For Fr. Gavin Barnes, OSB, the play’s the thing.

Writing a new play was how Fr. Gavin decided to commemorate last year’s 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War.

“I’ve been studying the Civil War since 1969,” explains Fr. Gavin, who taught drama and directed plays at Saint Meinrad College for 38 years. “I always try to get something new – a new approach – so I decided this time to do a careful study of Lincoln’s wartime correspondence.”

He realized, after reading the letters and dispatches written during the war, that many of them were addressed to President Lincoln’s Union Army generals, Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman.

“I began to see that something happened to those three men during those four years, as a result of this exchange of dispatches and letters,” he says. “It was the most surprising kind of development of friendship. It started with admiration, with respect, and then moved into what were clearly very deep feelings on the part of three quite unlikely men.”

Marveling on this unexpected development, Fr. Gavin decided to write a play script about the relationship between President Lincoln and his two generals, for his own enrichment. Using the words of the correspondence as dialogue and 10 of the Civil War’s major battles as the framework, he wrote “Between Friends.”

The play will be one of four productions of the 2012 season at Lincoln Amphitheatre, a 1,500-seat covered outdoor theater in nearby Lincoln State Park. Fr. Gavin didn’t intend for the play to be produced, but his confrere, Fr. Jeremy King, chair of the board of directors for the amphitheatre, passed along the script for consideration.

Continued on page 5
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Monks’ Personals

Fr. Meinrad Brune and Saint Meinrad Archabbey hosted the meeting of the North American Association of Benedictine Oblate Directors, July 1-6.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski attended a conference on the philosophy of Edith Stein in Maynooth, Ireland, July 4-8.

Fr. Samuel Weber was appointed chaplain at the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth, Texas, on August 1.

Fr. Patrick Cooney and Archabbot Justin DuVall attended the 44th General Chapter of the Swiss-American Congregation at Westminster Abbey, British Columbia, from August 4-9.

Archabbot Justin DuVall attended the investiture ceremony for the new monsignors at the cathedral in Indianapolis on August 14. All of the new monsignors are alumni of Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Anthony Vinson participated in the Congress for the Pontifical Pastoral Ministry for Vocations in Rome in November. He proclaimed the Gospel at the opening Mass of the Congress. He also gave a conference titled “What Now? Men of Faith: Seeking God and Serving the Church.” on November 19th at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN.

Fr. Brendan Moss gave the keynote address at the Mid-South Catholic Leadership Conference at Lake Barkley, KY, November 6. On November 19th at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, IN, he gave a workshop for seminarians on “Preaching with the Young Church.”

Management changes announced at Abbey Press

Phil Etienne has been named the new director of publications at Abbey Press, a division of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

He replaces Linus Mundy of Jasper, IN, who retired October 28 after 28 years at Abbey Press. Mundy’s career at Abbey Press included positions as editor of Marriage and Family Living magazine, promotion manager and special projects editor for the Publications Division, and director of publications.

Etienne, of Santa Claus, IN, earned a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Southern Indiana. He has worked at Abbey Press since 1989 in a variety of positions, including copywriter for the direct marketing/ad promotions group, key accounts manager and foreign rights manager for the Publications Division, and children’s book editor.

In June 2009, he took over as managing editor for all publications. Etienne added the duties of managing editor of Deacon Digest magazine in October 2010.

Taking over as managing editor of Deacon Digest is Br. Silas Henderson, OSB. He also will assist Etienne in selecting new titles and developing new products for Abbey Press Publications; working with authors; and overseeing the development of a new series of
children’s books, “Just For Me Books,” which will be released in May 2012.

He has worked at Abbey Press in various roles since 2006, except for 18 months as director of lifelong formation at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Louisville, KY. He is the author of several books, articles, and reflections on Mary and the saints.

**New vice rector appointed for next year**

Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, will step down as vice rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology at the close of this academic year, according to President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB.

Father Godfrey will continue teaching in the school; his new responsibilities will be appointed by Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, at a future date.

Fr. Godfrey has served as vice rector since 2008. He is an assistant professor of sacramental and liturgical theology and the director of worship for the Seminary and School of Theology. He also serves as conference director for the “One Bread, One Cup” program.

He earned a PhD in liturgical studies from The Catholic University of America in 2003. He has a Master of Arts and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad, as well as a bachelor’s degree in history from Saint Meinrad College.

Fr. Denis also announced that Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, has been appointed as vice rector beginning with the 2012-13 academic year.

Currently, Fr. Tobias is director of the Together in One Place program and the World Church program. He also serves as a formation dean in the seminary.

After receiving a bachelor’s degree in French from Saint Meinrad College, he earned a master’s degree in French from Middlebury College and a master’s in religious studies from Indiana University. He has a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

**Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, named professor emeritus**

Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, has been named professor emeritus of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He is the first faculty member to receive this recognition in the Seminary and School of Theology.

He was honored by students, staff and faculty at a school banquet on September 27. He currently teaches Church history at Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Cyprian is a national leader in historical studies of the African American Catholic Church in the United States. The author of numerous articles and books on the history and spirituality of African American Catholics, he wrote *The History of Black Catholics in the United States* for which he received the John Gilmary Shea Award from the American Catholic Historical Association.

Other books include *The Church: A Living Heritage; Stamped with the Image of God: African Americans as God’s Image in Black*, which he co-edited with Jamie Phelps, OP; *Henriette Delille: Servant of Slaves, Witness to the Poor*; and a book of historical essays about Saint Meinrad, *To Prefer Nothing to Christ*.

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. He also received the Marianist Award from the University of Dayton in 2007 and the Acacia Award in 2010 from the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Fr. Cyprian is 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.

