with the need for leisure and intentional spirituality. Having a community of family and friends has helped me keep my perspective and continually reminded me of the importance of prayer as I continue to study theology.

Q. What plans, if any, do you have after you receive your degree?
My plans have changed so rapidly and drastically over the past year and a half since starting at Saint Meinrad that it’s hard to imagine what doors might open for me over the course of the next few years. I imagine I’ll continue in ministry, whether it’s locally or at a foreign mission, and/or further pursue writing.

Julian Cardona, left, and Julio Barrera team up to serve Mexican specialties at the Around the World party on February 3.
Abbey Press general manager to retire in June

John Wilson will retire on July 1 as the general manager of Abbey Press, the printing operation owned by the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad. He has been overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Press since 2009.

Before that, he served as treasurer/business manager of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, which operates Abbey Press.

Greg Tate will take over as the new general manager on July 1. He is currently director of marketing services for Abbey Press.

Wilson has worked for Saint Meinrad for 34 years. He began his career in 1978 as assistant treasurer of the Archabbey. He then served as treasurer and business manager from 1989 until 2010, when he was named Abbey Press general manager.

“John Wilson has had a long association with Saint Meinrad, and has been generous in sharing his talents for the good of the Archabbey,” said Saint Meinrad Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB. “I am grateful for his years of dedicated service and the solid financial footing he helped to establish.”

“In addition, I am grateful for his work at the Abbey Press these last few critical years when we have been pursuing a new direction for our Press. Along with the monastic community, I wish John all the best as he moves away from the day-to-day operations of the Archabbey and the Abbey Press.”

Wilson was instrumental in the start-up of two Saint Meinrad ventures: Abbey Caskets and, more recently, Snail’s Pace, a line of eco-friendly and socially responsible paper products. Snail’s Pace greeting cards, wrapping paper and other items are sold through retail and direct-to-consumer channels, as well as through a fundraising program for Catholic schools and churches.

Wilson has Bachelor of Science degrees in accounting and education from the University of Evansville. He lives on a small farm in St. Meinrad with his wife Sandy; they have three grown children.

According to Archabbot Justin, Wilson will continue to serve as senior business and finance advisor to Saint Meinrad Archabbey following his retirement as general manager.

Greg Tate, of Cloverport, KY, joined Abbey Press in August 1992 and worked as an art director in product development until 1995. For the next four years, he served as a graphic designer.

In 1999, he was promoted to the new position of coordinator of online marketing. He was responsible for pulling together the requirements of the marketing channels of Abbey Press and overseeing their translation into a commerce-enabled website.

Since 2003, Tate has been the director of marketing services. For the past nine years, he has been responsible for the day-to-day management of the Marketing Services Department, including catalog production, online services and other marketing-related creative services. He has been instrumental in the startup of the new Snail’s Pace line.

He studied journalism and communications at Elizabethtown Community College and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design from Brescia University.

“It is a pleasure to welcome Greg Tate to the position of general manager of Abbey Press,” said Archabbot Justin. “He brings his years of familiarity with the various departments of Abbey Press and has the respect of his co-workers there. We offer Greg our support and encouragement in his new position within Saint Meinrad Archabbey.”

Greg Tate

Students make their annual pilgrimage to Monte Cassino Shrine in thanksgiving for Our Lady’s intercession during a smallpox outbreak in 1871.
Alumni Reunion will feature talks, tours, music and awards

For more than 80 years, alumni of Saint Meinrad’s schools have been gathering each year to visit their alma mater, renew acquaintances, and learn about new challenges and opportunities in the Church.

On July 23 and 24, the 84th Alumni Reunion will be held on campus, with events such as a day of recollection, golf scramble, several workshops, time for prayer and Mass, socializing, and the awarding of the Distinguished Alumnus Award to two deserving alumni.

MONDAY’S EVENTS

The Reunion begins Monday morning, July 23, with both a golf scramble and part one of a day of recollection. The golfers will tee off at 10 a.m. at the Huntingburg Country Club. Green fees of $24 can be paid at the course.

At the same time, retired Archabbot Lambert Reilly, OSB, will give the first of his two-part day of recollection: “Eating and Drinking Our Way to Eternal Life.” The second part begins at 1 p.m., titled “All Other Prayer Only Adds to It.”

