

ON THE HILL

FALL 2015 • VOL. 54:4

Two monks take first vows

Day of Service planned for 2016



Awards: Three monks honored

Cover: Novice Peter Szidik, OSB, joined other runners and walkers for the On The Hill 5K on September 12.



Saint Meinrad



ON THE HILL

FALL 2015 • Vol. 54:4

FEATURES

- 2-3Monastery News/Monks' Personals
- 4Monastery Infirmary Renovation
- 6Student Profile
- 8Fall Semester Begins
- 9Day Of Service 2016
- 10New Overseers

ALUMNI

- 12-13 Alumni Reunion Photos
- 14-15 Alumni Eternal and News
- 16 Br. Benedict Barthel Obituary

On the Hill is published four times a year by Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary and School of Theology. The newsletter is also available online at: www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill

Editor: Mary Jeanne Schumacher
Copywriters: Krista Hall & Tammy Schuetter

Send changes of address and comments to:
The Editor, The Development Office, Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary & School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577, (812) 357-6501 • Fax (812) 357-6759, news@saintmeinrad.edu
www.saintmeinrad.edu, © 2015, Saint Meinrad Archabbey



You can find more photos of Saint Meinrad at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>

Monastery News

Monks honored for their work: history, liturgy and writing

Three Saint Meinrad monks were honored for their work recently.

Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, was posthumously awarded the Reverend Al McKnight Award from the Joint Conference of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, the National Black Sisters' Conference, the National Association of Black Catholic Deacons and the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association.

Fr. Columba Kelly, OSB, was awarded the Spiritus Liturgiae Award by the Liturgical Institute on July 15. The award recognizes distinguished service to the Catholic Church in promotion of the sacred liturgy.

Fr. Columba studied sacred music in Rome, earning a Licentiate in Sacred

Theology (STL) degree from Sant' Anselmo in 1959. He then studied at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, earning a doctorate in 1963.

He is renowned for his work with Gregorian chant. He has been a teacher, composer and scholar of chant for 50 years. When he returned to Saint Meinrad after his studies, he was appointed the monastery choirmaster. He then began his work of composing English-language chants based on the principles used to create the original Gregorian chant repertory.

He has led numerous courses and workshops on chant throughout the United States, at the Abbey of Solesmes in France and for Benedictine communities in Australia.

This is only the second time the award has been given. The Institute, a program of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL, first gave the award in 2010 to Msgr. James Moroney.

Fr. Mark O'Keefe, OSB's most recent book, *Love Awakened by Love: The Liberating Ascent of Saint John of the Cross*, won second place in the 2015 Catholic Press Association Book Awards in the "Best Book by a Small Publisher" category. The publisher is ICS Publications.

Fr. Mark is chaplain at Carmelite Monastery in Terre Haute, IN; associate professor of moral theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology; and the author of a five-book series on the Catholic priesthood. They include *Priestly Wisdom*, *Priestly*

Prayer, Priestly Virtues, The Ordination of a Priest and In Persona Christi.

Other books include *Becoming Good, Becoming Holy: On the Relationship of Christian Ethics and Spirituality, What Are They Saying About Social Sin?* and *Deciding to Be Christian: A Daily Commitment.*

He served as president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology from 1996-2008. ✚

Monastic community welcomes novice, two brothers

New Novice

In a brief ceremony in the Chapter Room, Tony Wolniakowski was clothed in the Benedictine habit on August 5. He begins a year of monastic formation, including study of the *Rule of St. Benedict* and monastic history.



Novice Tony Wolniakowski

Services.

After graduating from Pewamo-Westphalia High School in Westphalia, MI, he earned an associate degree from Lansing Community College in 2009 and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University in 2010.

He was a member of St. Joseph Parish in Pewamo, MI, where he volunteered as a faith formation teacher.

New Brothers

In a ceremony in the Archabbey Church on August 6, Novices John Avery II and Charles Peñalosa professed their temporary vows as Benedictine monks.

As is the custom during the profession of vows, they were assigned religious names. Novice John is now Br. Stephen, and Novice Charles is now Br. Lorenzo.



Br. Stephen Avery

He graduated from Northwestern University in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in music, and then served five years in the French Foreign Legion as a musician.

Br. Stephen, 29, of Indianapolis, attended North Central High School and was a member of St. Pius X Parish.

He graduated from Northwestern



Br. Lorenzo Peñalosa

School of Theology.

He is a graduate of Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis and Marian University, Indianapolis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Catholic studies and history in 2012. He was a member of St. Joseph Parish.

Br. Lorenzo, 23, is a native of the Philippines. Most recently, he has been studying for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, at Saint Meinrad Seminary and

Temporary vows are typically for three years. This period offers a continuing opportunity for the monk and the monastic community to determine whether monastic life is, indeed, the right vocation for this individual. ✚

Monks' Personals

Archabbot Justin DuVall, Fr. Denis Robinson, Fr. Jonathan Fassero, Fr. Anthony Vinson and Fr. Christian Raab attended the inauguration for **Fr. Brendan Moss** as the president-rector of Conception Seminary College on August 23.

Br. Peduru Fonseka was appointed assistant rector on August 24. He will work alongside **Fr. Pius Klein** and **Br. Martin Erspamer**.

Fr. Anthony Vinson attended the opening school Mass at St. Xavier High School in Louisville, KY, on August 27.

Archabbot Justin DuVall visited St. Rupert Parish in Newburgh, IN, on August 30 to attend their 150th celebration for the parish.

