

# ON THE HILL

WINTER 2019 • VOL. 58:1

**Preparing better preachers**

**Peanut Brother:  
A jar of goodness**

**Monk monikers:  
It's all in the name**

Cover: A dusting of snow covers the Saint Meinrad campus on November 16.



*Saint Meinrad*



# ON THE HILL

WINTER 2019 • VOL. 58:1

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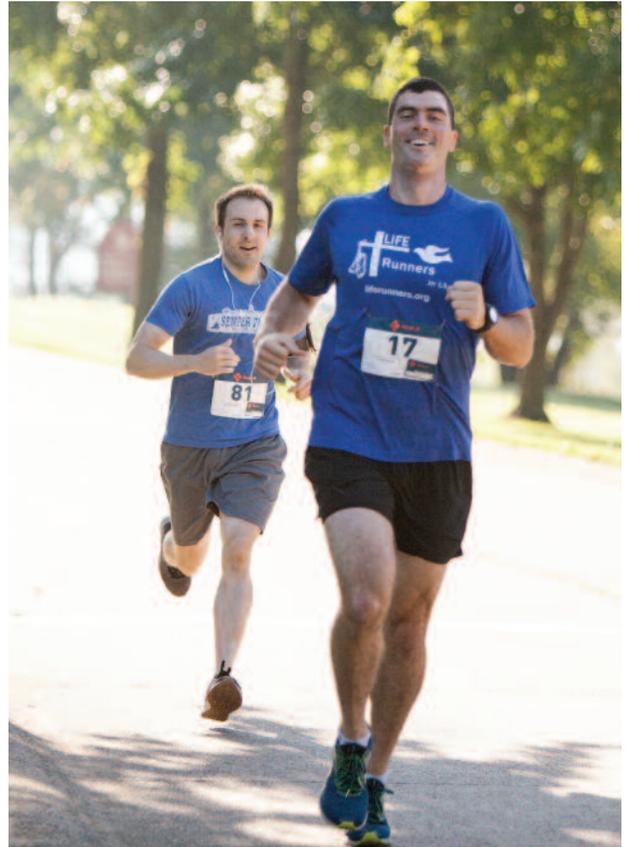
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*Seminarians Garrett Braun, right, and Brent Thayer run next to the lakes during the On the Hill 5K on September 15. Find more photos at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>*

# Monks' Personals

**Fr. Matthias Neuman** presented a program on “The Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church” at the Benedict Inn in Beech Grove, IN, on Tuesday evenings in April and October. The presentations covered the great doctrinal councils (Nicaea and Chalcedon), as well as the major reform and updating councils of Trent and Vatican II. He is the chaplain of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

**Fr. Julian Peters** led a retreat for deacons and their wives in the Diocese of Dallas at Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Dallas, TX, October 4-7.

**Br. Simon Herrmann** was appointed to the Communications Advisory Board.

**Br. Joel Blaize** was appointed webmaster for the Swiss-American Congregation.

**Fr. Adrian Burke** attended the 6th Annual Fr. Michael J. McGivney Vocations Dinner at the Event Center in Huntingburg, IN, on October 30.

**Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, Fr. Tobias Colgan, Fr. Jonathan Fassero, Fr. Julian Peters, Fr. Denis Robinson and Fr. Thomas Gricoski** hosted a reception and dinner during the USCCB’s annual bishops meeting in Baltimore, MD, on November 12.

**Br. Zachary Wilberding and Br. Simon Herrmann** attended and displayed at the SEEK19 Conference in Indianapolis, IN, on January 3-6. The conference was sponsored by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, and roughly 5,000 Catholic college students attended.

**Br. James Jensen** attended the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in Tampa, FL, December 3-7, where the “One Bread, One Cup” youth program sponsored a pre-conference workshop titled “The Liturgy: Every Parish’s Resource for Forming Life-Long Disciples.” ✝

# CareNotes

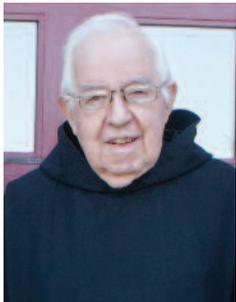
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# Monastery News

## Fr. Mel Patton, OSB

### Musician, chaplain and teacher dies Sept. 6



Fr. Mel Patton

Fr. Mel Patton, OSB, 93, monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died at about 6:30 p.m. on September 6, 2018, in the monastery infirmary.

He is survived by his brother, Manus J.T. Patton, of Grafton, OH.

He was born in Fairview Park, OH, on March 2, 1925, to Anthony John and Josephine (Weber) Patton and given the name Raymond Anthony.

After high school graduation, Fr. Mel enlisted in the United States Army and served as an infantryman in the European Theater for the last two years of World War II. He received the Combat Infantryman's Badge and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

He was an accomplished pianist, studying at the Cincinnati Conservatory and Baldwin-Wallace College. He received certification from the Ohio State Music Teachers Association in 1947.

He accompanied the Little Theater, Severance Hall, Cleveland, for four years, during which time he also accompanied the Finnish Light Opera Company. He also served as organist and choir director at John Carroll University, Cleveland, and as organist at St. Gregory the Great Church, South Euclid, OH.