**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.
**Events on the Hill**

**February 10-12**  
Guest House Retreat: “Together for Life: A Romantic Covenant” by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB.

**February 16**  
Black History Lecture, speaker to be announced.

**February 24-26**  
Guest House Retreat: “Reading the Book of Hosea: The Prophet of Compassion” by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

**March 2-4**  
Guest House Retreat: “Praying the Psalms” by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB.

**March 13**  
Thomas Lecture, speaker to be announced.

**March 16-18**  
Guest House Retreat: “Searching for What’s Missing” by Br. Adam Edwards, OSB.

**April 4-8**  
Guest House Retreat: “Reflections on the Triduum” by Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB.

**April 20**  
National Players’ presentation of “The Taming of the Shrew.”

**April 21**  
National Players’ presentation of “Of Mice and Men.”

**May 12**  
Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

**June 3**  
The Einsiedeln Society Dinner.

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

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**Health Service: Keeping everyone well is their year-long resolution**

Keeping the monks, co-workers, students and faculty healthy at Saint Meinrad is a fulltime job – but a job welcomed by the more than 20 full- and part-time employees and monks who make up Saint Meinrad’s Health Service and Infirmary staff.

“This is a hard job,” says Ann Rohleder, director of Health Services. “But we care about each other like you would family. And there are always those team players, ready to rally the troops and rise to the occasion. They enjoy a challenge.”

The Health Services staff provides a range of services from infirmary care for the monks to in-office visits for students, monks and co-workers at the Health Service clinic. In addition, Health Service brings in a local doctor one day a week, schedules regular visits from hearing specialists, podiatrists, chiropractors and others, and coordinates a blood drive at Saint Meinrad four times a year.

“My staff is always so dependable and responsible,” says Ann. “They take ownership of their schedule and their responsibilities – they do an awesome job!”

**Monastery Infirmary**

One of the most important services Ann and her staff provide is personal care in the Monastery Infirmary, where they handle everything from chronic disease and general aging complications to post-surgical rehab and other medical issues.

“We work hard to keep the monks as independent as possible,” says Ann. “But sometimes they need that extra level of care.”

“I can attest firsthand, and from a very personal experience, to the quality of care provided here.”

Fr. Simeon Daly, OSB

“I can attest firsthand, and from a very personal experience, to the quality of care provided there,” says Fr. Simeon Daly, OSB, one of the monks who receive regular care from the staff. “St. Benedict in his Rule stresses the importance of care for the sick and allowance for the weak and the aged.”

The infirmary has a capacity of about 16 beds. Currently, 12 of those beds are full. “That’s very high for us,” says Ann. “We’ve nearly doubled our staff. We used to have only one nurse per shift, and now we’re scheduling at least two. We have nurses on the clock 24 hours a day, seven days a week.” Plans call for a monastery infirmary supervisor to be hired to manage the daily care of residents.
In addition to the infirmary staff, several monks and co-workers spend time volunteering. “The monk support we get with everyday tasks is a huge timesaver,” says Ann. “They do small tasks like assisting with meals, sitting with the monks, or even coming to get them for coffee breaks, Mass or meetings. It ends up being a great ministry for the volunteers,” she adds. “They get something back as well from a spiritual standpoint.”

Wellness Program
In recent years, a wellness coordinator and work-study position were added to provide activities and education for students, monks and co-workers. “They’re doing an amazing job,” says Ann. “It’s a great service we’re able to offer.”

Wellness activities range from health screenings and nutrition classes to weight loss programs and exercise classes. The co-worker wellness program has been particularly popular and has helped reduce health care expenses for co-workers and for Saint Meinrad. A student wellness program includes one-on-one sessions in addition to classes and exercise programs.

This year, for the first time, Health Service will provide a week-long class for students during the January Interterm. The new program will include education on cooking and nutrition; exercise; yoga, meditation and relaxation; and other topics.

Monks’ Fitness Program
About five years ago, the family of the late Fr. Camillus Ellspermann, OSB, donated funding to create a fitness room and outfit it with equipment for the monks to use. The room is located within the Health Service clinic. Shortly after its completion, the Monks’ Fitness Program was started and quickly became a hit.

“It’s been a good program and the monks love it,” says Ann. “They even had their own t-shirts made.”

“I hope they (the donors) understand the impact their gift makes,” adds Ann. “It’s huge for our department, because health care is ever evolving. You always have to stay educated and evolve to stay on top of all the changes. I think that’s so important.”

“Health Services has been proactive in promoting healthy habits and lifestyles not only for the monks, but also for our co-workers,” says Fr. Simeon. “For years now, I’ve been participating in the monastic fitness program.”

Personal trainers work with monks two days a week and are certified through the American Council on Exercise. “We usually have about six of the older monks show up for strength training,” says Ann. “It always amazes me – the muscle mass they can build at that age.”

Ann praises the Saint Meinrad leadership for the trust and appreciation they have for her and her staff. “They’re very grateful for all that we do. They really buy into what the Rule of St. Benedict teaches. They put the sick and infirm above themselves, and they see Christ in all.”

New Snail’s Pace catalog
The Trade Marketing division of Abbey Press launched a new Snail’s Pace catalog in early December. This was the first printed catalog that included all 322 products in the line. It also featured 11 display units and 30 new products, including cards, gift wrap and gift bags.

This catalog was mailed to 3,000 current customers and 4,000 prospective customers in the United States, primarily concentrating on the West Coast. Trade show attendance has proven that environmentally conscious stores are prominent in that part of the country. Prospects include national parks, grocery markets, nature/wildlife centers and stationery stores.