Archabbot Lambert led the Saint Meinrad monastic community from 1995 to 2004. After his tenure as archabbot, he returned to his work of preaching and giving retreats. For more than 40 years, Archabbot Lambert has distinguished himself as a retreat director and speaker on issues of spirituality and prayer. He has given countless retreats, in particular to groups of bishops, priests and sisters, and has conducted parish missions throughout the nation. He has been a frequent retreat master for Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity in the United States and India.

In the afternoon, alumni will get their first look at the renovated St. Bede Hall. Tours will show off the building’s new conference rooms, classrooms, guest rooms, chapel and offices. The 18-month renovation is on track for completion this summer, shortly after the Reunion.

Following Vespers in the Archabbey Church, a reception and dinner will be held to honor alumni from the high school, college and ordination/theology classes of 1962 (50 years), 1972 (40 years), 1987 (25 years) and 2002 (10 years).

After dinner, a concert of sacred music will be presented in the Archabbey Church.

TUESDAY’S EVENTS

This workshop will consider the relationship between Anglican Protestantism and the Roman Catholic Church. A brief description of the history of the Anglican Communion and its theological issues will be used as background to some contemporary questions about Anglicans joining the Roman Catholic Church and the establishment of an Anglican form of worship.

Fr. Denis, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, has served as president-rector since 2008. He is also an assistant professor of systematic theology in the Seminary and School of Theology. He earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1989 and a Master of Divinity in 1993, both from Saint Meinrad.

He also attended the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, where he received a master’s degree in theology in 2002, a licentiate in sacred theology in 2003, and doctorates in sacred theology and philosophy in 2007.

The annual meeting of the Alumni Association will be held at 11 a.m.

Alumni can choose from two workshop sessions in the afternoon. Beginning at 1 p.m., Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB, will offer “Ministry to the Marginalized” and Kyle Kramer will present “Catholics, Climate and the Common Good: Exploring Our Responsibility to Creation.”

A monk of Saint Meinrad and the associate director of pastoral formation for the Seminary and School of Theology, Br. Zachary is active in voluntary prison ministry and is well acquainted with a
The evening’s reception and banquet will honor two alumni as recipients of the Distinguished Alumnus Award: Fr. Don Wolf, O’81, of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and Bernie Niehaus, O’63, of Vincennes, IN. (See related story on Page 16.)

After dinner both evenings, the Alumni Commons and the UnStable will be open for socializing.

In this issue, alumni will find a reunion registration form. Or, visit the website to register online: http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu. Share stories or pictures from past reunions on our Facebook page at facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni.

The Reunion Mass will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Archabbey Church, with Bishop Charles Thompson T’87, of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, presiding.

Kramer will explore the basic science of climate change as well as the Church’s response – in teaching and practice – to this global phenomenon. He is a trained Catholic Climate Ambassador for the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops-sponsored Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, an organic farmer, author and director of graduate lay degree programs at Saint Meinrad.

In this presentation, participants will better understand who the marginalized are and what help can be offered.

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Six alumni seek board positions

Six alumni are candidates for approval as members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors. Alumni can approve the slate by following the instructions at the end of the article.

Thomas L. Norris, O’64 (’58-64), lives in Louisville, KY. His wife, Patricia, is an alumna of the Saint Meinrad Summer Session. They have four children. In addition to seminary studies, Tom studied business administration at the University of Louisville and Bellarmine University.

He spent seven years in ministry for the Archdiocese of Louisville. Since 1971, he has worked for Arrow Electric Co. Inc. He also helped to establish the local chapter of Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC) and served as a board member and officer for 20 years. He has served on the board of GuardiaCare Inc., a non-profit organization operating an adult day care and fiduciary trust for about 300 clients.

Norris was a recipient of the Bell Award for volunteer service given by Louisville’s WLKY television station. The IEC presents an annual award named for volunteer service given by Norris. O’64 lives in Louisville, KY.

He is seeking approval for his second term on the Alumni Board.

Fr. Frank Torres

O’81 (’74-76) is a priest of the Diocese of Gary serving at Queen of All Saints Parish in Michigan City, IN.

A native of Gary, Fr. Torres worked in the steel mills of northwest Indiana and then served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He has served in a number of parishes, most recently at St. Joseph in LaPorte. Fr. Torres credits his vocation, in part, to the many Saint Meinrad alumni who served as his pastors.