Fr. Damian Schmelz completed 14 years of service to the St. Henry Parish, St. Henry, IN, as pastor on August 30. The parishioners held an open house and reception in his honor.

Br. Zachary Wilberding was recently named Volunteer of the Quarter at Branchville Correctional Facility, where he does prison ministry.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain attended the Day of Prayer on September 13 at the Cathedral in Indianapolis, IN, along with the novices.

Fr. Sebastian Leonard retired from Canterbury School in New Milford, CT, after 20 years of service. He was their longest serving chaplain.

Fr. Anthony Vinson attended a Council for Priests meeting in Indianapolis, IN, on September 22. ✚

Smugmug

For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:

<http://saintmeinrad.smugmug.com>

Infirmary:

Monks of all ages value fine medical care



▲ Nurse Mary Jo Waninger stretched out Br. Jerome Croteau's arms to make sure he had enough room to exercise with Fr. Cletus Miller, left, and Br. Giles Mahieu, right, in July.

In less than a year, the monks expect to return to living in the monastery, which is now undergoing extensive repairs.

Along with better plumbing, heating and air conditioning, the monks will have an expanded infirmary wing with more rooms, wider hallways and a central nurses station.

Recently, several monks who had been residents of the infirmary, for one reason or another, spoke about their experiences.

Br. Lorenzo Peñalosa was still a novice when he had foot surgery that required a prolonged stay in the monastic infirmary.

“I had a great experience in the infirmary. I stayed there for about two and a half months,” he says. He was stuck in bed for the first week or so of his recovery, but gradually he gained mobility and began physical therapy.

“As a novice, I was not a stranger to the infirmary,” he says. “Early on in the

novitiate, you are assigned twice a week to visit with and clean the bathrooms and cells (rooms) of the infirm monks in the infirmary.”

As an infirmary resident himself, he soon learned how dependent he was on the nursing staff – he needed help for everything from meals to showers.

“Their care is a perfect combination of support and challenge,” says Br. Lorenzo. “As I got better and could do more, became more mobile, they started to challenge me to do my best in exercising and all that.”

As a monk for more than 70 years, **Fr. Rupert Ostdick** remembers the infirmary area in the old monastery. Before the monks moved into the current monastery in 1982, there were just four rooms with private bathrooms set aside for those who were sick.

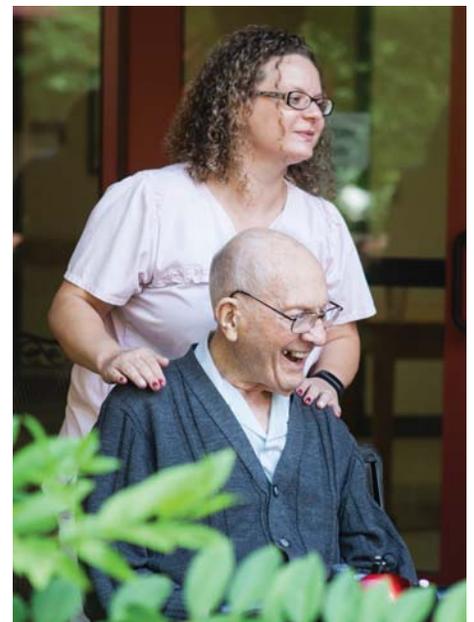
A monk was assigned as the infirmarian to look after the sick, and a local physician made the rounds each week. But a major drawback, according to Fr.

Rupert, was that the infirmary rooms were in the cloistered (private) area of the monastery.

That meant friends and family were restricted from visiting a sick or dying monk. The current infirmary is still inside the monastery but outside the cloister, so visitors and family members are welcome to visit.

Fr. Rupert is not an “official” resident of the infirmary. He lives nearby, so the staff can check on him and refill his medications. “The time that I’ve spent adjacent to the infirmary over the past year and a half or so has been one where I was able to have the care that I need, but I’m not a patient in the infirmary in the strict sense of the word,” he explains.

In 2006, however, he was an infirmary resident. After a fall in the monastery dining room that broke his neck, Fr. Rupert required surgery followed by recuperation in the infirmary for about a month. Since then, the nursing staff has



▲ Monastery Infirmary Supervisor Krista Neuman checks on Fr. Cletus Miller, OSB, before the start of an infirmary exercise class in July.

paid special attention to him. “I have had my needs addressed with kindness and with patience and helpfulness.”

Br. Peduru Fonseka is a young monk, but he’s already been a resident of the infirmary twice. He stayed for about a month when he caught the chicken pox and needed to be quarantined. Then, this spring, he hurt his leg during softball practice and had to have surgery and rehabilitation.

He appreciated being able to return to the monastery soon after surgery. “It helped me to be with the community and not alone in a hospital or a nursing home,” says Br. Peduru. “Being here helped me to continue my formation, plus continuing to be able to attend the Liturgy of the Hours and the Mass.”

He found it helpful to be at home with his monastic brothers, who could stop by and visit. “When you’re physically injured or physically weak, knowing there’s a community and knowing your spiritual life is going to continue at this place with the rest of the community is a great advantage psychologically, a great strength,” he says.

“In both experiences that I was in the infirmary, the care that I got was amazing,” says Br. Peduru. “They (the nursing staff) don’t treat us as patients. They treat us as just part of the family.”

“They know the meaning of our life here and what the monks do, so when they see a monk coming into the infirmary, they see a person rather than just a patient,” he says.

For more information about the monastic infirmary project and how to make a financial gift to support it, please visit www.saintmeinrad.org/support-us/monastery-infirmary/. †



▲ Ann Rohleder, director of health services, greeted Br. Giles Mahieu, OSB, before an infirmary Mass in July.