Visit www.snailspacepaper.com to see the entire collection, new product offerings and special promotions. The product line features paper goods printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

FR. GAVIN
Fr. Gavin experimented with the play’s form in several ways. For example, he lays out the action in three acting areas on stage. As the action and dialogue take place in one area, the other areas continue, but nonverbally.

Throughout the play, the three main characters – Lincoln, Sherman and Grant – are on the stage the entire time.

“It starts out pretty realistically, as you would normally expect a narrative plot to do,” Fr. Gavin explains. “But very shortly, it begins to become abstract. It becomes symbolic so that, suddenly, anything is possible on that stage, by way of relationships, by way of communication.

“My hope is to free the audience from that burden of verisimilitude; that we don’t have to see it the way it happened.”

In one scene, as Fr. Gavin describes it, “Lincoln is sitting at his desk in Washington, D.C., reading a paper and Grant is talking to Sherman at the field desk in his headquarters in the field. Grant is saying to Sherman, ‘If we can do this and this and this, it will all be over in no time.’ And Lincoln puts his paper down and says, ‘Did somebody say it’s all going to be over in no time?’”

Soon after the cast is selected, Fr. Gavin will work with the actors on voice training and line reading, earning him the title of co-director. He’s excited about seeing “Between Friends” come to life. “That’s a nice thing to be able to do when you’re 84,” he says.

Performances at the Lincoln Amphitheatre will be on the evenings of April 27 and 28, May 4 and 5, along with a Sunday matinee on April 29.

Website
On The Hill is also available on the Web:
www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill
Cristobal Deloera  
Archdiocese: Oklahoma City  
Hometown: Aguascalientes, Mexico

**Q.** What attracted you to the priesthood?  

I was 4 years old when I told my mother that I wanted to become a priest. My friends had told me that the “boogeyman” was going to come at night and get me. So I went running to my mother and asked her, “If I became a priest, the ‘boogeyman’ would not get me and I would go to heaven with God, right?” She told me, “That’s right.” So I said, “Okay, I want to be a priest forever.”

It was somewhat humorous, but that’s how God planted the seed in me. As I matured, I began to know myself better and learned that I had lots of energy and an eagerness to serve. I didn’t know what to do with this; however, I knew that God had greater plans for my life.

**Q.** Who influenced you to begin study for the priesthood?  

First of all, my mother always encouraged and supported me in my vocational discernment. Since I can remember, my mother always took us to church on Sundays and days of obligation.

However, the person who encouraged me to think about a vocation to the priesthood more seriously was Sr. Margarita Vasquez. I remember one day after a Holy Hour, she told me, “Cris, come with me to my office; I need to give you something.” When we got to her office, as she was putting the key in the door, she stopped and looked right into my eyes and said, “Cris, have you ever thought about going to seminary?”

I told her that I had, but that I was not very interested in that style of life. I was very nervous and had been avoiding that question for a long time. She gave me this advice: “Pray to Jesus and Mary and they will show you the way.” I did as she told me and, throughout my personal discernment, I asked God for another sign.

All this was taking place during my senior year in high school. Three weeks later, on a Sunday after Mass, my associate pastor, Fr. Joseph Erwin, asked me the same question. He also asked if I wanted to go to a seminary to see if I might like it. After we came back from our visit to the seminary, I was convinced that God was calling me to study for the priesthood.

**Q.** What were you doing before you came to seminary?  

I had my own landscaping business for four years in Oklahoma City before going to Conception Seminary College in Missouri. I had about 35 lawns that I maintained on a weekly basis.

**Q.** Favorite saint and why?  

St. Dominic Savio, because he was a normal, high-spirited boy who at a young age prayed for long hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He once said, “But I want everything to be for the glory of God.” His simplicity, cheerfulness, fidelity in little things, helping others and obeying his superiors encourage me to continue persevering in my formation to the priesthood.

**Q.** Favorite Scripture verse and why?  

Matthew 26:20: “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” It reminds me that I will always be accompanied by God’s presence, even in the most challenging times of my life.

**Q.** Hobbies?  

One of my favorite hobbies is bird watching. I like to spend time outside walking and admiring nature. I also like to have fruitful conversations with people, because it enables me to grow as a person and helps me develop an open mind about different ideas and personalities. I also enjoy playing sports, listening to music and reading books. In my free time, I also like to make rosaries.

**Q.** What aspect of seminary life has been most rewarding?  

The most rewarding aspect of seminary life has been allowing myself to be formed into the person that God wants me to be. I have been able to recognize my weaknesses and strengths and my gifts and talents, but most importantly, it has also allowed me to admire the talents of others.

**Q.** What aspect of seminary life has been most challenging?  

Being in seminary formation is tough because it almost forces you to look into yourself to know who you are and to realize that you are unworthy of such a calling, but that God has called us in order to shape us into the person He has made us to be. It is from this point on that one allows any growth to take place.

**Q.** Best advice you’ve heard in seminary?  

Never make radical decisions while you are going through a vocational crisis. First, seek the advice of friends and your formators. This has also taught me to be thankful for the gift of my vocation, because each person who is genuinely called to the seminary is handpicked by God.

**Q.** Other comments?  

I would like to encourage young men and women who are thinking, or have thought, about joining the seminary or the convent to give it a chance. God doesn’t take away anything. On the contrary, he will open the doors to your vocation in life.
Abbey Caskets continues to see signs of growth

Twelve years after its founding, Abbey Caskets continues to see signs of growth and has established itself as a profitable business venture for the Archabbey, as well as a valuable service to the local community and beyond.