He is an avid runner and competes annually in the Chicago Marathon. Since his ordination in 1994, Fr. Torres has attended almost every Alumni Reunion and regional dinner.

Fr. Torres is seeking approval for his second term on the Alumni Board.

Deacon George C. Stonikinis Jr.

PDP’03 (’99-03) is a member of Saint Meinrad’s first class of permanent deacons, ordained for the Diocese of Richmond, VA. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Virginia Tech, a Master in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth and completed a two-year program in spiritual direction.

Deacon Stonikinis retired from a 35-year career at Longwood University in Farmville, VA, where he served, variously, as professor, academic administrator, program director and academic chair. He was also a graduate school instructor at Virginia Commonwealth for eight years and served as the pastoral administrator of Good Samaritan Catholic Church in Amelia, VA, prior to relocating to Elizabeth City, NC.

Currently, he is assigned to the Diocese of Raleigh as a deacon for two parishes and serves on the Diocesan Permanent Diaconate Advisory Board. He has served on several community boards and is active in the Northeast North Carolina ministerial association and the Knights of Columbus.

Deacon Stonikinis has presented papers at international conferences, published articles, and developed curriculum and educational materials for applications of technology to human services and management. He was recognized for developing and administering the oldest continuously accredited social work program in Virginia and making outstanding contributions to student life through the Honor Board of the University.

He and his wife, Vee Suzanne, have a son and daughter. Deacon Stonikinis is seeking approval for his second term on the Alumni Board.

Deacon Kenneth Johanning

PDP’05 (’01-05) is ordained for the Diocese of Evansville and serves at St. Anthony Parish in St. Anthony, IN, and Sacred Heart Parish in Schnellville.

Deacon Johanning earned his bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s in education from the University of Southern Indiana. For several years, he was self-employed. He taught at North Harrison (County) High School for 13 years. He now teaches integrated chemistry and physics at Greater Jasper High School.

Deacon Johanning and his wife, Gladys, have seven children and numerous grandchildren. They reside in Jasper.

Deacon Johanning is seeking approval for his second term on the Alumni Board.

Ann Tully

T’03 (’96-03) serves in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Tribunal as judge instructor/assessor and previously as advocate/procurator.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Indiana University at Indianapolis. She is
certified by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania as an employee benefits specialist.

She is a member of the Canon Law Society of America, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Vocation Advisory Team, and the Archdiocesan Chapter of Bread for the World. Tully also volunteers at the Indiana Women’s Prison assisting with RCIA instruction and Bible study. She is a liturgical minister at St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis, where she serves as chair of the liturgy committee.

Tully is a recipient of the Bronze Pelican Award, a diocesan recognition given to adults who have made a significant and outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Boy Scouts of America. She and her husband, Tim, have two sons.

She is seeking approval for her second term on the Alumni Board.

Msgr. Joseph Semancik O’53 (’47-53) is a retired priest of the Diocese of Gary residing in Whiting, IN, where he assists at local parishes and at Calumet College of St. Joseph.

After his ordination in 1953, he earned a master’s degree in social work from Loyola University and a doctorate from the University of Chicago.

He served in several parishes before being assigned to Catholic Charities in 1960. He was named diocesan director in 1962, a post he held until 1998. During that time, the agency provided social services throughout the four northwest counties of Indiana and expanded to seven offices and St. Joseph’s Home in Hammond.

He has taught at Bishop Noll Institute, Calumet College and the Graduate School of Social Work at Loyola University.

Nationally, he has served Catholic Charities USA as a member of the board, as a member of the Study Cadre that redirected the work of Catholic Charities, as chairman of various committees, and as a member of the board of Social Thought, a journal of social welfare.

Within the Diocese of Gary, he has served as vicar, dean, consultor and a member of the Priests Council. He was a member of the Priests Pension Board and Priests Personnel Board. In 1984, he was named a domestic prelate with the title of Monsignor by Bl. John Paul II.

In October 2011, he retired from Sacred Heart Parish in East Chicago, where he has served for more than 50 years.

Msgr. Semancik is seeking approval for his first term on the Alumni Board.

Candidates for the Board are elected as a slate for approval. Alumni can submit their approval or disapproval by email to alumni@saintmeinrad.edu, by calling the Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988 or by voting on the alumni website at http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu. Voting ends July 15.