In 1949, Fr. Mel earned a bachelor's degree in French from John Carroll University, and continued studies in English and Latin. Over the years, he would earn an MA in journalism from

Marquette University, pursue doctoral studies at Georgetown University, and receive the Master of Divinity degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Fr. Mel was invested as a novice of Saint Meinrad on July 30, 1952. He professed his simple vows on July 31, 1953, and his solemn vows on August 6, 1956. He was ordained to the priesthood on September 22, 1956.

After his ordination, Fr. Mel had assignments as director of retreats and director of public relations. He also served the community as an organist.

He taught music and English in Saint Meinrad High School and Saint Meinrad College for 28 years and offered private lessons in piano, organ and singing.

After retiring from teaching, Fr. Mel began a series of assignments serving other religious communities. He was an organist at Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD, and St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, AL. He served as chaplain for the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters at Holy Angels Convent, Jonesboro, AR, for two years, before serving 16 years as chaplain to the Benedictine Sisters, Sacred Heart Monastery, Yankton, SD.

For almost 20 years, Fr. Mel provided weekend assistance to the soldiers at Fort Knox, KY. He returned to Saint Meinrad in 2010 to reside in the monastery infirmary.

The funeral Mass was held September 10, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✝



▲ *Seminarians and faculty members process to the Marian Shrine by the Lake at Saint Meinrad during a rosary procession for the Church in crisis on September 14.*

## EVENTS ON THE HILL

### February 12

*Black History Lecture given by  
Dr. Shannon Dee Williams*

### February 15-17 and March 15-17

*Guest House Retreat: "Beyond First  
Impressions: A Couples Retreat" by Fr.  
Noël Mueller, OSB*

### March 22-24

*Guest House Retreat: "Freedom Through  
Forgiveness" by Br. Zachary Wilberding,  
OSB*

### March 28

*Thomas Lecture given by Dr. Brad Gregory*

### March 29-31

*Guest House Retreat: "A Weekend-long AA  
Meeting in 5 Sessions" by Fr. Colman  
Grabert, OSB*

### April 12-14

*Guest House Retreat: "Spiritual  
Integration: Fitness, Health and Physical  
Well-being" by Br. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB*

### April 17-21

*Guest House Retreat: "The Leaven of  
Christ: That in All Things God May be  
Glorified" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB*

### April 23-25

*Guest House Retreat: "Peace, the  
Benedictine Way" by Br. Maurus Zoeller,  
OSB*

### April 29-May 3

*Guest House Retreat: "Reading the Gospel  
of Luke: Challenges for Contemporary  
Priestly Ministry" by Fr. Eugene Hensell,  
OSB (Priests Retreat)*

### May 3-5

*Guest House Retreat: "Being Creative,  
Being Divine: Freedom and an Ethics of  
Creativity" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB*

### May 7-9

*Guest House Retreat: "The Jesus Prayer"  
by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB*

For more information, call (812) 357-6611  
or visit our website [www.saintmeinrad.org](http://www.saintmeinrad.org)

## Communications expert helps new preachers give better homilies



▲ Deacon Sean Aaron proclaims the Gospel during the seminary Mass on November 9.

For seminarians, when it comes to skills that will be appreciated by future parishioners, good preaching probably tops the list.

What is good preaching? There are plenty of possible answers. But last summer, the seminarians who were working in parish ministry before their final year of priesthood study heard a few answers.

In Saint Meinrad's priesthood formation program, a seminarian is assigned to work in a parish in his diocese. For Deacon Andrew Thomas, that was Our Lady of Hope Parish in Washington, IN, in the Diocese of Evansville.

When a seminarian is ordained a transitional deacon (meaning he plans to continue to priesthood rather than remain a deacon), he can now preach homilies at Mass. During his parish ministry, some of those homilies get evaluated.

Before some of the homilies he preached, Thomas – like other deacons – distributed evaluation forms to various parishioners, covering a range of ages. After the forms are returned, he gets an idea of how his homily was received. Sometimes, he even

arranges to meet with the parishioners later to talk through their feedback.

This summer, another method of evaluation was added. Michael Parrett, a communications expert and self-professed "Catholic nerd," offered to evaluate a homily for each student in the deacon class and then meet with them to go over his comments.

Parrett works at the Indianapolis office of Finance of America, a mortgage lender. His job is to coach employees and help them develop their communication skills. His desire to help the seminarians improve their homilies was a way to use his skills in service to the Church.

He asked each student to have someone videotape a homily as he was giving it and then send him the video. Later, he met with each one, usually through video chat, to view the homily together and offer feedback. Parrett said his goal was to offer practical advice to improve the student's communication style, rather than critique the homily's content.

Thomas said Parrett told him that he noticed that Thomas spoke quickly in his

homily. “He said ... that some people love that because it shows you’re excited about something.” However, when Thomas shifted from a funny story to the more serious message in his homily, his voice sounded like he had lost energy.

After some reflection, Thomas realized, “The area where it made me grow the most was to say, ‘Okay, am I actually excited when I’m preaching about Jesus Christ? Or is it still kind of an entertainment value that I’m giving my homily?’”

He realized it was important to decide: was he telling a funny story to get a laugh from the parishioners, or was he engaging them to help them encounter Christ?

Deacon Sean Aaron is another of the students who received homily feedback from Parrett. He was assigned to St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Zionsville, in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. Aaron wrote out his homilies before giving them, and he was afraid that his delivery might come across as just reading the text.