2011 has been a year of growth and new additions for the casket company and director Jenny Keller hopes to see that trend continue in 2012.

The most visible change is a new location in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop. Abbey Caskets was formerly tucked away in a back corner that was sometimes hard to find. The new location features three entrances including an arched entryway from inside the Gift Shop into an expanded and more visible showroom, a main outside entrance for the public, and a rear entrance for vendors and employees.

New signage planned for this spring will make the business visible from the highway, the front of the building and the new side entrance.

“The way the new office is set up, it’s less disrupting to our day-to-day work,” says Keller. “Having the showroom and main entryway separate allows us to have private meetings with our customers. We also have a conference room where we can hold those meetings away from ringing phones and busy offices.”

The new showroom accommodates Abbey Caskets’ entire line of 11 casket styles in addition to its cremation urns. Previously, only six caskets could be displayed at one time. A slideshow chronicling the building of a casket from start to finish is being created and will be displayed in the showroom when completed.

This past year Abbey Caskets also launched a new website, a blog and a Facebook page. The online resources offer information about the caskets, as well as information about funeral planning and access to the Abbey Press CareNotes series and other grief resources.

Keller has seen an increase in sales to individuals, where the bulk of sales used to be to funeral homes. She’s also seen an increase in information requests through the website.

“We’re holding pace with last year’s sales, which was one of our best years to date,” says Keller. “We’ve seen increases almost every year since 2005. Our prepay orders are also up.” Through the prepay program, customers can pay for their casket in advance and “lock in” the cost of a casket at current prices.

While Indiana and Kentucky continue to be the top markets, Abbey Caskets has shipped to all 50 states and as far away as Ireland.

An open house is being planned to celebrate the new Abbey Caskets location.
Our daily bread: Hobby becomes breakfast treat in the monastery

Thanks to one monk’s hobby, the monastic community now enjoys homemade bread at breakfast six days a week. Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, began experimenting with making bread last May after talking with a friend who saw the recipe on a cooking program.

He makes three loaves a day to be served with breakfast. The bread isn’t made on Sunday because he considers it “ordinary” bread – something simple and handmade that ties in well with monastic values.

“The ingredients are simple and Br. John Mark usually prepares three loaves at the same time.

He recently taught Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, how to make the bread, so it can be served at breakfast even when Br. John Mark is away from the Hill. It’s been a huge hit at the breakfast table and Br. John Mark admits he may have to bake four loaves a day soon. “It doesn’t last long,” he says. “If you don’t get to breakfast early, you may miss out.”

“Dad, if you don’t get to breakfast early, you may miss out.”

Br. John Mark displays a loaf of bread fresh from the oven.

Fr. Severin Messick, OSB, dies September 28

Fr. Severin Messick, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on September 28, 2011, in Greenfield, IN. He was 57. Fr. Severin was born in Indianapolis, IN, on July 12, 1954, to Henry and Anna (McGuire) Messick. He is survived by his mother.

He attended Chatard High School in Indianapolis. He graduated in 1977 from Saint Meinrad College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in the classics. He was invested as a novice in 1977, and professed his simple vows on August 6, 1978. Fr. Severin was ordained to the priesthood on May 2, 1982.

After his ordination, Fr. Severin completed a year of graduate studies in classics at The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. In the late summer of 1983, he was assigned to teach at Trinity High School in Whitesville, KY, and was named associate pastor of St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish in Whitesville.

In 1985, he became associate pastor of St. Ann Parish, Morganfield, KY. The following year, he was assigned to St. Mary Parish, Huntingburg, IN, for six years. He returned to his former parish of St. Ann in 1992 for his first assignment as a pastor.

In 1996, he became co-pastor of a three-parish cluster in southern Indiana, composed of St. Paul’s (Tell City), St. Michael’s (Cannelton) and St. Pius V (Troy). The following year, he was named administrator of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) in Indianapolis.

In 1998, he began his longest pastoral assignment, pastor of St. Michael’s in Greenfield, where he served until his death. He also served as judge of the Metropolitan Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for nearly seven years.

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The funeral Mass was held October 4 in the Archabbey Church, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery.
New books published for deacons, seekers of Benedictine spirituality

Path of Life Publications, a publishing imprint of Saint Meinrad Archabbey’s Abbey Press Publications, recently released two books that feature Saint Meinrad monks as contributors.

Sacred Rhythms: The Monastic Way Every Day is a compilation of 15 of the 22 titles published thus far in the successful Abbey Press booklet series Notes from a Monastery: The Sacred Way Every Day.

In addition, the book features two previously unpublished additions – an introduction by Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, and a chapter by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, on discretion. Other Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad authoring chapters are Fr. Meinrad Brune, Fr. Christian Raab, Br. Matthew Mattingly and Br. Francis de Sales Wagner, who also was the editor.


Chapters were written by other monks, nuns, oblates and well-known lay authors familiar with the Benedictine way of life – including Fr. Michael Casey, OCSO, Kathleen Norris, Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB, Saint Meinrad oblate Janis Dopp and Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB, of Conception Abbey, among others.

The second book, Ordained To Serve: Prayers and Blessings for Permanent Deacons, includes prayers, blessings and other devotions that order the daily life of the deacon and assist in his ministry. The book was edited by Saint Meinrad’s Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB.

The collection provides the permanent deacon an opportunity to deepen his diaconal life through the value of continual prayer and to glorify God in all aspects of that life. The book features more than 400 prayers and blessings for most any occasion needing a deacon’s caring words.

The books are available at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Gift Shop or Scholar Shop, by visiting www.pathoflifebooks.com or by calling (800) 325-2511.