Phonathon yields many pledges

Seminarians, calling for the first time, will sometimes feel a bit apprehensive about asking alumni and friends for support. But after the first few calls, they gain confidence and end the evening on a high note. That’s what happened during the 2012 Annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon, which took place over eight evenings in February and March. Members of the school’s four formation houses—about 140 students—participated, making more than 4,066 calls.

An additional night of calling by Indianapolis area alumni took place at the Catholic Center in Indianapolis, hosted by Ann Tully T’03 (’96-03). Gifts and pledges acquired over all nine evenings totaled $36,410, making it one of the most successful phonathons in more than 19 years.

“A successful phonathon doesn’t just mean a large dollar amount,” says John Huether O’78 (’71-74), associate director of annual giving, who organizes the event. “Making personal contact with our alumni and friends counts just as much toward its success.”

The annual phonathon gives current students a chance to connect with alumni and friends and bring them up to date on what’s happening on the Hill. The students benefit by hearing many kind words of support and encouragement from the alumni. The evenings are fun, informal and even include a touch of friendly competition among the callers.

“The Alumni Phonathon is an important component of our annual appeal,” adds Huether. “Gfits to the phonathon make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, upkeep of buildings and grounds, wellness activities and many other day-to-day operations.”

Alumni can make gifts to the 2011-12 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30.
Mr. John J. Benna O’43 (‘31-34), of Fisher, IL, died November 30, 2011.


Mr. Mark A. Cunningham O’53 (‘47-53), of Kokomo, IN, died November 27, 2011.

Msgr. Donald W. Eichenseer SS (‘69), of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died December 22, 2011.

Fr. Hilary Filatreau, OSB O’49 (‘38-41), monk of Subiaco Abbey, AR, died December 20, 2011.

Mr. Robert Q. Gonzales T’00 (‘98-00), of the Diocese of Phoenix, AZ, died October 31, 2011.

Mr. Richard J. Govert O’55 (‘49-52), of Merrillville, IN, died December 3, 2007.

Mr. John P. Hurley O’77 (‘69-71), of Palmer, AK, died October 5, 2011.

Fr. James A. Imhof, SM SS (‘70), died at the Marianist Center in Cupertino, CA, October 5, 2011.

Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, OP (Honorary Alumnus), retired archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died December 14, 2011.

Mr. Charles Koehler O’63 (‘51-52), of Indianapolis, IN, died December 28, 2011.

Mr. James D. Medernach O’59 (‘47-50), of Aurora, IL, died October 9, 2011.

Fr. Leo Miller, OMI O’52 (‘48-52), a Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate, died November 5, 2011, in Belleville, IL.

Fr. John F. Minnich O’51 (‘45-51), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died December 27, 2011.

Fr. James M. Murray, OSB T’93 (‘87-93), a monk of St. Bede Abbey, Peru, IL, died October 31, 2011.

Fr. Donald A. Quinan O’82 (‘74-78, ’90), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died November 13, 2011.

Mr. Carroll L. Ripperger O’59 (‘47-51), of Richmond, IN, died December 14, 2011.

Fr. Paul E. Ryan, SM Feb’45 (‘42-45), of the Society of Mary, San Antonio, TX, Province, died December 2, 2011.

Mr. Rudolph Stumpp O’35 (‘24-25), of Indianapolis, IN, is deceased.

Mr. Michael C. Tetlow C’85 (‘81-85), of Jacksonville Beach, FL, died November 6, 2011.

Dr. William J. Tomcek O’69 (‘63-65), of Schofield, WI, died December 12, 2011.


Mr. David H. Wagner O’80 (‘73-77), of Bradenton, FL, died December 8, 2011.

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Bishop Anthony Taylor O’80 of the Diocese of Little Rock knew Fr. Wolf when they were students at Saint Meinrad, both studying for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. In his recommendation, Bishop Taylor mentions Fr. Wolf’s cousin, Fr. Stan Rother, whose cause for beatification is in Rome.

Fr. Rother visited the United States from Guatemala in 1981 for Fr. Wolf’s ordination. Two months later, Fr. Rother was martyred. Bishop Taylor suggests that this inspired Fr. Wolf to “serve the Lord as courageously, sacrificially and with the same preferential option for the poor for which Fr. Rother gave his life.”