▲ Krista Neuman, infirmary supervisor, cleaned and dressed a wound on Fr. Rupert Ostidick's arm.



▲ Br. Lorenzo Peñalosa, OSB, stretches after an exercise class in the Wellness Classroom.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

[Meet the Student]

Deacon Tyler Tenbarge

Hometown: Haubstadt, IN
Diocese: Diocese of Evansville

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

I've always felt a call to priesthood. My parents and grade school teachers tell me I talked about it even before I can remember. That said, other things seemed more attractive to me as I grew up: getting married, having and raising children, particular jobs and so on. But what always captivated me about priesthood was a life lived for others and, ultimately, God drew me back in with model priests who were powerful witnesses.

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

My family and pastor had the largest influence on my decision to enter seminary. My pastor was a seminarian when I was in grade school, and he was already encouraging me to consider priesthood. My parents, grandmother, and some aunts and uncles had always been supportive of whatever I chose to do, but they also made sure to affirm my involvement at the parish and gifts they saw that would suit a priestly life.

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

Before entering college at Marian University and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, I worked as a student ambassador at the state and national levels of the National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Organization. These years of facilitating leadership conferences, networking with business and political leaders, and advocating about agriculture actually served as the seedbed of revisiting my vocation to priesthood. My time with the FFA prepared me well for

speaking, leading, building relationships and many things that come with priesthood.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

I have three right now. St. John Paul II, St. John Bosco and Bishop Simon Bruté, whose process of canonization has been opened. I admire St. John Paul II's ability to speak to and inspire the human heart in the modern world, I ask St. John Bosco's intercession in working with and serving young people as they grow in faith, and Bishop Simon Bruté is a local, humble model of a pastor living his mission of service to the people.

Q. *Favorite scripture verse and why?*

I almost always go to Christ's claim in John 10:10 – "I came that they might have life, and have it abundantly," because I think that's what we are all looking for: life to the full. But right now Jesus' words in John 15:15 are speaking to me – "I call you friends." So often people think God is "out there" or apart from us, and yet God came to us here on Earth as one of us and called us friends – not slaves, not servants, not subordinates – but friends. If we only knew how much the Lord loves us and wants us to spend time with Him, our life would indeed be so abundant.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I'm a farm kid, so anything outdoors, fixing or building, exploring or creating is what I find myself doing in my spare time. I also run and bike often, paint every once in a while, facilitate leadership training conferences on occasion, and play soccer and Ultimate Frisbee any chance I get.



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

Prayer, hands down. It is the great privilege that we who are heeding the same call as the earliest disciples to "come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" get to likewise spend years in study and prayer coming to know Jesus Christ before being sent on mission. Anyone can make this relationship with Christ a priority. Seminary just helps make that easier to do.

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

I think we are trained to set goals, make plans and work until we achieve what we want in life. Seminary is not really that way, though. So much about seminary is letting go of everything I have in mind that the Lord might show me the even greater life He has in store. It's not easy to let go like that, but it has been wonderfully worth it.

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

A mentor of mine liked to say, "As goes the seminarian, so goes the priest." It doesn't sound like "advice," per se, but it is true. How I am in seminary is how I will be as a priest. Therefore, I need to practice now how I want to serve as a pastor tomorrow, and this advice just

helps remind me of why I am studying and preparing all these years.

Q. *Other comments?*

If you or someone you know is thinking about seminary, here are three things that helped me. First, keep praying about it. The Lord will show you the way. Second, talk with someone who supports you.

Those conversations are more valuable than you know. Finally, if you're leaning toward it but unsure, go. Seminary is the only place to confirm a call to priesthood, and if you find you are called to another vocation, you will be a better man for having spent a few years with amazing guys, supportive mentors and much time coming to know Christ. ✚

School appointments named

Three appointments to positions in the Seminary and School of Theology were made in August by President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB.



Dr. Patrick Cooper

Dr. Patrick Cooper has joined the administration in the new position of director of clergy formation programs. He will oversee the Permanent Deacon Formation Program and the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates.

Previously, Dr. Cooper was at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, where he earned his PhD in theology and religious studies in May 2014. He had been a researcher on the Theology and Religious Studies faculty at the university since 2014.



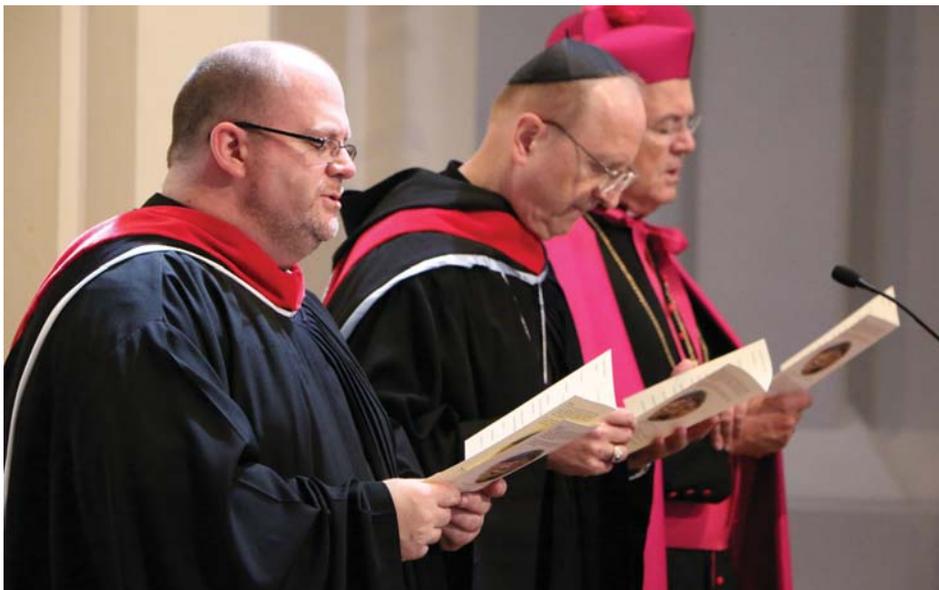
Fr. Julian Peters

Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, who has served as director of the Permanent Deacon Formation Program since 2009, will serve as the clergy liaison to the program.