Your gift, like your beliefs, can endure

It is possible to give a gift that keeps on giving. For example, you might give someone a year’s supply of candy, coffee or flowers—any number of things. Every month, a box arrives in the mail with another gift installment. It’s the gift that endures.

Some of Saint Meinrad’s friends do the same kind of thing. They establish an endowment fund with one or more gifts. Every year, a certain amount from the endowment fund is given as a “grant” to Saint Meinrad for a specific purpose or to help with general expenses. It is an enduring gift because the fund’s principal remains intact. Only a portion of the earnings is used for the grants.

As you can imagine, the “gift that keeps on giving” can be enormously satisfying to the donor because it continues beyond death. Established now through a current gift or later through an estate gift, the endowment fund provides an ongoing reminder that the donor believed in the work and mission of Saint Meinrad and cared enough to provide ongoing support.

An endowment funded with gifts totaling $10,000 or more can bear the name of the donor or someone the donor wants to honor. Endowments can be funded with cash, stock or other assets. And they can be directed toward a specific purpose.

Once established, the donor receives annual reports about investment performance and grant use. If desired, family members and friends of the donor can be kept abreast of endowment activity.

Is it difficult to set up an endowment? Not at all. Please contact Barbara Balka, director of planned giving, for information on the process and a sample endowment agreement. Call (800) 682-0988 or email bbalka@saintmeinrad.edu.

Fourteen seminarians were accepted as candidates for the priesthood by Most Rev. Timothy Doherty, bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, on November 6.
Liturgical Music Department continues the tradition

It’s been said, “He who sings prays twice.” That certainly could be said of the monks of Saint Meinrad, who sing/chant/pray together five times a day. Chanting has been one of the hallmarks of monks over the centuries. Monks even provided the manuscripts and, eventually, the books that other monks and clergy used when chanting.

Today Saint Meinrad still provides the resources needed for the singing of the liturgy, not only for its use, but also for others in the United States and elsewhere in the English-speaking world. The digital age has broadened the limitations once imposed by pen, ink and parchment. The scriptorium, or the place in the monastery where books were once copied by hand, has been updated with software programs, computer platforms and copiers.

The work of the Liturgical Music Department ranges from planning and scheduling to producing materials and using voices and instrumental skills to praise God. Fr. Jeremy King, OSB, is the Archabbey choirmaster.

It is his responsibility to assure that what the community sings in church is performed well and that the materials needed are available. “We have monks from their 80s to their 20s that are, on any given day, directly involved with music at worship,” he says.

Assisting is Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, who fills in during Fr. Jeremy’s absence and directs the musical ensembles from time to time. The main composer for the past 40 years has been Fr. Columba Kelly, OSB. He has provided the majority of the chants used at the Divine Office and at Mass.

Fr. Samuel Weber, OSB (currently assigned to St. Thomas More College in Fort Worth, TX), and Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, also contribute to the collection of liturgical music. Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, uses his knowledge of Scripture and poetry to create hymn texts.

Br. Jacob Grisley, OSB, a former choirmaster – as were Fr. Columba and Fr. Tobias – is a skilled programmer who has developed sophisticated methods of scheduling and archiving materials, according to Fr. Jeremy. He has also developed “fonts” for composing chant melodies in digital format. Fr. Harry has also worked on these fonts and regularly updates them.

In the past year, Brent Stamey joined the department to help produce the new materials needed because of changes in the Roman Missal used at Mass. He has a master’s degree in organ performance from Indiana University School of Music.

“The care of singing God’s work is in our hands, and we have an amazing team working together.”

The task of performing the music falls to the cantors, schola and instrumentalists. Cantors are singers who, alone or in small groups, alternate verses of psalms with the entire community – known as the choir.

The schola – Latin for “school” – is a substantial singing ensemble that provides selections for the rest of the assembly to listen to at appropriate moments in the liturgy. The schola usually sings on Sundays or on major feasts and ceremonies.

The schola has produced recordings of Latin and English chants that are available in the Archabbey Gift Shop and the Scholar Shop and in MP3 format on our website. Some of the regular cantors and schola members include Br. Terence Griffin, Br. Martin Erspamer, Fr. Adrian Burke, Br. Silas Henderson, Br. Jacob and Br. John Mark.

Br. Silas and Fr. Jeremy also serve as organists for the community. In addition, Fr. Tobias helps when he’s not busy in the Seminary and School of Theology, where he works and resides. Besides Fr. Samuel, two of the community’s other organists are assigned away from the Hill: Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB, and Br. John Glasenapp, OSB. Fr. Mel Patton, OSB, resides in the monastery infirmary. He served as organist for many years.

Ten years ago, Sr. Regina Marie McIntyre, SP, from St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, came to Saint Meinrad on a sabbatical and was hired as a part-time staff person. Besides playing the organ for liturgies, she has also taught monks to play the organ, piano, violin and cello.

“St. Benedict says that in the monastery nothing should be preferred to the Work of God, that is, the Liturgy of the Hours and the daily celebration of the Eucharist,” Fr. Jeremy says. “The care of singing God’s work is in our hands, and we have an amazing team working together.”

Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB, Br. Jacob Grisley, OSB, and Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, sing during a liturgy in the Archabbey Church.
Renovation in the Seminary and School of Theology is moving forward in both St. Bede and Newman halls. By the end of the year, the most visible progress could be seen on the upper levels of St. Bede Hall. However, work shifted to portions of Newman Hall while students were away for the Christmas break.

