

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2019 • VOL. 58:2

**Solemn Vows:
Four monks take final step
180+ join in Day of Service**

**Full schedule
of Reunion events**

Cover: From left, Brothers Simon Herrmann, Joel Blaize, Nathaniel Szidik and Jean Fish (not pictured) walk into the monastery after their solemn vows ceremony.



Saint Meinrad



ON THE HILL

SPRING 2019 • VOL. 58:2

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Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, delivers a homily during the deacon promises ceremony in February.

Find more photos at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>.

Monks' Personals

Fr. Christian Raab gave a talk titled "Our Lady for Our Times" at the University of Evansville Newman Center, Evansville, IN, on November 28.

Fr. Denis Robinson, Fr. Thomas Gricoski and **Br. James Jensen** traveled to Rome and London with the deacon class (IV Theology) for the January term pilgrimage. Fr. Thomas was the retreat director at Saint Meinrad's mother house, Einsiedeln Abbey in Switzerland.

Fr. Julian Peters traveled to South Korea January 3-10 to visit alumni of the Diocese of Busan. While there, he attended the deacon ordination of seminarian Francisco Bark from the Diocese of Masan.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain gave the annual retreat for the seminarians of Simon Bruté College Seminary on January 8-11.

Fr. Eugene Hensell conducted a biblical retreat for the Society of the Divine Word missionaries in Techny, IL, on January 27-31.

Br. Simon Herrmann was a panelist at the Forum for Theological Exploration's annual Youth Theology Network gathering in Indianapolis, IN, on January 30.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain presented a celibacy formation workshop for the national seminary in Maynooth, Ireland, in late January-early February.

Fr. Julian Peters represented the Saint Meinrad Institute for Priests and Presbyterates at the annual NOCERCC (National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy) conference in Austin, TX, February 25-28.

Fr. Mateo Zamora was appointed to the CareNotes Advisory Board on January 29.

Fr. Eugene Hensell gave a program on the Passion narratives of the Gospels at Holy Spirit Parish, Naperville, IL, on March 19-20.

Fr. Tobias Colgan assisted with the canonical visitation at St. Anselm Abbey in Washington, D.C., from March 24-28. St. Anselm Abbey belongs to the English Benedictine Congregation.

Novice Dennis Reyes is finishing and defending his doctoral degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on March 29.

Fr. Mateo Zamora has been assisting Dr. Michael Dunnigan with teaching the Procedure and Practice in Matrimonial Law class at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. ✚

Monastery News

Novice joins Saint Meinrad Archabbey



Novice Dennis Reyes

In a brief ceremony, Novice Dennis Reyes was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19, 2019.

He has begun a year of monastic formation,

including study of the *Rule of St. Benedict* and monastic history.

Novice Dennis, 42, is a native of Manila, Philippines. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of the Philippines and a master's degree in music composition and theory from the University of Nevada. He expects to receive a doctor of musical arts in composition from the University of Illinois in May 2019.

His work has received numerous awards in international competitions and concerts by juries comprised of experts in the field. His most recent achievement is winning the grand prize at the 6th Sond'Ar-te Electric Ensemble Composition Competition in 2016, where he bested composers from 18 countries.

He is also one of five composers from around the world to be invited by the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies to write a new electroacoustic piece for its annual Composer's Conference and Festival.

He also participated in the International Electroacoustic Music Festival hosted by the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome. Novice Dennis was the only composer of Asian descent and one of two composers based in the United States to receive that year's honor.

Novice Dennis received the President's Research in Diversity Travel Award from the University of Illinois, an award bestowed by the university president to 15 high-performing faculty and graduate students across the three campuses of the university conducting research in their respective fields.

Most recently, his home parish was St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign, IL.

As a novice, he takes a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad. ✚

Fr. Benedict Meyer, OSB

Teacher, pastor and missionary dies December 14



Fr. Benedict Meyer

Fr. Benedict Meyer, OSB, 91, a monk and priest of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died on December 14, 2018, at the monastery. He was a jubilant both of profession and priesthood.

He was born in Cedar Grove, IN, on Sept. 24, 1927, and was given the name Charles Anthony at his baptism.

In 1942, he entered the minor seminary at Saint Meinrad, from which he graduated in 1948. He was invested as a novice monk on July 31, 1948, and then began studies in the major seminary. He

professed simple vows on August 1, 1949, and his solemn vows on September 8, 1952, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1954.

Following his ordination, he studied at The Catholic University of America, from which he was awarded a licentiate in sacred theology and a master's in classics in 1957. Fr. Benedict taught Latin and Greek in Saint Meinrad's minor seminary from 1955 through 1962.

In July of 1962, he was one of the first Saint Meinrad monks to travel to Huaraz, Peru, and establish a priory. He served there as rector of St. Francis de Sales Seminary; later, he worked in Brazil.

In addition to the usual and expected pastoral work of teaching, preaching, and administering the sacraments, Fr.

Benedict acquired the technical skill necessary to extract teeth, thus ending the pain and improving the oral hygiene of, literally, thousands of the native population. His acquiring these skills in dentistry was only one example of both his interest and his competence in technology.

Fr. Benedict went on to become a licensed pilot and a ham radio operator. The former he developed for many years, both in the air and with his computer's flight simulator; the latter provided an important communication link between the Peruvian priory and home base Saint Meinrad.

In 1978, Fr. Benedict returned to the United States, beginning 26 years of serving religious communities and

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EVENTS ON THE HILL

April 23-25

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

April 29-May 3

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

May

Rosary pilgrimage at Monte Cassino Shrine each Sunday at 2 p.m. Central.