Br. James Jensen

Br. James Jensen, OSB, has been appointed as the administrative assistant to the "One Bread, One Cup" summer youth liturgical leadership program. He earned his Master of Arts degree in Catholic philosophical studies in May. ✚



▲ *Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, (left) a monk of Saint Meinrad, is installed as president-rector of Conception Seminary College on August 23. With him are Abbot Gregory Polan, OSB, and Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, both monks of Conception Abbey.*

EVENTS ON THE HILL

October 23-25

Guest House Retreat: "Listening to God with a Discerning Ear" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

October 27-29

Guest House Retreat: "Beauty as a Pathway to God: Religious Art and Symbol in the Spiritual Life" by Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB.

October 31

Abbot Martin Marty Guild Day of Recollection.

November 13-15

Guest House Retreat: "Covenant: Our Relationship with God in Christ" by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB.

November 20-22

Guest House Retreat: "Aging Gracefully: A Retreat for 60s and Over" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

December 18-20

Guest House Retreat: "The Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

February 2

Black History Lecture, by Fr. Dexter Brewer.

February 12-14

Guest House Retreat: "Sincerely Yours" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

March 8-10

Guest House Retreat: "From Anger to Forgiveness" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.

For more information, call (812) 357-6611 or visit our website www.saintmeinrad.org

Fall Semester

opens with new students,
new program name

On a hot Friday afternoon in August, the orientation staff gathered on the Memorial Lobby steps to help move 18 new seminarians into Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

“The seminary is very blessed this year with our new students,” says Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. “They come from so many different places, they are different ages, they have different backgrounds, but somehow over the course of this year they will all become men of Saint Meinrad. That’s the beauty we see every year in our seminary program.”

New and returning seminarians arrived from 24 dioceses, including five foreign dioceses. There are 105 diocesan students enrolled this fall and 14 religious order students, representing seven religious communities.

This year’s total of 119 seminarians is a drop from the 132 enrolled last fall.

The Graduate Theology Programs, formerly known as Lay Degree Programs, opened the school year with 82 students registered. Four are full-time, 62 are part-time and 16 are non-degree. Last year’s enrollment was 92 students.

Along with a new name, the Graduate Theology Programs staff have new titles. Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, has been appointed director of Graduate Theology Programs. She is also transitioning into a new position, dean of School of Theology Programs, as part of a new administrative structure in the school.

Agnes Kovacs serves as the associate director of Graduate Theology Programs and director of continuing formation, and Erin Dwyer holds the position of administrative assistant to Graduate Theology Programs and the Office of Enrollment.

“Our changes in the administrative structure for our Graduate Theology Programs offer us the opportunity for a



▲ *Seminarian Robert Smith helped new students move in on August 21.*

great deal of growth and development in those programs,” says Fr. Denis. “These programs have always been an essential component of what we do here at Saint Meinrad and they deserve our undivided attention.”

In the Permanent Deacon Formation Program, there are 185 deacon candidates enrolled this fall from 12 dioceses. Last year, there were 191 candidates representing 11 dioceses.

This July and August, there were 73 deacon candidates from six dioceses on the Hill for homiletics workshops.

See page 7 for a story on school appointments. ✚



▲ *Stephen Hart learned about iconography during the Intensive Spiritual Formation Week before semester classes began.*

Website

On The Hill is also
available on the Web:
[www.saintmeinrad.edu/
onthehill](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/onthehill)

Projects needed for Saint Meinrad Day of Service

Plans are under way for the third annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service to be held Saturday, March 12, 2016. Organized by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association in partnership with the Alumni Office, the event is open to all alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad.

“For over 50 years, students at Saint Meinrad have volunteered in various capacities through the Cooperative Action for Community Development (CACD) program,” says Christian Mocek, director of alumni relations.

“The Saint Meinrad Day of Service is an opportunity for our alumni and friends to continue this tradition of service – a chance to pray together, socialize together, and encourage one another in order to strengthen their local communities and the Body of Christ. We are now looking for volunteers who are willing to organize a project in their city.”

Tom Norris, organizer of the Saint Meinrad Day of Service in Louisville, KY, is hoping for more projects in 2016. “If you went to Saint Meinrad, you have a certain mindset. You are proud to have been there, and this is a time when we can share with others our Benedictine influence of prayer and work,” says Norris. “[The Day of Service] is a time to form a relationship with people who do things because they want to live out the Gospel value of ‘love your neighbor.’”

“It fosters yet another connection between Saint Meinrad and its alumni. It is a visible sign of the work of our association,” says Darren Sroufe, organizer of the Day of Service in Evansville, IN, and director of planned giving and foundation relations in Saint Meinrad’s Development Office.