**Newman Hall**

Work in Newman Dining Room included installation of several new ceiling-mounted heat and air units, a fresh air exchange, and a lowered ceiling and addition of a bulkhead to hide much of the infrastructure. Other than the ceiling, Newman Dining Room will look much the same as it has for years. Even wall-mounted steam radiators will remain, though they will no longer be functional.

Elsewhere in Newman Hall, installation of stud walls, electrical wiring, water lines, heating and air units, fire sprinkler systems and network cables is under way on all four floors of the north-south wing.

Director of Physical Facilities Pat Clark says The Scholar Shop, the school’s bookstore, is the first area that will be completed so that it can be open for the fall semester. The third-floor counseling center will be completed next, followed by classroom and meeting spaces and, finally, living spaces on the fourth floor.

**St. Bede Hall**

In St. Bede Hall, progress by mid-December ranged from fresh paint and new tile floors on some upper-level rooms to continued installation of infrastructure and drywall on lower levels.

Terrazzo floors saved from the original building were being ground, polished and sealed. New vanities, shelves and bathroom fixtures were also being installed, as well as vinyl and tile floor coverings and window sills.

“By mid-May we hope to start moving in furniture and begin our final cleanup,” says Clark. “We’d like to have Bede Hall completed by mid-July so that Group Accommodations and the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates can begin moving in.”

“Our goal is to be ready when the students return in the fall,” says Clark.

Rooms are starting to take shape in Newman Hall.

Drywallers put the final touches on rooms in St. Bede Hall.

Renovations include several exterior improvements such as parking, sidewalks and new entryways.
Mr. James R. Alhand O’62 (’53-54), of Indianapolis, IN, died September 8.

Fr. Robert L. Dendinger O’75 (’71-75), of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died September 12.


Mr. John K. Harwood O’58 (’49-54), of Wakefield, RI, died September 25.

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

Mr. Harold James O’57 (’48-51), of Washington, IN, died October 5.

Fr. J. Michael Jenkins O’77 (’74-75), of the Diocese of Springfield, IL, died September 21.

Mr. John W. Junius SPH (’45), of Chicago, IL, died October 15, 1996.

Mr. Raymond Kemp O’55 (’43-45), of Vincennes, IN, died July 31.

Mr. Richard Krill O’64 (’56-58), of Toledo, OH, died January 15.

Fr. Donald R. Kunkel O’67 (’66-67), a Glenmary Missionary, Cincinnati, OH, died October 2.

Mr. Robert M. Marks Sr. O’54 (’42-43), of Indianapolis, IN, died August 29.

Sr. Margaret Mary Mattingly, CPS (’92, ’93), of the Passionist Monastery in Owensboro, KY, died May 10.

Mr. John J. Mazelin O’44 (’27-39), of Indianapolis, IN, died September 19, 1999.

Mr. Leon R. McKenzie O’58 (’48-49), of Greenwood, IN, died September 8.

Mr. Donald Merkley O’70 (’59-60), of Anna, IL, died October 4.

Mr. George J. Steger O’66 (’57-60), of Holland, OH, died October 7.

Mr. Robert Verkamp O’59 (’47-50), of Jasper, IN, died August 2.

Mr. Albert J. Wessel O’61 (’49-50), of Jasper, IN, died July 20.

Phonathon keeps alumni connected

Saint Meinrad’s annual Alumni Phonathon gives students on the Hill—as well as some of the monks—an opportunity they wouldn’t normally have: to talk with alumni and friends from all over the country.

“The phonathon is one of the final phases of the Alumni Annual Giving Program,” says Associate Director of Annual Giving John Huether O’78, who organizes the event. “It’s an occasion where we can thank alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad directly for their past generosity and to ask for their continued support.”

The phonathon also gives alumni a chance to hear from a current student or monk and get a firsthand update on what’s happening on the Hill.

This will be the 18th annual phonathon and the third consecutive year the entire student body will participate. For Xavier Raj, a second-year theology student from Palayamkottai, India, last year’s phonathon was enjoyable. “It was a wonderful experience to be in contact with so many people. I was happy to help Saint Meinrad in this way and show my gratitude.”

“Our callers often enjoy meaningful conversations with alumni who are eager to hear from their alma mater, share stories and offer feedback,” says Huether.

Gifts 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.

The phonathon takes place during February and March. Calls will be made to alumni on six evenings. Two other nights will be for calling friends of Saint Meinrad.

Haven’t tried Facebook? 3 ways to get started

Skeptical about Facebook? There are some common misconceptions about Facebook, but if used effectively, Facebook can be a beneficial resource for Saint Meinrad alumni.

In general, Facebook allows anyone around the world to post updates as they happen. Here are a few ways to use Facebook as an alumnus of Saint Meinrad:

- Connect with friends and classmates through wall posts, messages, family and parish pictures, travel plans, sharing resources and countless other social expressions.

- Join or, in Facebook terms, “like” our alumni page at www.facebook.com/SaintMeinrad Alumni to read and post job updates, new parish or diocesan assignments, accolades about yourself or your classmates, death notices, anniversary announcements or pictures, prayer requests, resource sharing and other ideas we haven’t even thought about.

- Check back regularly. Almost daily, we post about something going on around the Hill or an update on an alumnus. It’s a chance to reconnect with Saint Meinrad virtually if you’re not able to make it back for a retreat, reunion or visit. (Maybe you’ll read something on the Facebook page that sparks your interest to return!)

Consider giving Facebook a try. It’s a free way to stay in touch with your classmates and keep your Saint Meinrad spirit burning brightly.

