

The GIFT PLANNER

INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S CHURCH

SPRING 2019 • No. 119

A gift to Saint Meinrad is a gift to the Church



Fr. Christopher House

Fr. Chris House attended Saint Meinrad College for three years, but that time on the southern Indiana campus was formative for his priestly vocation.

"I had talked about priesthood since I was in second grade," he recalls. But as a senior in high school, he began dragging his feet. Other voices crowded in with ideas of what else he could do. He settled on attending a junior college in his hometown of Springfield, IL.

The following year, he decided to enroll at Saint Meinrad. "I still remember the first time I arrived

on the hill. It was the end of September in 1994 ... I remember just being awestruck," he says. "It was very clear to me in that moment that this was a place that I wanted to be.

"Back then ... I felt God was calling me to be a priest, but coming to Saint Meinrad made that 'yes' a lot easier."

His family laid the groundwork for his priesthood. "My parents were the first who taught me how to pray; they were my first teachers. While they created the foundation, Saint Meinrad really built on that," he says.

After college graduation, Fr. Chris attended Mundelein Seminary in Illinois, studying for the Diocese of Springfield. He was ordained in 2002, although he continued his studies for another year to earn his license in sacred theology.

Since becoming a priest 16 years ago, Fr. Chris has had a variety of parish and diocesan ministries. His list of assignments includes at least 10 parishes as well as various leadership roles for the diocese.

The diocese also sent him to The Catholic University of America to study canon law. Earning his license in 2015, Fr. Chris has served as judge for the diocesan tribunal ever since.

Currently, he is the chancellor of the diocese and vicar judicial, rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, director of the Department for Canonical and Pastoral Services, and section prior for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

Continued on next page





**Rt. Rev. Kurt Stasiak, OSB
Archabbot of Saint Meinrad**

Dear Friends,

In January, four men made their solemn vows as monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. By professing vows of stability, obedience, and conversion to the monastic way of life, they became full and permanent members of our Benedictine community.

This bodes well for the future of Saint Meinrad. I am confident these men, like the monks before them, will leave their mark – a lasting legacy – on Saint Meinrad and our work for the Catholic Church.

At some point, we all reflect on the legacy we wish to leave. For most of us, we hope to make a difference in our families and in our communities.

As you will read, Father Chris House has created his legacy and demonstrated his commitment to the work of Saint Meinrad by naming us as a beneficiary in his will. We are grateful for his kind remembrance.

As you reflect on your legacy, I encourage you to consider a bequest, a charitable gift annuity or another type of planned gift. Gifts such as these give you the opportunity to plan the legacy you want to leave and ensure that the prayer and work of Saint Meinrad will continue into the future.

May God continue to bless you in all ways.

+ Kurt Stasiak, OSB

After Fr. Chris' ordination, the diocese asked him to make a will. He decided to include a gift to Saint Meinrad as part of his bequest. "To me, it was a no brainer," he says. "I can never give back for what I have been given, honestly.

"So much of who I am is because of what I experienced and what I still receive from Saint Meinrad ... I want others to have the gift that I was given."

Even his decision to earn a license in sacred theology had its roots at Saint Meinrad. While he was a college student, he remembers watching Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, serve as master of ceremonies for liturgies in the Archabbey Church. When Fr. Chris took on that role for his diocese from 2005 to 2011, he used Fr. Julian as his model.

And he still maintains friendships with the guys he studied with and with the monks who formed him during his college years. "Saint Meinrad has always been home, even though it's been 21 years since I graduated from there."

Fr. Chris also gives back to Saint Meinrad through his service on the Board of Overseers, the 28-member board that advises the

President-Rector on matters relating to the Seminary and School of Theology.

As a member of student government while attending the College, Fr. Chris recalls that he would attend the Overseers meetings to take part in a committee or give a report. "I never would have imagined 20 years ago that I would be asked to be on the board," he says.

It's easy for Fr. Chris to encourage others to consider a gift to Saint Meinrad through a bequest. A gift to Saint Meinrad is a gift to the Church, he says. "It's just not about training men for priestly formation. It's men who are discerning the diaconate. It's lay women and lay men who are seeking to do ministry in the Church. It's working with youth in the Church through 'One Bread, One Cup,' all the way to those who simply need to get away for a three-day retreat.

"Saint Meinrad touches so many different aspects of the Church's life and the lives of so many different people within the Church. That's why supporting its work is so important to me and why I want others to support it as well." ♦



"Naming Saint Meinrad as a beneficiary in your will is a wonderful way to leave a legacy gift that will support the work of Saint Meinrad."

Duane Schaefer, Director of Development

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:
Duane Schaefer
Director of Development
Saint Meinrad Archabbey and
Seminary & School of Theology
200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
(812) 357-6501, (800) 682-0988
dschaefer@saintmeinrad.edu ♦



Neither the author, the publisher, nor this organization is engaged in rendering legal or tax advisory service. For advice or assistance in specific cases, the services of an attorney or other professional advisor should be obtained. The purpose of this publication is to provide accurate and authoritative information of a general character only. Watch for tax revisions. State laws govern wills, trusts and charitable gifts made in a contractual agreement. Advice from legal counsel should be sought when considering these types of gifts. © Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 2019.

For the future of the Church.



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

For further information, contact Duane Schaefer at:
Development Office
Saint Meinrad Archabbey and
Seminary & School of Theology
200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1301
(800) 682-0988
(812) 357-6501
(812) 357-6759 (fax)
development@saintmeinrad.edu
www.saintmeinrad.edu
www.saintmeinrad.org