Sroufe planned the first Day of Service two years ago and is hoping to spread

projects nationwide. “My favorite part is meeting new alumni and friends,” he says. “The Day of Service is an opportunity to carry out our commission as Christians learned during our formation at Saint Meinrad.”

How to Organize a Project

This year, the Alumni Office has developed a toolkit to help site coordinators organize a project for the Saint Meinrad Day of Service. It includes a planning timeline, a step-by-step description of the duties of a site coordinator, frequently asked questions and other useful information. The toolkit is available on the alumni website: <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice>.

The Alumni Office will work closely with all those planning a project. “If you are thinking about hosting a project but have a few questions or reservations, please feel free to give me a call,” says Mocek. “We work hard to make sure every project has the support it needs.”

Norris encourages those who wish to plan a project to start early. “I know the Day of Service is planned for March, but start connecting with organizations now. You may find you need to change directions on a project if it is not what you had originally planned.”

Sroufe suggests focusing on the theme of the day – *Ora et Labora*, or prayer and work – when planning a project. “Prayer is an integral part of the day and it helps to make the day an enjoyable and memorable occasion.”

Where to Go from Here?

Last year, 130 volunteers participated in the Saint Meinrad Day of Service at five locations: Louisville, KY; Evansville, IN; Indianapolis, IN; St. Meinrad, IN; and Wilmington, DE.

In 2016, projects are already planned for Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Kankakee, IL; and the Los Angeles, CA, metro area (planned for Feb. 27).

Mocek suggests talking to local classmates and friends to solicit ideas for a local nonprofit or church that might be a good site for a Saint Meinrad Day of Service project. “Previous site coordinators have found that connecting with organizations where an alumnus is actively involved as a staff member or volunteer to be very helpful. Also, do not hesitate to reach out to former site coordinators for advice when planning a project.”

The Alumni Office is accepting new projects from now through December of this year. Volunteer registration for the Day of Service will be open January 1, 2016, on the alumni website.

To learn more about the Saint Meinrad Day of Service or how to organize a project on March 12, 2016, email Mocek at cmocek@saintmeinrad.edu or call (812) 357-6501. You can also find details at: <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice>. †



Saint Meinrad
DAY OF SERVICE

has been set for
March 12, 2016.
Watch for more details!

Four members join Board of Overseers

The Board of Overseers welcomes one new, one emeritus and two returning members to the advisory board for Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The Board of Overseers advises President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on matters related to the school's programs and performance and addresses strategic questions related to the future of the school. Each member serves a three-year term.

The new member is Fr. Brent Lingle; the returning members are Linda Budney and Deacon Frank Olmstead; and the emeritus member is Barbara Mitchel.



Fr. Brent Lingle

Fr. Brent Lingle was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Sioux City, IA, in 2007. He serves as director of worship, vice chancellor, episcopal master of ceremonies,

assistant to the diocesan bishop and director of the propagation of faith for the Diocese of Sioux City.

Fr. Lingle received a bachelor's degree from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary and Saint Mary's University in 2003 and graduated from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology with a Master of Divinity degree in 2007.

He was the past administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Spencer, IA. He is on the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Linda McDonald Budney, JCL serves as an advocate on the Washington, D.C. Archdiocesan Tribunal. She has been an adjunct instructor for Saint Meinrad



Linda Budney

Seminary and School of Theology, teaching canon law in the Graduate Theology and Permanent Deacon Formation programs.

She has also served as an advisor to the Bishops' Committee on the Laity and a consultant to the Sub-Committee on Lay Ministry during the drafting of the document, *Co-workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*.

From 2005-2014, she was pastoral associate for adult faith formation at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac, MD. Budney is an oblate of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, and is a dame in the Order of Malta.

She has a degree in canon law from The Catholic University of America. Budney and her husband David LaRoche live in Bethesda, MD.



Deacon Frank Olmstead

Deacon Frank Olmstead teaches theology and is assistant service project director at De Smet Jesuit High School in St. Louis, MO. He also served 24 years as pastoral director and is in

his 42nd year of teaching.

Deacon Olmstead holds a bachelor's degree in theology and Latin from Benedictine College, Atchison, KS; a master's degree in dogmatic and systematic theology from St. Louis University; and a master's degree in religious education from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese

of St. Louis on June 6, 1999.

Deacon Olmstead was assistant professor of theology at Benedictine College from 1975-1984 and served on the faculty of Pope Paul VI Pastoral Institute in St. Louis for 15 years.

He and his wife Mary have presented workshops for deacon candidates in the Belleville, IL, diocese through Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He was dean of students in the Saint Meinrad School of Theology Summer Program from 1980-1982, and served three terms as president of the School of Theology Summer Program Alumni Association and nine years on the summer program's Alumni Board.

Deacon Olmstead served two terms on the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology Board of Trustees and served one term as executive secretary. He is currently on the Deacon Digest Advisory Board.

He and Mary are members of St. Cletus Parish in St. Charles, MO, where Mary is director of religious education and Frank serves as a deacon.



Barbara Mitchel

Barbara Mitchel is a former secondary school teacher and owner/operator of Williams Creek Ceramics. She is now retired.

Mitchel is a graduate of Purdue University. She is active in her home parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, where she is an adult bible study discussion leader. She also serves at the welcome table after Mass.

This past June, she was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Hoosier Art Salon as the representative for Psi Iota Xi. Mitchel is a member of the St.

Vincent Hospital Guild and is an active volunteer on behalf of the hospital for 30 years.

She is a current member and past national president of Psi Iota Xi National Philanthropic Organization and a member of the Carmel Clay Historical Society.