Parrett said that “reading is not such a bad thing,” according to Aaron. The important point is to be sure your tone of voice and your delivery style enhance your homily message. By the end of the summer, Aaron felt comfortable enough to move away from the ambo to give his homily.

Parrett also advised Aaron to identify the main message of the homily and make

sure everything in the homily connected to that main point, Aaron said. “He advised me to give clear and explicit connections to make sure that your audience is able to make those same connections that you are.”

Thomas and Aaron appreciated the feedback from a communications expert. “It’s good to hear what’s going well, but I also like to hear what needs to be worked on,” Aaron said. “Where are the rough edges that need to be smoothed out?”

Thomas said it was good to get feedback that reinforced what he had learned in homiletics class at Saint Meinrad. “Once you’re living it, you realize that it makes sense why that was part of our homiletics training.” ✝



*Top left, seminarians Matthew Millay, Garrett Braun, Hung Nguyen, Danny Taylor and Peter Grodi celebrate during the seminary kickball tournament on September 18.*



*Top right, fourth-year theology seminarians Vinny Gillmore, from left, Mark Schuster, Ross Caniglia, Aldrin Tayag and Marc Bentley perform a skit based on “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” during the annual St. Nicholas Banquet on December 6.*



*Bottom right, Third-year theology seminarians declare their candidacy for Holy Orders during Mass on November 8.*

## [Meet the Student]

# Steve Angrisano

Diocese: Coppell, Texas

Degree: Master of Arts (Theology) and Specialization  
Certificate in Liturgy and Sacraments

**Q.** *When did you begin your studies?*

2016

**Q.** *What influenced you to begin studying for a master's degree in theology?*

Mainly, the desire to deepen the well, so to speak. I think working in church ministry, ironically, can sometimes make it *harder* to grow deeper in faith, spiritually and intellectually, because you find yourself basically doing the same things every year.

This has been such a rich experience. I also chose Saint Meinrad specifically because I could study at a Benedictine monastery. As a liturgical musician, I find the prayer, liturgy and chant at Saint Meinrad brings so much richness to the experience.

**Q.** *What else are you doing besides seeking a master's degree (work, family, volunteer work)?*

First and foremost, I'm a husband to my wife Jenni and father to three children: Julia, 27, Joshua, 23, and Joseph, 17 (not to mention a brand new grandfather!). I'm a music missionary, speaker and composer published with Oregon Catholic Press. At the heart, I use music, stories and anything else I can think of to help communities to open their hearts to Christ.

**Q.** *Favorite saint and why?*

Our family genuinely takes on saints as family members! St. Benedict, of course, because of the way prayer and balance has been brought into my life as a friend

of the Saint Meinrad community. St. Anthony of Padua has a special place in my heart. He was Italian (a great start!) and known for his homilies. People would come far and wide to hear him speak. I have called on him, as many do, to find things.

But the reason he's special to me is that I was really brought to my knees in the search of something in particular, and it was St. Anthony that I counted as a true companion in that experience. Finally, I think St. Therese of Lisieux would be offended if I didn't mention her. We attribute the adoption of our third child to her intercession and a sign of rose petals from heaven that, indeed, this is our son.

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

Romans 5:3-5. "Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us."

This passage always reminds me that God blesses our efforts and our desire to do his will, and that hope is such a powerful and grace-filled virtue. God calls us to never lose hope.

**Q.** *Hobbies?*

We are a baseball family! All the time. We are true fans willing to get our hearts broken over it. It's been a wonderful, healthy way for our family to be together.



Also, I play the ukulele. It's like therapy for the heart. You can't frown and play a ukulele. I like finding a sweet tune to play for my wife.

**Q.** *What aspect of your coursework has been most rewarding?*

Honestly, with each semester I have been surprised how much I've enjoyed every class. I become pretty immersed in them! I have a much better grasp of the history and theology that serve as the underpinnings of everything we do in practical ministry (I will never take the word *consubstantial* lightly!). I've loved being challenged and stretched in this way.

**Q.** *What aspect of your coursework has been most challenging?*

Making time for the studies in the midst of a fulltime working schedule. For sure, you have to really want to do it.

**Q.** *What plans, if any, do you have after you receive your degree?*

First, to continue to do what I do. To speak and write music, hopefully enriched by this journey. I also hope to write some. In all that I have experienced in the last 25 years, I have a few stories,

*continued on p. 7*

# New staff members join Development Office at Saint Meinrad

Two new people have joined the staff of the Development Office at Saint Meinrad, and one staff member has a new position.



*Christian Mocek*

Christian Mocek has been named the director of annual giving for the Archabbey and the Seminary and School of Theology. Since July 2014, he has served as the director of alumni relations

for Saint Meinrad.

Joining the staff are Joseph Oliveri, the new director of alumni relations, and Brandon Hopf, the new associate director of annual giving.

**Christian Mocek** will be responsible for organizing, planning and managing Saint Meinrad's programs for inviting annual support from individuals, corporations and foundations.

He graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in education from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, OH. He earned a master's in educational policy and leadership in 2014 from the University of Michigan.

He is a member of the board of the Portland Promise Center in Louisville, KY, and a member of the Stewardship Committee at Holy Family Parish in New Albany, IN. In addition, he is a regular contributor to the online award-winning Young Voices column of the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Before coming to Saint Meinrad, he worked as a program assistant for the Center for Educational Outreach in Ann Arbor, MI, where he trained college students for outreach work in schools and the community. He also served as an educational specialist for Excellent Schools Detroit in Detroit, MI.

