

The GIFT PLANNER

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S CHURCH

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Interest in preaching leads to planned gift



David and Barbara Mitchel

Barbara and David Mitchel's interest in the work of Saint Meinrad began with preaching. In the late 1980s, they learned about a project to improve the curriculum and facilities used to teach preaching (homiletics) to seminarians studying to become priests.

"We were concerned about the formation of new priests and getting more priests," says Barbara. They knew that many of the priests in their diocese had attended seminary at Saint Meinrad, so they made a pledge to a campaign called Challenge for Excellence,

which would emphasize the importance of preaching.

Both David and Barbara believe that what people often remember most about Mass is the priest's homily. If it isn't a good homily, then the experience is less than noteworthy. "The need for good preaching was what really got us started," according to David.

Over time, they learned more about Saint Meinrad's work with priesthood formation and made a visit to campus in the early 1990s. Fr. Martin Dusseau, OSB, gave them a tour and answered

questions about the monastic community's work.

Over the years, they have visited many times and have gotten to know various monks of Saint Meinrad, although Fr. Martin, who died in 1997, remains a favorite.

The Mitchels raised four sons in their country home north of Indianapolis, where they've lived for more than 50 years. Although "retired" from the manufacturing company that he and his brothers operated for many years, David still works closely with his sons, who now have roles in the company.

Barbara and David have expressly used their own philanthropy as a teaching tool for their children. Both grew up with parents who had giving natures, so it was natural to model that for their sons.

"We definitely wanted to set that example for our kids," says David.

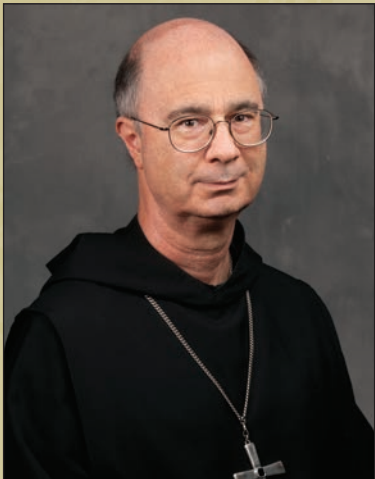
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Saint Meinrad

Archabbey and
Seminary & School of Theology





**Rt. Rev. Justin DuVall, OSB
Archabbot of Saint Meinrad**

Dear Friends,

To become a full and permanent member of the Benedictine community at Saint Meinrad, my brother monks and I professed solemn vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community.

Each vow has particular importance to us. The vow of stability, however, is one that we share with our friends and benefactors in a unique way. In professing stability in the community at Saint Meinrad, each monk chooses to join this house, this place and these people.

I might describe stability as being rooted or putting down roots. Many of you, through the gifts of your prayers and resources, have made a declaration of your faithfulness to Saint Meinrad. In sharing your resources, either now or in the future, you have demonstrated your rootedness and created a legacy for future generations of Catholics.

My confreres and I are grateful for your generosity and for choosing to join in a special way with this house, this place and the monks of Saint Meinrad. Be assured of our daily prayers for you; we ask that you keep us in yours.

+ Justin DuVall, OSB

Through their own gifts of time, treasure and talent, they have supported various charities and religious organizations.

Barbara, for example, has been a longtime volunteer at an Indianapolis hospital and with other civic and professional organizations. She recently completed 12 years as a board member at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

As in many instances, Barbara and David learned more about Saint Meinrad's mission and its programs of forming Church leaders and felt drawn to support them. Some years ago, they set up an endowment that continues to grow. As is the case with endowments, the initial investment remains untouched, but the earnings are used for various programs.

A couple of years ago, they decided to make a planned gift to Saint Meinrad and chose a way to do it that many people are not familiar with – a retirement account.

Making a gift from a retirement account, such as a 401K, is easy to do. You simply add a charity, such as Saint Meinrad Archabbey, as a beneficiary and indicate what

amount or percentage of the account to be used for the bequest.

One benefit of this type of planned gift can be the tax savings. If an individual is named as a beneficiary of a tax-deferred retirement fund, income taxes are assessed based on the beneficiary's personal tax rate. When a charity is designated as the beneficiary, however, no income taxes are due. This maximizes a donor's hard-earned dollars and thoughtful saving throughout his or her lifetime for the benefit of a favorite charity.

Like any planned gift, the use of the funds can be specified by the donor for a particular purpose or left for the charity to determine how best to use it.

The Mitchels agreed not to place conditions on the planned gift, believing that Saint Meinrad leadership can better assess where to use the funds.

"They know best what is needed," says David. "We didn't want to say that the money had to be used for something specific."

Barbara concurs. "We just really felt like we needed to support the seminary that was training and forming our priests." ♦

"Making a planned gift through a retirement account is an easy way you can continue to support the mission of Saint Meinrad."

Darren Sroufe, Director of Planned Giving



Retirement plans can be source of planned gift

You may not consider your retirement plan as a vehicle for making a planned gift, but it's easy to do. You can make a planned gift to Saint Meinrad by naming us as a beneficiary of a retirement plan.

If you participate in a pension plan, Individual Retirement Account (IRA), 401(k) plan or other qualified retirement plan, you have the opportunity to make an important and beneficial gift through a simple beneficiary designation.

Naming Saint Meinrad Archabbey as a death beneficiary also may be good tax planning. Income taxes – and possibly “death taxes” – that may come due at death are wholly avoided. You can name Saint Meinrad as beneficiary of part or all of your account. Simply request a

beneficiary designation form from the plan custodian.

We would be grateful if you would notify us if you decide to include Saint Meinrad in your estate plans. Just return the reply card included with this newsletter or call our office.

Knowing of your plans is important in framing our own plans for the future. Of course, we would like to recognize you for your generosity, either publicly or privately.

For more information, contact:
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For the future of the Church.



By choosing a Saint Meinrad Charitable Gift Annuity, you can support our mission of educating priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers for the Church and receive income for life. Tax benefits also are available through a gift annuity.



Saint Meinrad

Due to various state regulations, Saint Meinrad Archabbey is not able to offer Charitable Gift Annuities to residents in all states.

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