Fr. Wolf’s latest involvement has been as chairman of St. Gregory University’s Board of Directors, which is owned by the Benedictines of St. Gregory’s Abbey in Shawnee. St. Gregory’s abbot, Rt. Rev. Lawrence Stasyszen, OSB, writes that Fr. Wolf brings “a valuable and effective voice and vision” to this role, and that his love for the university’s Benedictine tradition “has its roots in his experience as a seminarian at Saint Meinrad.”

In his time on the university’s Board of Directors, Fr. Wolf helped the institution through a president’s dismissal, the hiring of a new president and sorting through difficult financial challenges.

Mr. Bernie Niehaus O’63 has remained faithful in his service to Saint Meinrad after having attended high school here from 1951 to 1954. His time left such an impact on him that he continues to contribute his wisdom and knowledge as a member of the Seminary and School of Theology’s Board of Overseers. His sixth term ends in May, totaling 18 years of service on the Board of Overseers, including three years as chair. One nomination noted, “Bernie has been tireless in the giving of his time to the Abbey.”

Niehaus and his wife Patty, who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year, reside in Vincennes, IN. They have five children, Anne, Butch, Catherine, David and Eric; and 19 grandchildren. They are members of St. John the Baptist Parish in Vincennes.

Niehaus also maintains his family business, Niehaus Companies Inc., in Vincennes. It is comprised of 10 companies in the building materials industry located in Indiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois and Alabama. He serves as the CEO and chairman of the board. Niehaus’ three sons are also involved in the family business, and he said he’s “very proud to see the company grow under their leadership.”

Niehaus shared advice for Saint Meinrad students, “Get involved (in the community). Pick two or three areas you want to serve, and give them your all. You will receive threefold what you put
into your service.” Niehaus gives his time and talents to Saint Meinrad, Vincennes University and the Diocese of Evansville.

In 2004, Niehaus worked with Abbey Press to produce his book Splinters. Throughout the book, he shares his wisdom and life experiences about family matters, business operations, the Catholic Church and his community. In the Church section of the book, Niehaus reflects on his time at Saint Meinrad: “I owe Saint Meinrad a lot, for it was the best thing that happened to me.”

He also recalls his favorite teachers and their subjects, “Father Dumasus for history, Father Richard for biology, Father Kevin for Physics and Father Marion for Latin.” He also shares memories of the disciplinarians, Fathers Aemilian and Gerard, mentioning that they carried little black books to keep track of the students’ misbehavior.

Outside his involvement with Saint Meinrad, Niehaus is a strong promoter of Vincennes University. He has served on the university’s board for 23 years, which included serving as chairman. He is also a past chairman of the Vincennes University Foundation. In 2007, he received an honorary doctorate of business from Vincennes University.

Niehaus is also president of the Red Skelton Museum and Educational Foundation. He was president, regional director and executive committee member for the Indiana Lumberman’s and Building Supply Association.

Additionally, he served as chairman of the board of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of Evansville and chairman of the Christian Education Foundation fundraising committee for Vincennes Rivet High School. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and serves on the Priest Retirement Committee for the Diocese of Evansville.

A nominator wrote, “Bernie is a faith-filled, family-centered, Christian gentleman who leads by example. He is a passionate promoter of his church, community, business and alma mater.”

I have experienced Saint Meinrad in every season and still cannot decide which is the loveliest. It is a priority for me to get out and walk when I first arrive to transition to the silence and spiritual presence of the stone and sounds of the Archabbey Church and grounds.

On one of these occasions, I arrived on a very cold December day and went out for a walk. As I approached the Archabbey Gift Shop near the highway, I met a striking Border Collie dog, who immediately decided to adopt me. After many inquiries and no one to claim him, he returned home with me to Indianapolis (after a lonely night in a storage shed up at Monte Cassino)! I named him “Nate” in memory of Fr. Nathaniel Reeves.

On this first walk, he ran ahead of me and sat patiently waiting for me to catch up to him by sitting near the entrance to the monk’s cemetery. Still mourning the loss of Fr. Nathaniel, I felt Nate was somehow a sign from God that the pain of loss transforms, in time, to healing.

Again, when change entered my life during a move from a home to a condo, Nate moved to live with a family with young children to herd and room to run. So, Nate has traveled from southern Indiana to Indianapolis to northern Hamilton County. I would not be surprised to see him show up next on the “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous!”