He and his wife Gillian have one son and they reside in New Albany.



*Joseph Oliveri*

**Joseph Oliveri** will oversee the planning, execution and evaluation of activities and programs designed to address the needs of Saint Meinrad alumni. He will serve as the

principal liaison between Saint Meinrad and the 6,700+ members of the Alumni Association.

He formerly worked in campus ministry at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. He earned a bachelor's degree in education in 2015 and a Master of Arts in pastoral ministry in 2018, both from the University of Dayton.

Oliveri worked at Saint Meinrad for three summers (2013-2015) as a college intern for the "One Bread, One Cup" liturgical leadership program. He also served as a catechist for the program in 2017.

In addition, he was a program assistant for Upward Bound and served as a graduate assistant at the University of Dayton Campus Ministry from 2016 to 2018. He resides in Louisville.



*Brandon Hopf*

**Brandon Hopf** is replacing John Huether, who retired in January. Huether had served in that position for 15 years, joining the Development Office in 2003.

Hopf will assist Mocek in promoting, managing and evaluating the efforts related to acquiring, recognizing, and renewing Saint Meinrad's annual fund donors. He

has particular responsibility for promoting and coordinating the Saint Meinrad Sunday Program in its current dioceses and expanding the program to other dioceses.

Hopf is a 2010 graduate of Oakland City University with a bachelor's degree in business education. For five years, he worked at OFS Brands Inc. in Huntingburg, IN, where he has been a purchasing agent, assistant warehouse manager and warehouse manager.

He also worked as a service writer for Wright Stemle in Evansville, IN, and as a supervising agent for American Income Life in Evansville.

He and his wife Kayla live in Ferdinand. ✝

*continued from p. 6*

prayer and perhaps a little wisdom to share. I knew that taking myself on this journey was an important piece.

**Q.** *Other comments?*

I know that when people consider an endeavor like this, all they see is how long it's going to take. Sr. Jeana (Visel, OSB) was great in helping me put one foot in front of the other and, honestly, before you know it, a few years have gone by and the end is in sight!

This experience has already changed me and formed me in such surprising ways. I know that whatever opportunities and doors this might open for me, the important work is already being done inside me. Thanks, Saint Meinrad, for being such a rich and meaningful part of my life journey. ✝

## Mass Intentions

*You can now request Mass Intentions online*

[www.saintmeinrad.org/mass-intentions](http://www.saintmeinrad.org/mass-intentions)



# ◆ SAINT MEINRAD ◆ PEANUT BROTHER

## Building a community one jar at a time

On a Friday afternoon in November, six monks gathered in the monastery's dining room to work on a common project – making peanut butter. At any given time, up to 20 monks have gathered to work together to make, jar or label the peanut butter the monks call Peanut Brother.

“It is really made by the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey,” says Br. Nathaniel Szidik, one of the project organizers. “It’s not one person, or two people or three people. It’s a community effort.”

This community project began a little over a year ago with three monks who really like peanut butter. They were looking for a healthier option than the commercial peanut butters that have added sugar and other ingredients. Fr. Thomas Gricoski

suggested to Br. Nathaniel and Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski that they should try to make their own nut butter.

The trio began to experiment until they found a recipe that worked and it quickly became a hit with their brother monks. The monastery now goes through about 30 pounds of Peanut Brother a month. Monks eat it on chocolate donuts, and mix it in their Greek yogurt or oatmeal. Some monks microwave it on top of a banana with honey.

“It’s not uncommon to see somebody with a spoon of peanut butter walking around the monastery,” says Br. Nathaniel.

The peanut butter is described as a mixture between chunky and smooth, and not overly oily or sweet. The monks like it

so much that they decided to put a couple of jars in the Archabbey Gift Shop to sell. And the project grew from there.

Recently, the monks prepared 1,300 jars of Peanut Brother to sell at the Christkindlmarkt, a craft show in Ferdinand, IN. Groups of monks would work together for two-hour periods, telling stories and socializing.

“Peanut Brother’s been helping build up the community because it’s giving an avenue where we have more community time together,” says Br. Kolbe.

“There’s a lot of joy,” Br. Nathaniel continues. “There’s a lot of sharing when all of us monks come together to work on this common project.”



*“It’s not one person, or two people or three people.  
It’s a community effort.”*

—Br. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak says Peanut Brother is a good example of a monastic work. It’s a very simple project that almost every monk can do. It doesn’t take a specialized degree or training and the monks come together as a team to do the work. It also gives the monks an avenue to share the story of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

“The peanut butter itself is accidental,” explains Br. Nathaniel. “Yes, it’s fun to make. Yes, it tastes good. But if nothing else, it really opens the door for somebody else to be introduced to Saint Meinrad, but

also, maybe encounter the Gospel message through the witness of our work and the story behind the product.”

“There’s nothing that brings people together such as a common project,” he continues. “In a certain way, this is helping us realize our humanity and the Christ that is in each one of us.”