If you have questions about how to create an account or connect to our alumni Facebook page at facebook.com/Saint MeinradAlumni, please contact thermann@saintmeinrad.edu or call our office at (800) 682-0988, and ask for Tim Herrmann. Happy posting!
Rebirth on the Hill
By Deacon Ken Johanning

Deacon Ken Johanning
PDP’05, of Jasper, IN, is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Serving on the Alumni Board has made me aware that various alumni groups have far different emotions when they return for visits to Saint Meinrad. Graduates of the lay degree programs may or may not have had a residential experience on the Hill. They tend to have far different memories of Saint Meinrad than the “traditional” alumni do.

The “traditional” alumni had years to form strong friendships and experienced shared “adventures.” As a graduate of the Permanent Deacon Program, I spent just one week at Saint Meinrad for intensive homiletics training. The rest of our courses were taught on location in the diocese by Saint Meinrad instructors.

Different experiences create different memories, and the memories have a lot to do with our emotions when we return. However, I believe there is one emotion that is a constant for all returning alumni, and that is a feeling of being reborn. There is something about the place that re-energizes, that calms, that puts other things into perspective and makes you feel closer to God.

Jesus told Nicodemus that we need to be reborn, reborn in the Spirit so that we can enter the Kingdom of God. Somehow, Saint Meinrad brings about a rebirth for all alumni. I am sure even visitors share this experience.

Being “reborn” is a symbol for much of what I see happening on the Hill. You see it happening with the construction projects that are renewing Newman and St. Bede halls. Originally built for particular purposes, they are being reborn to serve the needs of a changing institution.

These buildings are physical examples of rebirth, but the more important “rebirth” is seen in the mission of Saint Meinrad. In addition to priesthood formation and the lay degree and permanent deacon programs, Saint Meinrad has initiated a summer youth program, “One Bread, One Cup,” and the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates, and an ecclesial lay ministry certificate program. The Hill is indeed being “born again” to serve the needs of our changing Church, and it continues to offer “rebirth” to all of us who in any way call ourselves alumni.

Nicodemus asked Jesus, “How can anyone be born after having grown old?” Jesus’ response indicated that the answer had a lot to do with the Spirit. The experience of the Spirit’s power renewing us when we visit Saint Meinrad is the common emotion that joins all of us, whatever type of alumni we are.

Reunion dates set for July 23-25

Some old favorites and a look at new renovations will be among the choices for alumni attending the 2012 Alumni Reunion on July 23-25. The summer gathering will mark the 84th time that Saint Meinrad classmates have returned to the Hill to reconnect and renew friendships.

The schedule of events will include a golf scramble; day of recollection; workshops; banquet honoring the 10th, 25th, 40th and 50th anniversary classes; an alumni Mass with Bishop Charles Thompson T’87 (’83-87) of the Diocese of Evansville presiding; and various opportunities for socializing.

Alumni will also get their first opportunity to tour the just-renovated St. Bede Hall, which should be completed this summer. The $8 million project is making space available for the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates, conference rooms, a new chapel and guest rooms.

Also at the reunion, the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association will bestow the Distinguished Alumnus Award on Fr. Donald Wolf O’81 (’75-81) of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and Bernard Niehaus O’63 (’51-54) of Vincennes, IN.

The next issue of the newsletter will include a special insert about the Alumni Reunion that outlines the full program of events, along with registration information.


ARCHBISHOP

took a solemn profession as a Benedictine monk nearly 50 years ago.

Archbishop Daniel served as president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology, and later Saint Meinrad College, from 1971 to 1987. At that time, he was appointed bishop of the Diocese of Memphis. He served there until his appointment to the Indianapolis archdiocese in 1992.

Mr. Ben W. Blanton O’82 (’74-76), of Indianapolis, IN, has been cited as a Baker & Daniels Indianapolis Lawyer of the Year 2011.

Rev. David L. Brindle O’76 (’69-75, ’99), formerly of Goldsboro, NC, now is pastor of Friends Memorial Church, Muncie, IN.

Mr. R. Michael Braun L’09 (’05-08, ’08-11), of Indianapolis, IN, is the pastoral associate for St. Simon the Apostle Parish.

Mr. Bernard Cissell T’05 (’00-02) is now in a pre-novitiate program with the Order of St. Augustine, in Chicago, IL.

Fr. Daniel Dillard T’09 (’04-09), of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, associate pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Hopkinsville, jumped from a plane near Chicago, IL, in tandem with an experienced skydiver, as a part of a recent vacation.

Fr. Tung Minh Do C’99 (’95-97), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, is teaching at Sacred Heart School of Theology, Hales Corner, WI.

Mr. Brian C. Doyle C’95 (’92-95), Middletown, OH, and his wife Donna had their sixth child, Juliana Mae, on May 28, 2011.

Mr. Brian Dunne T’97 (’95-97) is teaching religion and language arts at St. Aloysius School in Bowling Green, OH.

Mr. Joseph E. Fey T’89 (’81-83, ’85-87, ’94-96) is the director of faith formation for the Church of the Epiphany in Port Orange, FL.

Fr. James E. Flynn O’55 (’51-55), retired priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, continues to be involved in human rights advocacy programs such as Witness for Peace, in particular for refugees of El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Msgr. G. Patrick Garrity O’76 (’67-71, ’73-76), of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN, was invested with the papal honors, Chaplain to his Holiness, at a Vespers service October 9, in Sacred Heart Cathedral, with Bishop Richard Stika presiding.