The most significant change, however, is my own personal transformation – expecting to encounter and serve God in my work at the Tribunal, in my parish, and with family and friends. I have recently begun my novitiate year as a Saint Meinrad Oblate and look forward to making a lasting (but ever-changing) commitment to the monastic community of Saint Meinrad.

As wisely stated by Cardinal John Henry Newman, “To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” Peace.

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Fr. James A. Bacik, PhD O’62 (’54-56), of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, has been the chaplain for Corpus Christi Parish on the campus of the University of Toledo since 1982. After 50 years of priesthood, he has retired and will be available for pastoral assistance.

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB C’98 (’96-98), of Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL, wrote an article in an upcoming issue of Downside Review: “Conversatio Morum? The Development of a Declaration on Benedictine Monastic Life, 1975.” The article discusses the renewal process following the initial implementation of the renewal documents of the Swiss-American Benedictine Congregation after Vatican II.

Very Rev. R. Paul Beach C’97 (’93-97), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, is judicial vicar and director of the tribunal while continuing as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Mt. Washington, and All Saints Church, Taylorsville.


Dr. James F. Chamberlain T’86 (’81-86) is a staff research engineer for the University of Oklahoma Water Center in the School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science. Having finished his doctoral studies at Clemson University in South Carolina, he teaches during the week and does pastoral work on weekends in three Norman, OK, parishes.

Fr. Robert Dale Cieslik O’82 (’74-82), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, archivist of the archdiocese, arranged for the dedication of Phase II of the history center in Louisville on October 16, 2011. At the heart of this expansion is the library of more than 1,000 books belonging to Bishop Benedict Joseph Flaget. During that ceremony, Fr. William L. Fichteman O’81 (’77-81) was presented with an award for his contribution to the project.

Mr. Daniel Conway O’75 (’67-75, SS’80), of Louisville, KY, published a book, A Communion of Saints, which is a fictional treatment of people who have touched his life. One chapter is about Fr. Blaise Hettich, OSB O’50 (’38-51).

Fr. James A. Coriden O’58 (’52-54), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, longtime professor of canon law, received the 2011 Catholic Theology Society of America’s John Courtney Murray Award.

Ms. Lisa Covington T’07 (’04-07) is director of pastoral formation at St. Mary Church in Evansville, IN. Her part-time position covers catechetical, pastoral and sacramental ministry.

Mr. Scott M. Davidson C’91 (’88-91) is an instructor of theology and director of the honors program at Alvernia University, Reading, PA. He was a member of a panel for a program at the Reading Area Community College called “The Digital Agora: Debate in the Age of Facebook” on November 14, 2011.

Msgr. Frederick C. Easton O’66 (’54-60), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, retired from his position of vicar judicial after 31 years in July 2011 and is now adjunct vicar judicial. He spent some time as a visiting scholar at The Catholic University of America researching aspects of canon law and will pursue those studies later in Rome.

Fr. Matthew J. Gerlach T’96 (’89-96), of the Diocese of Tulsa, OK, is the pastor of St. Pius X Church in Tulsa, his home parish. He is also vocation director for the diocese.

Mr. Walter Glover T’06 (’00-05), of Columbus, IN, is raising money for a youth obesity prevention program by climbing the highest mountain in each of the seven continents. Since he began the effort in 2007, he has raised $70,000. He has three climbs to go.

Mark Spratt C’99 (’95-99) has been appointed to a three-year term to the University of Southern California’s School of Social Work Board of Councilors.

The board is comprised of alumni and community members with an interest in social issues, including homelessness, mental health and workplace issues. Members are appointed by the university president upon recommendation of the dean of the USC School of Social Work. Spratt earned a Master of Social Work degree from USC.

Among the board’s roles are to assist the dean with the strategic goals of the school in order to position it among the top five schools of social work and to secure financial support from individuals, corporations and foundations.

Spratt, of Long Beach, CA, is a senior manager in Deloitte Consulting’s Life Sciences practice. He has over 10 years of experience in consulting, focusing on aligning business strategy with the requirements of organizational structure, talent, leadership development and global expansion.
Fr. Warren Heitz, OSB O’67 (’54-67), of Saint Meinrad Archabbeey, St. Meinrad, IN, addressed the International Conference of Catholic Recovery Centers on October 22, 2011, during the group’s annual meeting in St. Louis. He spoke about his journey to recovery from addiction.