Peanut Brother can be purchased for \$6.99 at the Archabbey Gift Shop and Scholar Shop or by calling the Gift Shop at 812-357-8290. ✚

*Photos, clockwise from top left: Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski, left, and Br. Nathaniel Szidik man the Peanut Brother booth at the Christkindlmarkt in Ferdinand, IN, in November.*

*The Peanut Brother jar includes artwork by Br. Martin Erspamer and the Benedictine motto, Ora et Labora, Prayer and Work.*

*Fr. Prior John McMullen, from left, Br. John Mark Falkenhain, Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski and Novice Christian Lumsden fill and label the jars.*

*Novice Christian Lumsden, left, and Fr. Prior John McMullen tell stories while they jar peanut butter on November 9.*

# Monk Monikers:

## A tradition rooted in scripture

Fr. Athanasius, Br. Thaddeus, Fr. Eberhard, Br. Adelgott and Br. Balthasar are deceased monks of Saint Meinrad who, in the 1800s, chose their religious names. While those names may have fallen out of favor in the monastery, monks today still follow the tradition of taking a monastic name that is rooted in scripture.

Receiving a religious name symbolizes a new mission or calling from the Lord. It implies a death to self and rising to a new life as a monk of Saint Meinrad.

Saint Meinrad follows the tradition of its Swiss motherhouse, where monks receive a religious name at the first profession of vows. During the week leading up to the profession, the novice submits three names to the abbot. He then meets with the abbot to discuss his choices and the abbot chooses one of the names.

There are a few rules for choosing a new name. First, there cannot be two monks in the monastery with the same name.

“We have a common vocation as monks, but then we all have something kind of particular about us that we’re hoping to strive for and fulfill,” says Fr. Christian Raab, OSB.

“Getting that name is a way for a monk to express not only that they’re becoming a monk of Saint Meinrad, but that they have an idea of the particular kind of monk, the particular kind of ideal they’re striving for.”

The second rule is that the name must relate to a saint. “That name of a patron saint is very often somebody that you look up to or have found a particular significance in, somebody you’d like to imitate,” explains Fr. Christian.

The third rule is that the name is kept a secret until the first profession, when the novice announces his new name to the whole community. This adds a little drama and excitement to the profession ceremony.

Novice Noel Zamora, OSB, is the most recent monk to make first vows at Saint Meinrad. He chose the name Mateo, from Matthew, changing it to reflect his Filipino heritage.

Fr. Mateo recalls his first profession in August. “It was amazing because at the same time I was saying my name, I was thinking to myself, ‘I can’t believe that’s me now.’ It was so surreal.”

Monks choose their names for many different reasons. Some simply look for a name that sounds good with their last name. Others look for a patron saint they admire or try to tie in their heritage or a family name.

Fr. Christian, who was Novice Daniel, submitted “Christian” as his first choice to the abbot, partly because it was his middle name from baptism. He liked the idea that it was a name he always had but had never been known by, just as he’s always had a vocation as a monk.

“Taking my middle name as my religious name connected the whole monastic profession back to the moment of baptism when, for the first time, we are adopted by God as his children and really committed to Christ,” he says.



▲ *Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB, created cutout artwork for Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, of Christian O’Conarchy, Fr. Christian’s patron. The artwork was given to him on his feast day and hangs in his cell (room) in the monastery.*

The name “Christian” means follower of Christ, and Fr. Christian liked that his name would always be a reminder to follow Christ.

He chose a 12th-century Irish monk who became a bishop as his patron saint, Christian O’Conarchy. His patron has served as inspiration on how to balance his commitments in the monastery and active ministry.

“He is somebody who brought together the ideals of monasticism with priesthood and ecclesiastical service,” says Fr. Christian. “I pray to my patron to help keep those things in balance because I see him as a model of that.”

## Most Common Monastic Names in Saint Meinrad’s History

John – 9

Benedict – 7

Joseph – 6

Francis – 6

Meinrad – 5

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, was baptized Walter. As he approached his first profession, he was looking for a name that would carry on his German heritage. There were also two important people in his life named Kurt and he liked the name, so he set out to find a patron saint.

“There isn’t a St. Kurt,” says Abbot Kurt. “I was in a mad scramble to find how I could suggest that Kurt was actually the name of a saint.”

Finally, he found a baby book that said the patron saint of those named Kurt is Constantine. Constantine was an early Church figure who was persecuted for being Christian. He hid in a cave with seven of his followers, and their persecutors sealed up the cave.

“Lo and behold, 200 or 300 years later, people discovered the cave and these people were still alive,” says Abbot Kurt. “In the tradition of the early Church, they were some of the early witnesses to Christians’ belief in the resurrection.”

Br. Francis knew he wanted the name Francis de Sales long before he came to the monastery. Before he joined the monastery, his name was Craig and he worked at *The Blade* newspaper in Toledo, OH.

Every day he parked his truck in a lot across from the newspaper next to a brick church. At this time, he wasn’t living a

life of faith, but he had a spiritual reawakening and became interested in that church.

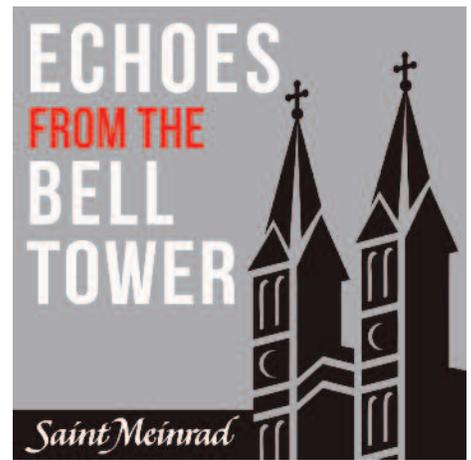
One day he walked around to the front and found out it was called St. Francis de Sales Parish. It turns out that church was the original cathedral in downtown Toledo and that St. Francis de Sales was the patron saint of the Diocese of Toledo.