She served on the Board of Overseers for 12 years, before completing her service in 2014. ✚



▲ Br. David N'Djam, OSB, practiced drumming before a Mass at Monte Cassino Shrine during the international student outing on September 12.

Alumni Survey

Make sure to fill out the 2015 Alumni Survey!

Either return the one we sent or fill it out at alumni.saintmeinrad.edu!

Thank you for your feedback!

AAGP finishes strong for 2014-15

The 2014-15 Alumni Annual Giving Program came to end on June 30 and, once again, Saint Meinrad alumni have shown their commitment to their alma mater with an overall response rate of 25%.

“Every year I’m so impressed with the way our alumni support Saint Meinrad,” says Duane Schaefer, Saint Meinrad’s director of development. “At a time when only 8%-9% of alumni support their alma mater nationwide, Saint Meinrad alumni have a participation rate that is 23%-25% year after year. That’s a real testament to their generosity and their deep love for Saint Meinrad.”

Gifts from Saint Meinrad alumni for the program year amounted to \$546,981. The five classes with the best participation rate were:

O’51	54.6%
O’73	50%
O’57	47.4%
O’76	46.5%
O’52	44.8%

By supporting the Alumni Annual Giving Program, Saint Meinrad alumni make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, wellness activities and many other programs that give today’s students the same advantages that alumni had when they attended Saint Meinrad.

The 2015-16 Alumni Annual Giving Program kicked off in August. This year’s premium is a set of four burgundy, bonded leather coasters with the Saint Meinrad Alumni logo imprinted in silver. Alumni can qualify for the coasters by making a gift of \$200 or more or by making a first-time gift of \$100 or more. ✚



▲ Br. Stephen Avery, OSB, received the sign of peace from Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, after he made his first vows in August.

Alumni Reunion 2015



Photos, beginning at top left: Fr. Gavin Barnes, OSB, gave a presentation on theater in the seminary during the Alumni Reunion.

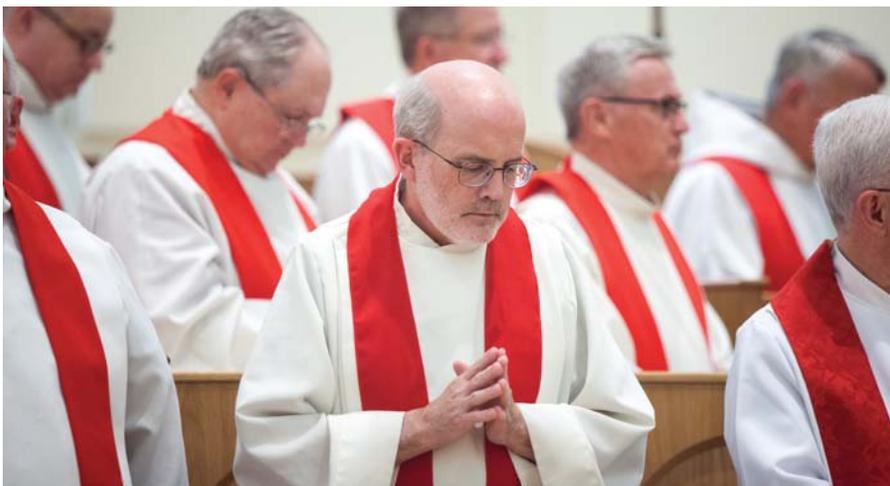
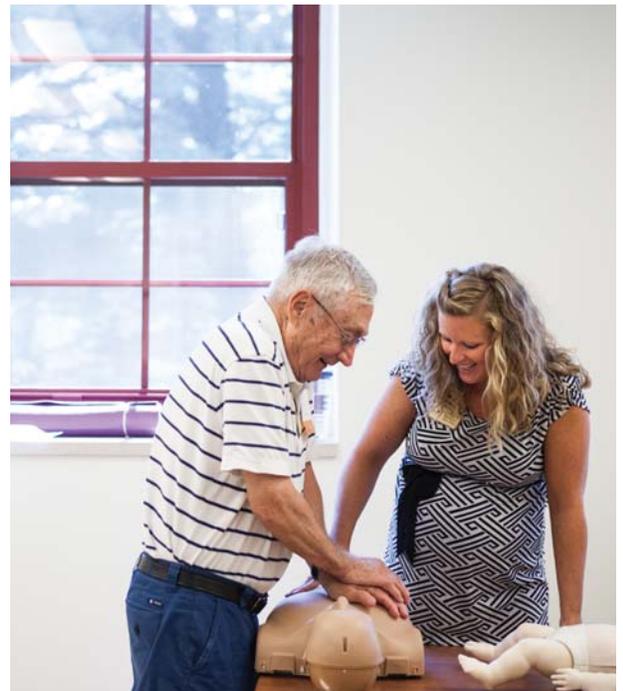
Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, gave a presentation on diocesan reorganization on Tuesday of the reunion.

Alumni Board members Lanny Hollis, left, and Mary Diane Valentine discussed discipleship in the digital age during a presentation given by Fr. Eric Augenstein on Tuesday of the reunion.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, made pretzels with the junior monks for a homemade beer tasting reception on Tuesday of the reunion.

Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, visited with reunion participants before his presentation titled "The Human Face of God: Mark's Portrait of Jesus."

Alumni Reunion 2015



Photos, beginning at top left: Saint Meinrad welcomed 185 visitors to the Hill for the 87th annual Alumni Reunion.