Mr. Ronald L. Knapp C’83 (’80-83), of St. Louis, MO, is the director of childhood and family faith formation at SS. Peter and Paul Parish.

Mr. Sylvester Kreilein O’65 (’53-61), of Wauwatosa, WI, received The Distinguished Foreign Language Educator Award for 2011. He is in his 44th year of teaching German. The award was presented at the Wisconsin Association for Foreign Language Teachers Conference on November 4 in Appleton. His brother Fr. Philip Kreilein O’74 (’62-70) was present at the awards ceremony.

Fr. Bryan T. Lamberson T’00 (’95-00), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, is the sacramental minister at Jewish Hospital and a member of Jewish Hospital and St. Mary’s HealthCare’s chaplaincy team. He wrote an article on the sacrament of the sick for the archdiocesan newspaper, The Record, November 3, 2011.

Fr. Joshua McCarty T’09 (’04-09), of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, on October 14, at St. Joseph Parish Hall in Bowling Green, KY, showed for the first time a video about the Eucharist, Given, that he produced. It is the first project of his Lolek Productions. He has been inspired and motivated by the teachings of Bl. John Paul II. Lolek was a boyhood name of the pope.

Most Rev. William F. Medley O’82 (’78-82), bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, was among those honored March 14 at the Salute to Catholic School Alumni 2012 dinner, hosted by the Catholic Education Foundation of Louisville, KY.

Fr. Michael J. Papesh O’76 (’70-72, ’75), of the Diocese of Pueblo, CO, is moderator of the curia and vice-chancellor. He is also director for planning for the diocese.

Fr. Casimir Paulsen, CMM O’62 (’51-53, ’56-62), of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Marianhill, Dearborn, MI, has moved into the CMM community house called Abbot Francis Home in Ikwezi, South Africa, and is serving as its superior.

Rev. Dr. Steven A. Peay O’81 (’76-77) has been named director of field education in addition to his work as associate professor of Church history at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Nashotah, WI.

Mr. Paul J. Poirrier C’94 (’91-94), of St. Anthony, IN, is an insurance field agent for Knights of Columbus.

Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB, retired archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, was honored for his 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination, at a dinner on March 6 hosted by Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. At left is President-Rector Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB, and Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, is at right.
Two alumni will be honored at summer Reunion

At this year’s Alumni Reunion, two deserving individuals will be honored as distinguished alumni. At the Alumni Reunion banquet on Tuesday, July 24, Fr. Donald Wolf O’81 (’75-81) and Mr. Bernie Niehaus O’63 (’51-54) will receive the 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Fr. Donald Wolf O’81 is a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. He attended school at Saint Meinrad, starting as a college junior in 1975 and until his ordination in 1981. May 16 will mark his 31st anniversary as a priest.

Currently, Fr. Wolf is the pastor of St. Benedict’s Parish in Shawnee, OK. Prior to that assignment, he served as associate pastor in Guymon and pastor at St. Francis Xavier in Enid, Sacred Heart in Mangum, Prince of Peace in Altus, Holy Angels and Sacred Heart in Oklahoma City, and Assumption Parish in Duncan.

In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, Fr. Wolf served for eight years on the executive board for the National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC), and from 1997 to 2000 he served as president in Chicago. His service enriched “the experience of priesthood in the United States by forming bonds of collaboration and fraternity among priests of different cultures and countries,” according to one nominator.

Fr. Wolf’s passion for Hispanic ministry and his influence in Oklahoma were highlighted in one recommender’s statement, “Numerous Spanish-speaking Catholics have found a welcome in Oklahoma and opportunities for grace because of Don’s dedication to priestly ministry.” Another person noted Fr. Wolf “has been a primary force for Hispanic ministry in the Archdiocese (of Oklahoma City) and beyond.”

In his Archdiocese, Fr. Wolf has served on the Priests Council, the Clergy Continuing Education Committee and as spiritual director for numerous Cursillo retreats, both in English and Spanish.

A seminarian studying for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma at Saint Meinrad wrote that, while serving at Fr. Wolf’s parish, he learned “how to empower the laity so they can participate in parish functions, and most importantly, share their gifts and talents with the larger community.” The seminarian continued, “Fr. Wolf’s humility, commitment and zeal as a parish priest made me fall in love with what a priest does and who a priest is when he gives himself completely to the needs of others.”

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