Br. Francis became curious. He did some research and learned that Francis de Sales is the patron saint of writers and of the press.

“I thought, ‘Well that makes sense. It’s right across the street from the newspaper.’” says Br. Francis.

He also found out St. Francis believed in the universal call to holiness.

“He was really ahead of his time in that regard,” explains Br. Francis. “He maintained that everyone, no matter what state of life they’re in, is called to holiness. That resonated with me. People choose their names for a lot of different reasons. For me it had to be someone that I could identify with, someone that could inspire me, someone that could guide me, someone that could intercede for me. Francis de Sales was that person.” ✚



To hear more stories behind monastic names, listen to episode 3 of our podcast, “Echoes from the Bell Tower,” at [www.saintmeinrad.edu/echoes](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/echoes). View more photos of monks with a reminder of their patron at <https://saintmeinrad.smugmug.com/Art/Monastic-Names/>



▲ Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, holds the image used for the invitations for his solemn vows. A classmate designed the image, which features the five monks who were solemnly professed together.



▲ In 2010, Br. Francis Wagner, OSB, bought a statue of his patron, Francis de Sales, while visiting the region of France where Francis de Sales lived.

# Calling all alumni:

## Student phonathon begins in February

The annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon will take place on seven evenings in February. The event offers alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad an opportunity to talk to a seminarian during the annual appeal.

Each of Saint Meinrad's five formation houses will take a night making calls. This "team" concept sometimes results in a little unofficial, friendly competition that makes the evening fun. The remaining two nights will have students from all the formation houses calling non-alumni

donors who have made gifts to Saint Meinrad in the past.

When students connect with an alumnus or friend, they have a chance to tell their story, bring them up to date on the latest news on the Hill, and thank them for their past support. Of course, they also invite them to make a gift or pledge to support the Seminary and School of Theology.

"Every seminarian participates in the Phonathon, and it's always interesting to hear how each one uses his unique gifts

and talents," says Associate Director of Annual Giving John Huether O'78 ('71-74). "The student body is comprised of some really super guys, who look forward to having conversations with our benefactors," he adds.

Gifts from alumni and friends help make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, upkeep of buildings and grounds, wellness activities and many other day-to-day operations.

Alumni whose gifts qualify will receive this year's premium, a black gel mouse pad with a wrist rest, imprinted with the Saint Meinrad Alumni logo. ✚



## Alumni Board elects Chris Carr president

Chris Carr C'94 ('91-94), of Dublin, OH, was elected president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, at the October 2018 meeting.

He will serve a two-year term beginning September 1, 2019. He began his service on the alumni board in 2017.

Carr has worked at Cardinal Health in Dublin for 16 years. He currently serves as chief of staff / program manager in Customer Support Services.

In previous roles at Cardinal Health, he served in leadership in various areas: mergers and acquisitions, strategic initiatives for the chief information officer, and business integrations.

Also at Cardinal Health, Carr plays a key role in the college intern program, supports a leadership development program for emerging leaders, and mentors numerous employees.

Previously, he served in leadership with a Fortune 1000 technology company for six years, leading teams that build technology solutions for large corporations.

In addition, he has been involved with the Boy Scouts, parish youth group, coaching sports and a volunteer worker with the marching band. Carr is a member of the Knights of Columbus and was an executive board member of the Dublin Music Boosters.

He and his wife Jennifer have two children. ✚

## Sign up for the e-newsletter

If you'd like to receive brief updates on what's happening at Saint Meinrad, you can sign up for a free e-newsletter. Every few weeks, you will receive a newsletter in your email's inbox.

To sign up, go to the "Newsletters" link on the front page of the website: [www.saintmeinrad.edu](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu). Or, send an email to [news@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:news@saintmeinrad.edu)

## Smugmug

*For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:*  
<http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>

# Day of Service: Projects set for March 9



▲ *Projects for this year's Saint Meinrad Day of Service include work at food banks and soup kitchens as well as projects cleaning, painting or helping with yard work.*

Plans are set for the sixth annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service. This year, the day of service will be Saturday, March 9.

The event, organized by the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association in partnership with the Alumni Office, is open to any participants, not just alumni.

“Volunteers will find many opportunities to serve their communities this year,” explains Christian Mocek, Saint Meinrad’s director of alumni relations. “We have projects at soup kitchens and food banks, as well as projects that require painting and yard work.”

The Saint Meinrad Day of Service was begun in 2014 to develop more creative ways for alumni to live out the mission of Saint Meinrad in their communities with fellow classmates and friends.

As with the last six years, *Ora et Labora*, Prayer and Work, is the theme of the event. In addition to the service activities,

volunteers at each location will come together and pray before or after their project, either by celebrating Mass or praying the Liturgy of the Hours proper to the time of day.

For details about projects in your area and to register as a participant, visit the Saint Meinrad Day of Service registration page at: <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice/>

There is no cost to participate and each volunteer receives a free Saint Meinrad Day of Service t-shirt, courtesy of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

Volunteers are asked to register by March 1 to ensure an accurate count for lunch and t-shirts.