Fr. Raymond Studzinski, OSB, visited with alumni during a reception in the Alumni Commons.

Saint Meinrad Wellness Coordinator Jill Memmer instructed alumnus Rich Norwood on how to perform CPR during the Alumni Reunion on Monday.

Alumnus Fr. Bill Lucas prayed during the Reunion Mass.

Mark your calendar: the 2016 Alumni Reunion is scheduled for July 31-August 3.

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Donald G. Blume O'68 ('56-58), of Huntingburg, IN, died on July 17, 2015.

Mr. Ronald Boarman O'71 ('59-60), of Evansville, IN, died on June 10, 2015.

Fr. Noah J. Casey O'76 ('67-71; '75-76; '81-82), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on July 10, 2015.

Fr. Roy E. Dentinger O'50 ('39-50), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, died on June 23, 2015. He was a past member of the Alumni Board.

Mr. Hugh Dewig O'56 ('44-57), of Albuquerque, NM, died on June 2, 2015.

Mr. James J. Doherty O'55 ('43-51), of Bloomington, IN, died on July 29, 2015.

Mr. Richard L. Dukes O'66 ('58-59), of Delphos, OH, died on July 12, 2015.

Fr. Donald J. Eder O'60 ('54-60), a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, died on July 19, 2015. ✨

Mr. Robert Frieders O Feb.'45 ('34-45), of Sun City, AZ, died on April 6, 2015.

Mr. Daniel R. Grafton O'74 ('62), of Martinsville, IN, died on July 9, 2012.

Fr. Joseph P. Jaros O'56 ('44-52), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on August 1, 2015. ✨

Rev. Kilian Kerwin O'68 ('56-69), of Indianapolis, IN, died on September 3, 2015.

Mr. Cyril Klee O'52 ('41-44), of Naples, FL, and Bloomington, IN, died on September 5, 2015. ✨

Mr. Jerald Patrick (Pat) Minderman O'71 ('59-67), of Memphis, TN, died on July 26, 2015. He was a past member of the Alumni Board.

Mr. James R. "Dick" Morgan O'64 ('52-56), of Destin, FL, died on August 18, 2015.

Mr. Joseph A. Scarselletta GTP (2000), of Littlestown, PA, died August 14, 2012.

Fr. John Strebig O'52 ('46-52), a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died April 9, 2015. (*Corrected from last issue.*)

Mr. James Louis (J.L.) Thomas O'65 ('59-65), of Louisville, KY, died on July 20, 2015.

Fr. William Wargel O'65 ('53-65), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, died on July 1, 2015.

Fr. Gordon A. Yahner O'63 ('51-53; '55-57), a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, died on August 13, 2015. ✨✚

✨ - Member of The Einsiedeln Society

A key to the initials behind the names of alumni:

C: College

GTP: Graduate Theology Programs

HS: High School

MAT: Master of Arts (Theology)

MAPT: Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology)

MTS: Master in Theological Studies

O: Ordination

PD: Permanent Deacon Formation Program

S: Sabbaticant

SPH: St. Placid Hall

SS: Summer Session

T: Theology

Alumni Board slate approved

Seven alumni have been approved to serve on the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Each will serve a three-year term.



*Rev. Msgr.
Christopher P. Vasko
O'83 ('79-83)
of Toledo, OH*



*Frederick L. Chandler
O'72 ('64-68)
of Indianapolis, IN*



*Fr. J. Randall
Hubbard T'90
('78-83; '88-90;
'97-98; '00)
of Louisville, KY*



*Deacon Greg Clodi
C'86 ('82-86)
of Kankakee, IL*



*Fr. Jerry Byrd
T'12 ('06-12)
of North Vernon, IN*



*Deacon
Richard Cooper
GTP ('05-08; '14-15);
PD'12 ('08-12)
of Corydon, IN*



*Dr. Mary Diane
Valentine
MTS'13 ('10-13)
of St. Peters, MO*

Save the Date!

November 10, 2015

Indianapolis Area

Alumni & Friends Dinner

March 12, 2016

Saint Meinrad Day of Service

ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Adam Ahern T'15 ('11-15), associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, IN, and chaplain of Providence High School, has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the Indiana Army National Guard, where he will serve as a chaplain.

Dr. Patrick Carr C'82 ('79-82), a research professor at North Dakota State University's Dickinson Research Extension Center, has been named an American Society of Agronomy Fellow. It is the highest honor the society bestows, and only 0.3 percent of the society's active and emeritus members may be elected a Fellow.

Mr. William Cunningham O'74 ('66-70), of Worthington, OH, has retired as senior high school and young adult youth minister at St. Peter Parish in Columbus. He and his wife Maureen are active members of the parish community at St. Thomas More Newman Center on the Ohio State University campus.

Br. Cassian Elkins, OSB, T'17 ('13-15) made his solemn profession of vows as a Benedictine monk at Subiaco Abbey in Subiaco, AR, on August 8.

Mr. Vince Flusche T'90 ('83-90) has begun work as a hospice chaplain/bereavement coordinator at Vantage Hospice in Katy, TX. He completed a one-year residency in clinical pastoral education at Memorial Hermann Hospital SW in Houston.

Mr. John V. Foster O'73 ('61-69) was featured in a June 28, 2015, article in the *Evansville (IN) Courier & Press* about his beekeeping hobby. He is executive director of Wesselman Nature Society and keeps 22 beehives at his home.

Mr. Keith Fritz C'99 ('95-97), owner of Keith Fritz Fine Furniture of Ferdinand, IN, has partnered with Todd Davis, of interior design firm Brown Davis Interiors of Miami Beach, FL, to collaborate on a new line of high-end wood furniture.