Dr. Matthew A. Gaumer L’08 (’06-07) was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army on February 10, 2011, and is a mobility officer with the 7th Civil Support Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He was deployed for Operation Immediate Response 11 in Croatia during June 2011. On July 6, he received the Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium. He participated in the 95th Vierdaagse Mega-March, July 19-22, in the Netherlands with a distance of 100 km, for which he earned the Royal Dutch Army Four Days Cross. He hopes to complete requirements for a PhD in ecclesiastical history at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven by May 12, 2012.

Fr. Richard M. Ginther O’76 (’68-74), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, on August 1 began a nearly four-month sabbatical made possible by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. and its 2011 Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations. His program included a 10-day pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey following in the footsteps of St. Paul.

Fr. Robert C. Groher O’66 (’60-66, ’75), of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, though retired from active duty, continues his apostolate of preaching on behalf of Food for the Poor, a Florida-based charity that raises money for the poor in 16 countries. He is currently working on a doctorate in counseling psychology.

Fr. G. Robert Gross T’07 (’03-04), of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, IA, is associate pastor of Nativity Parish in Dubuque and vice-rector of St. Pius X Seminary of Loras College. He is also associate director of seminarians.

Mr. Donald J. Hale C’84 (’80-84), of Orlando, FL, is the director of gift planning for the University of Central Florida Foundation.

Msgr. Joseph E. Semancik O’53 (’47-53) has been granted senior priest status by the Most Rev. Dale Melczek, bishop of the Diocese of Gary.

Msgr. Semancik has served at parishes in Hammond, East Chicago and Gary. Since 1974, he has been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish, East Chicago. He began work with Catholic Charities in 1960 and held the position of its diocesan director from 1962 to 1998.

Named a monsignor in 1984, he has written articles on Catholic Charities and Slovaks in Indiana. He has taught and lectured at several institutions and continues to serve on a number of church and community boards.

Msgr. Semancik has served as a dean, consultor, vicar and member of the Priests’ Council within the diocese.
Mr. Robert Henson L’05 (’02-04), of Evansville, IN, is now the executive director of resource development for Ivy Tech in Evansville. He is responsible for fundraising in the Southwest Indiana region.

Sr. Mary Beth Klingel, SP S (’05-06) and Sr. Lisa Stallings, SP L’10 (’06-10), of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, were among the new general officers of the community who took their oaths of office on September 10 during a Mass in the congregation’s Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Mr. Stephen A. McCallister O’75 (’67-71), of Evansville, IN, is the director of liturgy for St. Mary Church.

Deacon John W. McMullen T’91 (’85-90, ’99, ’05-09) was recognized August 4 for having completed 20 years of teaching at Mater Dei High School, Evansville, IN.

Fr. Michael J. Miller O’72 (’60-68), of the Diocese of Monterey, CA, is currently teaching at St. Patrick’s Seminary, Menlo Park, CA.

Fr. Joseph M. Pawlowski O’73 (’65-69), of the Diocese of Gary, IN, is the vicar general of the diocese in addition to his responsibilities as dean of the Porter-Starke Deanery and pastor of St. Paul Parish in Valparaiso.

Fr. Samuel Russell, OSB O’79 (’73-75), of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, was elected president of the National Association of College Seminaries in June.

Mr. George F. Simons O’63 (’55-57), of Mandelieu-La Napoule, France, is founder of George Simons International, a virtual consulting network specializing in intercultural communication and global management. He is one of the founding members and an associate director of Diversophy France.

Fr. J. Mark Spalding C’87 (’83-87), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, is the vicar general of the Archdiocese. He is also pastor of Holy Trinity Church there.

Dr. Darren T. Sroufe C’90 (’86-90, ’97-01), of Evansville, IN, along with 58 others, worked the phones at an event in August to raise funds for the local Muscular Dystrophy Association. Over $50,000 was pledged.

Mr. Joseph D. Stephens O’68 (’60-64), of Tucson, AZ, is the administrator of Crisis Response Network of Southern Arizona in Tucson.

Dr. Melanie-Prejean Sullivan T’03 (’00-03), is director of campus ministry at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. Her program “Whispers, Nudges and a Couple of Kicks,” which teaches discernment to students in courses and on retreats, was awarded an Honorable Mention Exemplary Award by the Catholic Campus Ministry Association.

Mr. Charles S. Thatcher T’88 (’82-87, ’07-08) is the director of music for the Diocese of Orlando, FL, and St. James Cathedral.

Mr. John Verser T’16 (’10-11) is the managing editor of The Port Lavaca Wave semi-weekly newspaper in Port Lavaca, TX.

Fr. Mark J. Vyverman C’88 (’84-88), of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI, is the pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Battle Creek.

Mr. David E. Wathen O’75 (’67-71) was recognized for 40 years of teaching in diocesan schools in the Diocese of Evansville, 27 of those years at Mater Dei High School in Evansville, IN.
The Most Rev. Daniel Buechlein, OSB O’64 (’52-64), archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, stepped down as the leader of the 225,000 Catholics in central and southern Indiana on September 21. His request for early retirement was granted by Pope Benedict XVI.

Archbishop Daniel has led the Archdiocese of Indianapolis since his appointment by the late Pope John Paul II on July 14, 1992.

Pope Benedict appointed the archdiocese’s auxiliary bishop, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, as the apostolic administrator. He will govern the archdiocese until a new archbishop is named.

Archbishop Daniel, 73, requested the retirement due to health issues resulting from a stroke he suffered on March 19, 2011. Normal retirement age for bishops is 75.

The stroke was the latest in a series of health issues for Archbishop Daniel in recent years, including a battle with Hodgkin’s lymphoma in 2008 that required several months of chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

In his retirement, Archbishop Daniel returned to the Saint Meinrad monastery and rejoined the community where he

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