If you have any questions about the Day of Service in your area, contact the Alumni Office at (812) 357-6501 or email Christian Mocek at [cmocek@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:cmocek@saintmeinrad.edu). ✝

## Save the Date!

*February 9, 2019*

Saint Meinrad Alumni Retreat

*March 9, 2019*

Saint Meinrad Day of Service

*April 8, 2019*

Graduate Luncheon

*July 21-24, 2019*

91st Annual Alumni Reunion

*Saint Meinrad*  
**DAY OF  
SERVICE**

### *2019 Locations:*

Bloomington, IN

Dayton, OH

Evansville, IN

Indianapolis, IN

Kankakee, IL

Los Angeles, CA

Louisville, KY

New Albany, IN

St. Louis, MO

Toledo, OH

***Register by March 1, 2019!***

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Fr. Donald E. Baier O'75 ('71-75)**, a priest serving in the dioceses of St. Petersburg, FL, and Venice, FL, died on September 27, 2018.

**Mr. Dennis W. Barbeau O'73 ('69-73)**, of Gainesville, FL, died on June 2, 2017.

**Mr. William R. Brown O'82 ('74-76)**, of Forsyth, NC, died on November 16, 2009.

**Fr. Lawrence "Larry" W. Coulter T'86 ('81-83; '84-86)**, a priest of the Diocese of Grand Island, NE, died on November 21, 2018.

**Judge Andy Devine O'48 ('40-44)**, of Toledo, OH, died on November 16, 2018.

**Mr. Robert Hallisy Sr. O'60 ('54-58)**, of Racine, WI, died on October 23, 2018.

**Fr. Kenneth Herr O'68 ('59-64)**, a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on November 12, 2018.

**Fr. Federico C. Higuera O'82 ('77-78)**, a priest of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died on September 4, 2018.

**Dr. James A. Hill O'61 ('53-55)**, of River Forest, IL, died on August 1, 2018.

**Deacon Francis H. Hillenbrand SPH ('36-37)**, of Evansville, IN, died on November 10, 2018.

**Sr. Mary Horgan, RSM SS'84 ('80-84)**, a Sister of Mercy for 66 years, died on April 19, 2017.

**Mr. Charles Hubbs O'59 ('47-51)**, of Tell City, IN, died on September 11, 2018.

**Mr. Howard H. Hyle S'01** died on July 14, 2018, in Williamsburg, VA.

**Fr. Louis A. Koehr O'54 ('48-50)**, a priest of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died on November 2, 2018.

**Mr. Gerald F. "Jerry" Kramer O'61 ('49-50)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on July 19, 2013.

**Fr. Philip J. Kreilein O'74 ('62-70)**, a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on October 23, 2018.

**Mr. Thomas J. Lahey O'65 ('53-56)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on October 15, 2018.

**Mr. Richard W. "Dick" Mischler O'65 ('53-55)**, of Evansville, IN, died on November 5, 2018.

**Mr. George R. Mountain O'52 ('41-46)**, of Zionsville, IN, died on August 27, 2018.

**Dr. Ronald R. Nolan O'75 ('63-64)**, of New Albany, IN, died on September 26, 2018.

**Most Rev. Thomas J. O'Brien O'61 ('49-61)**, retired bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix, AZ, died on August 26, 2018.

**Mr. Paul S. Petrig O'71 ('59-61)**, of San Diego, CA, died on October 20, 2018.

**Mr. Howard Piper Jr. O'79 ('74-75)**, of Sandpoint, ID, died on June 2, 2006.

**Mr. Louis F. Piskula O'75 ('71-75; '93)**, of Owensboro, KY, died on October 11, 2018. ✂

**Mr. Glenn E. Powell O'64 ('55-58)**, of Centerville, OH, died on February 6, 2018.

**Fr. John J. Savio O'67 ('63-67)**, a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, and later the Diocese of Cheyenne, WY, died on October 22, 2018, in Casper, WY.

**Mr. Helmut J. Schaschvary O'71 ('59-61)**, of Naperville, IL, died on July 10, 2014.

**Mrs. Ethel S. Spacke MTS'98 ('94-98)**, of Greenwood, IN, died on October 28, 2018.

**Mr. Henry A. Strobel O'62 ('50-58)**, of Salem, OR, died on August 28, 2018.

**Fr. Ambrose M. Ziegler O'61 ('55-61)**, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-Indiana, died on October 22, 2018.

✂ - 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 ✚



▲ *Paul Lesupati, center, and Br. Justin Ayanou, OSB, right, rehearse a song with other students before the international seminarian Mass and outing at Monte Cassino Shrine in September.*

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Fr. John Appiah C'94 ('90-94)**, a priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN, is leading a ministry that is developing permanent medical and educational facilities in his native village of Nkonya-Wurupong in the Volta region of Ghana.

**Mr. Bill Barrett O'78 ('70-74)** has published a chapter on photography, "What Are You Looking At? The Responsibility of the Gaze," in *Human Rights in Higher Education: Institutional, Classroom, and Community Approaches to Teaching Social Justice*. He is a professor of electronic and photographic media at Webster University in St. Louis, MO.

**Dr. Tony Bonta C'87 ('84-87; '93)** is principal of Andean High School in Merrillville, IN, where he graduated in 1983.

**Dr. Michael Conrad O'66 ('55-66)** made his final promises as a lay Cistercian at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, GA, in May 2018. He has founded a blog about lay Cistercian practices at <https://thecenterforcontemplativepractice.org/>.