Fr. Francis M. George C'83 ('79-83), pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Howell, MI, and chair of the Committee for Liturgical Design for the Diocese of Lansing, is on sabbatical at the Institute

for Continuing Theological Education at North American College, Vatican City, through November.

Mr. Robert Hyland C'90 ('87-90), of Trumbull, CT, is working as a senior project manager in IT for Save The Children, a group that works to help children globally to survive, learn and be protected from harm.

Mr. Tom Jelneck C'95 ('91-95), president and CEO of On Target Web Solutions in Maitland, FL, has joined the board of directors of MicheLee Puppets, a nonprofit that uses educational puppetry to tackle critical youth issues.

Sr. Mary Caroline Marchal, SC, SS'77 ('72-77; '78) has been elected to a four-year term on the Leadership Council of the Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati. She has been working in adult faith formation and RCIA at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Louisville, KY.

Fr. Josh McCarty T'09 ('04-09), a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, received a Gabriel Award for his video "Shawn's Eyes" by the Catholic Academy of Communications Professionals in June. McCarty's video company is called Lolek Productions.

Dr. Robert Rivers T'02 ('96-00) is a member of the Religious Studies Department at Cristo Rey Atlanta Jesuit High School, where he teaches 140 sophomores. He presented the keynote and two workshops for the convocation of permanent deacons and their wives in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY, in May.

Fr. Jason Sharbaugh T'09 ('04-07) is the pastor of St. Boniface Church in Fort Smith, AR. He was awarded an honorary diploma in May from Subiaco Academy in Subiaco, AR, where he was asked to leave following his third year of high school there. He credits the school with providing the foundation for his vocation.

Msgr. William Stumpf T'85 ('80-81), **Very Rev. Joseph Feltz T'02 ('97-02)**, **Fr. Stephen Giannini T'93 ('87-93)**, **Fr. Todd Riebe S ('94)**, **Fr. Jeff Godecker O'69 ('57-69)**, and **Fr. John Hollowell T'09 ('04-09)** were among those

appointed to five-year terms on the College of Consultants for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Mrs. Carrie Williamson MTS'14 ('11-14) is the new director of pastoral ministry at St. Patrick Parish, Louisville, KY. She previously served as associate director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Fr. Alex Zenthoefler T'05 ('01-05), pastor of Annunciation Parish in Evansville, IN, earned his doctorate of ministry degree in preaching on May 8 from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO. ✝



Alumnus bishop to head Kansas City-St. Joseph

Bishop James V. Johnston Jr. T'90 ('85-90; '99) was appointed by Pope Francis as the new bishop of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, MO, on September 15. His installation will be held on November 4.

Since 2008, he has served as the bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO.

A native of Knoxville, TN, Bishop Johnston left a career in engineering in 1985 to study for the priesthood. He earned his Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad in 1990 and was ordained for the Diocese of Knoxville in June of that year.

He earned a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America in 1996. In Knoxville, he served in parish ministry and as chancellor and moderator of curia before his appointment as bishop.



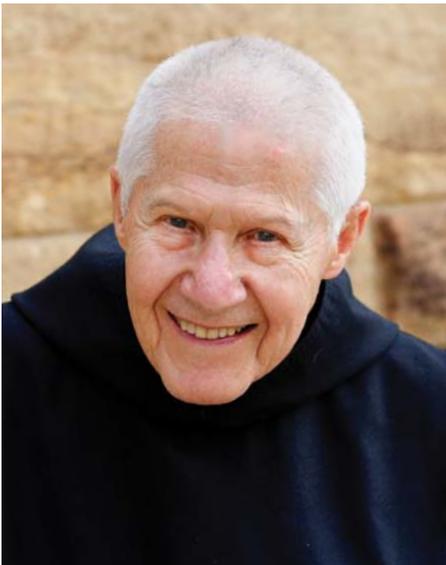
Saint Meinrad

200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #3
St. Meinrad, IN

Return Service Requested

Br. Benedict Barthel, OSB worked 50+ years at Abbey Press



Br. Benedict Barthel

Br. Benedict Barthel, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on September 15, 2015, in the monastery infirmary. He was 95 and a jubilarian of profession.

Surviving is a brother, Br. Romard Barthel, CSC.

Br. Benedict was born in Evansville, IN, on November 3, 1919, and was given the name Carl Frank at his baptism. He attended Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville for two years, before entering St. Placid Hall at Saint Meinrad in 1936.

He was invested in the monastic habit on February 9, 1938, and professed his simple vows on February 10, 1939. He professed his perpetual vows on February 10, 1942, and solemnized his vows on March 21, 1973.

Shortly after his simple profession, Br. Benedict attended a trade school for machinists at Marty, SD, for three months. Upon his return to Saint Meinrad, he worked for four months in the blacksmith shop, and then began to provide clerical help at Abbey Press.

In 1943, he began a 27-year period of working with various printing machines

at Abbey Press, assignments that included Intertype operator, pressman, and foreman of the Platemaking Department for the offset presses. In 1970, he began mold making in the newly established Sculpture Shop, a work he continued until the operation closed in 1995.

Following this, Br. Benedict worked in the Scholar Shop (the school's bookstore) for five years, while serving also as the assistant guestmaster. As a guestmaster, he prepared and published worship aids for the guests who joined the monastic community for prayer and Mass in the Archabbey Church.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on September 18, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✝



**Like us on
Facebook**