

The GIFT PLANNER

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S CHURCH

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Couple prepares for life's unforeseen events



Darren and Jan Sroufe

Jan and Darren Sroufe know something about how the twists and turns of life can surprise you. They also know something about being prepared for that.

Darren, a 1990 graduate of Saint Meinrad College, had a 20-year career in law enforcement before joining Saint Meinrad as the director of planned giving last year.

In his various duties with the Evansville (Indiana) Police Department, he experienced plenty of unexpected and traumatic situations. Officers

killed in the line of duty, violent crimes, suicides, accidents – the things you can't always predict.

But you can be prepared, Darren says. "You never know when tragedy is going to strike – and knowing that firsthand – it is important to have your affairs in order."

Jan has firsthand experience as well. In 2005, her first husband, Kevin Brickner, was killed in a motorcycle accident on his way to work one evening. She was left with two sons, 11 and 13, and a 7-month-old daughter.

Although Kevin was only 37, he and Jan had talked about what they wanted should something happen to one of them. After his death, Jan recalls, "A lot of people were impressed at how I could just pull a folder out and say, 'This is what this is for' and 'This is what this is for.'"

Several years after they married, Darren and Jan decided to put their own affairs in order, and that included making a bequest to Saint Meinrad.

"We always knew we were going to do that," says Jan, a psychiatric nurse at Deaconess Cross Pointe in Evansville. Darren agrees: "We decided to include those who were of benefit to us throughout our lives."

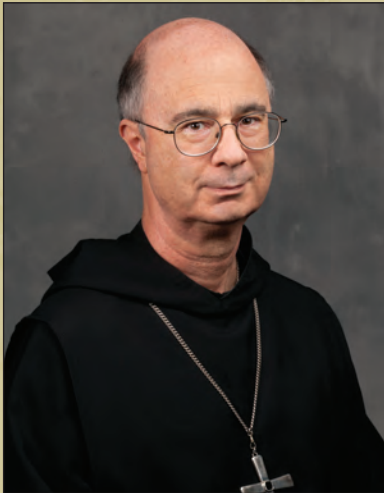
For Darren, his experience with Saint Meinrad goes back to the days before he started college, when he visited campus with his vocation director, now-Msgr. Michael Hohenbrink. "I knew as

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Saint Meinrad
Archabbey and
Seminary & School of Theology





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

Dear Friends,

In this “Year of Consecrated Life,” we focus on the blessings that we have as a monastic community. We celebrate these blessings in a spirit of gratitude. Many of you have faithfully and generously supported Saint Meinrad for years. Some of you have also made a planned gift to Saint Meinrad of one kind or another. In the sharing of your resources, either now or in the future, you have demonstrated your gratitude for the work of those of us who live a consecrated life, here at Saint Meinrad.

This edition of *The Gift Planner* offers you information on a gift opportunity you might wish to consider. It also provides an opportunity for us to express our gratitude to you for sharing your prayers and resources with us.

Your kind expressions of support have made possible the continuation of the work and mission of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. My confreres and I are deeply 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

soon as I stepped on campus that this was the place for me.”

“It’s kind of hard to put in words, but a kind of holiness exists here, and so I knew it was the place for me to study,” he says.

In addition to his college degree, he returned to pursue a master’s degree in theology, which he earned in 2001.

Jan had visited several times, but then attended a Holy Week retreat in 2007 with Darren and became enamored with the Holy Hill as well.

“Saint Meinrad has been an integral part of our lives now, because of the formation I received, but then also the experiences that we’ve had here,” says Darren. “And so when we started our financial planning about three years ago, because of the unfortunate circumstances she had experienced, we realized the importance of having our affairs in order.”

Both Darren and Jan grew up in a small farming community in Ohio, where neighbors helped each other however they could. They were raised to help out when needed, to return a favor or to give back in kind.

That tradition of “giving back” is part of their makeup. “We wish we could give more now,” says Jan. “But a bequest is a way to assure that we’re doing our part, but in a manner that is in the future.”

“Both of us would say that we encourage folks to do what they can. We’re in our 40s and so it’s never too early,” Darren says.

Darren and Jan agree that Saint Meinrad has been important in their lives and they want to help ensure that its prayer and work continue in the future. A bequest in their wills allows them some peace of mind that others will be able to enjoy the formation and blessings that the school and monastery have provided for them. ♦



How can I remember Saint Meinrad in my will?

How you decide to make a gift to Saint Meinrad in your will depends on the type of gift you want to make and your circumstances. There are several ways that you can remember the work of the monastic community or their work of educating priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers in your will.

You can make a general purpose gift through your will. Many people simply designate a *percentage* of their estate. This is the most flexible way to give, in that the gift automatically changes with the size of your estate.

Others designate a *fixed amount*, which is the most common type of bequest. Another possibility is to designate a gift through a residuary clause. This is a gift of whatever property is left after other bequests have been fulfilled.

A charitable remainder trust or an annuity trust may be established within your will. This saves estate taxes *and* provides life income to a survivor for his/her lifetime or for a specified period of years. The principal goes to Saint Meinrad at the survivor's death or when the trust ends.

A charitable lead trust may be established in your will to eliminate estate and inheritance taxes. This increases your estate for your heirs while continuing your important annual support of Saint Meinrad for a specific number of years.

Endowments are often created with bequest gifts. By setting up a scholarship or memorial fund in your will, you can help to guarantee the future financial security of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and Seminary and School of Theology.

This form of "building for the future" is available to all friends of Saint Meinrad, regardless of the size of their estate or current financial responsibilities. Please contact the Director of Planned Giving to discuss your particular area of interest.

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"Making a bequest to Saint Meinrad Archabbey is a wonderful way to contribute to the continual work of Saint Meinrad, leaving a legacy and giving back to a holy place that has given so much to so many."

Darren Sroufe, Director of Planned Giving



Help us carry on God's work.



Your last will and testament can be an eloquent statement of what was most important to you in life. A bequest to help educate priests, permanent deacons and lay ministers at Saint Meinrad is a good way to thank God for your faith and to pass it on to those who follow you.



Saint Meinrad

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