**Fr. Michael Cronin T'15 ('09-15)** recently created a Mary Hallway in St. Mary's High School in Storm Lake, IA, showcasing images of the Blessed Virgin Mary from around the world. He is the school chaplain and associate pastor of St. Mary's Parish.

**Mr. Sam Eversman GTP ('03-05)**, of St. Louis, MO, is a partner in KsaUsaLegal, a law firm specializing in Saudi Arabia business and legal issues.

**Deacon William Fielding PD'15 ('11-15; '16-18)**, of the Archdiocese of Nassau, published the final paper he wrote to complete his Master of Arts (Theology) degree at Saint Meinrad in the *International Journal of Bahamian Studies*. The article examined the theology of the art and architecture of St. Paul's Church in Lyford Cay.

**Sr. Rachel Geracitano, OSB, MA'17 ('14-17)** made her final profession as a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, IN, on October 13.

**Mr. James Gill O'83 ('77-79)**, of Greendale, WI, is the associate program director at Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI.

**Mr. Donald Hale C'84 ('80-84)**, of Port Orange, FL, is the executive director of philanthropy for the Florida and worldwide campuses of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

**Fr. Joshua Janko GTP ('05)**, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana who is serving with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, was a participant in the V Encuentro Initiative for Hispanic/Latino Ministry. He is also preparing to move to his next duty station at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

**Deacon Marc Kellams PD'08 ('04-08)** retired on December 31 from nearly four decades as a judge in the Monroe County Circuit Court in Bloomington, IN. He begins a new role as coordinator of Corrections Ministries for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

**Mr. J.V. Lamb O'68 ('56-57)**, of New Castle, PA, was elected vice president of the Pennsylvania State Grange at the state conference this past October.

**Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU, MTS'97 ('90-92; '94-96)**, a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Mt. St. Joseph, received the Muhammad Ali Kentucky Humanitarian award for her work as co-founder of the nonprofit, Water With Blessings, on September 20. On October 9, she received an "Art of Social Innovation" Pyramid Award on behalf of Water With Blessings from the Center for Nonprofit Excellence in Louisville, KY.

**Ms. Kimberly Mandelkow MA'16 ('12-15)** was named the director of the Office for Worship for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, WI, in September.

**Very Rev. Steven A. Peay O'81 ('76-77)** was installed as canon residentiary and associate dean at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Milwaukee, WI, on October

7. He also became a Fellow of The Burgon Society, an international society for the study of academic dress based in the United Kingdom. A paper he wrote on academic dress at Nashotah House Theological Seminary is being published in *The Transactions of The Burgon Society*.

**Mrs. Melinda Gibbons Prunty MTS'10 ('06-09)**, of Belton, KY, is serving as a state representative for the 15th Legislative District of Western Kentucky.

**Mrs. Mary Schaffner MTS'10 ('06-09)**, of Indianapolis, IN, is offering spiritual direction at St. Pius X Parish. She recently left a position at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, where she had worked for six years.

**Pastor Ken Vogler O'67 ('55-63)**, pastor of Valley Lutheran Church in Los Lunas, NM, got two holes in one at two Albuquerque golf courses this summer, Isleta and Sandia.

**Fr. Brandon Williams T'10 ('02-06; '08-10)** has been named co-coordinator of the Diocese of Owensboro's Office of Worship. He remains pastor of St. Leo Parish in Murray, KY. ✝

## Online Store

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# 91st Alumni Reunion: Set for July 21-24



The 91st annual Alumni Reunion will give former Saint Meinrad students the opportunity for fellowship with classmates, relaxation, spiritual renewal, and learning. The 2019 event is planned for July 21-24 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

“Things are shaping up nicely for the reunion,” says Christian Mocek, director of alumni relations. “This year there are excellent chances for professional development as well as opportunities to reconnect with friends and classmates.”

This year’s reunion will include a golf scramble, workshops, time for prayer and socializing, and the awarding of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The reunion kicks off on Monday, July 22, with a golf scramble at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus and a presentation by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology.

The anniversary banquet will be held Monday evening, honoring the classes of 1969 (50th anniversary), 1979 (40th), 1994 (25th), 2009 (10th), 2014 (5th). Also gathering for special anniversaries will be the Ordination Class of 1964 (55th), the Theology Class of 1999 (20th) and the High School Class of 1967.

On Tuesday, July 23, Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, will give a Day of Reflection. Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Fr. Brendan attended Saint Meinrad College and the Seminary and School of

Theology. He entered Saint Meinrad Archabbey as a novice in 1992.

Since then, he has served in parish ministry, mission advancement, and seminary and lay ecclesial ministry formation. In July 2015, he became the 28th president-rector of Conception Seminary College at Conception Abbey in Missouri.

Bishop Joseph Siegel C’84 (’81-84), bishop of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, will preside and preach at Tuesday afternoon’s Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church.

Ordained for the Diocese of Joliet in 1988, he served in various pastoral and administrative roles in the diocese until his appointment as auxiliary bishop of Joliet by Pope Benedict in 2009. In October 2017, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Siegel the sixth bishop of Evansville.

At the banquet Tuesday evening, Deacon Frank and Mary Olmsted of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and William McGuire of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. A story about the honorees will be in the next issue.

Find details about the reunion on the website, <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>, and the alumni Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni). ✝