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.

May 11

Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

May 17-19

Guest House Retreat: "The King of History: Finding Christ in the Past" by Br. Stanley Wagner, OSB.

May 26

Celebration of priesthood jubilees.

June 9

The Einsiedeln Society annual dinner.

June 14-20

Guest House Retreat: "The Image as a Window to the Spiritual: An Artist's Six-Day Hands-on Workshop and Retreat" by Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB.

June 28-30

Guest House Retreat: "The Miracle of Chartres: A Close Look at a Gorgeous Gothic Cathedral and the Mysteries Behind It" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

July 29

Celebration of monastic jubilees.

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

Enrollment goes up, staff appointments

The spring semester at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology started with seven more students and two new appointments.

When classes began in January, students from the dioceses of Amarillo, TX; Burlington, VT; Knoxville, TN; Lexington, KY; and Salina, KS; joined the seminary community. Also enrolling were students from two religious communities, Belmont Abbey in Belmont, NC, and St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, OK. Seminary enrollment is now at 120.



Fr. Thomas Gricoski

President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, also announced two staff changes. Fr. Thomas Gricoski, OSB, was appointed director of pastoral formation, replacing Fr.

Anthony Vinson, OSB, who had served in that position since 2013. Fr. Anthony is pastor of two nearby parishes, St. Meinrad and St. Boniface.

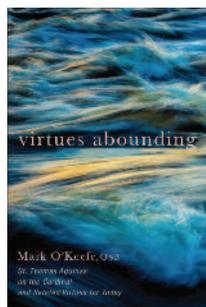
Fr. Thomas will continue teaching philosophy and serving as formation dean in the seminary program.



Fr. Tobias Colgan

In addition, Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, was named a formation dean to replace Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB, who experienced some health problems in December. Fr. Tobias is the seminary vice rector. ✚

Monk authors book on virtues



A new book by Fr. Mark O'Keefe, OSB, has been published: *Virtues Abounding: St. Thomas Aquinas and the Cardinal and Related Virtues for Today*. The book explores, in contemporary language, the

practical insights that Aquinas offers for the moral life today.

Fr. Mark is a professor of moral theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and chaplain at the Carmelite Monastery in Terre Haute, IN. A monk of Saint Meinrad, he joined the monastery in 1979. He served as president-rector of the schools from 1996 to 2008.

Among his other books are *The Way of Transformation: St. Teresa of Avila on the Foundation and Fruit of Prayer*, *Love Awakened by Love: The Liberating Ascent of St. John of the Cross*, and *Becoming Good, Become Holy*.

The book is available from the publisher, Wipf and Stock, and from Amazon. ✚

Abbey Caskets

A work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Workshop Open House

Sunday, May 5, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CT

Advisory Board

Gives direction for IPP future

Saint Meinrad's Institute for Priests and Presbyterates is revitalizing its Advisory Board. The board met for the first time on February 13 and 14 at Saint Meinrad.

"I am very happy with the way our first Advisory Board meeting went," says Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates. "We had good and honest conversations reviewing who we are, where we've been and what we want to be about."

The board's purpose is to evaluate the current ongoing formation programs offered by the IPP and to give direction for future programs and offerings.

The advisory board offers guidance and direction to the director and IPP staff as the institution's program of ongoing formation is continually updated and refined.

The board meets twice a year and each member serves a three-year term with the option of renewing for an additional three-year term. The 10-person board includes:

Father Crispine Adongo
Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Diocese of Evansville, IN

Monsignor Marvin Borger
Vicar for Clergy
Diocese of Toledo, OH

Father Alan Carter
Director of Vocations and Pastor of Sts.
Peter and Paul Parish
Diocese of Lexington, KY

Father Jim Deiters
Pastor, St. Clare of Assisi Parish
Diocese of Belleville, IL

Father Tom DiFolco
Senior Priest
Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH

Father Steve Giannini
Pastor, Sts. Francis and Clare Parish
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN

Mrs. Sue Huett
Director, Pastoral Services and Office of
Worship
Diocese of Belleville, IL

Father Francis Kalapurackal
Administrator, St. Thomas More,
Mooresville, IN
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN
[Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur, India]

Mrs. Ann Tully
Coordinator of the Tribunal
Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN

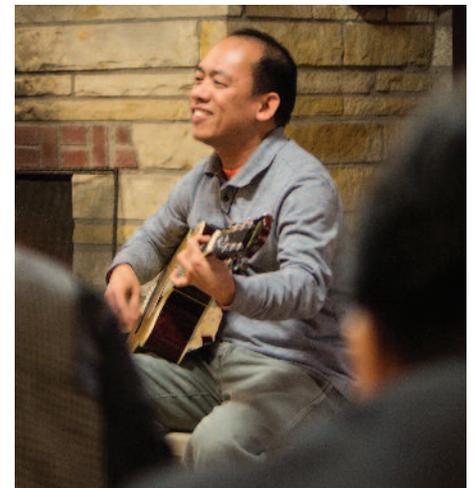
Dr. Shawn McCauley Welch
Associate Professor of Moral Theology
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO ✝

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parishioners in Arkansas. He was chaplain to the Benedictine Sisters at Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro (4 years), visiting professor at Monastery of Our Lady of Charity and Refuge in Hot Springs (7 years), and pastor/administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish in Brinkley (15 years).

Returning to the abbey in 2004, he served as a commuting chaplain and confessor at Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, until 2009, when he retired from full-time pastoral ministry.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on December 17, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✝



▲ *Seminarian Ronald Sagum shares a song during the International Seminarian outing to the Carmelite Monastery in Terre Haute, IN, in February.*

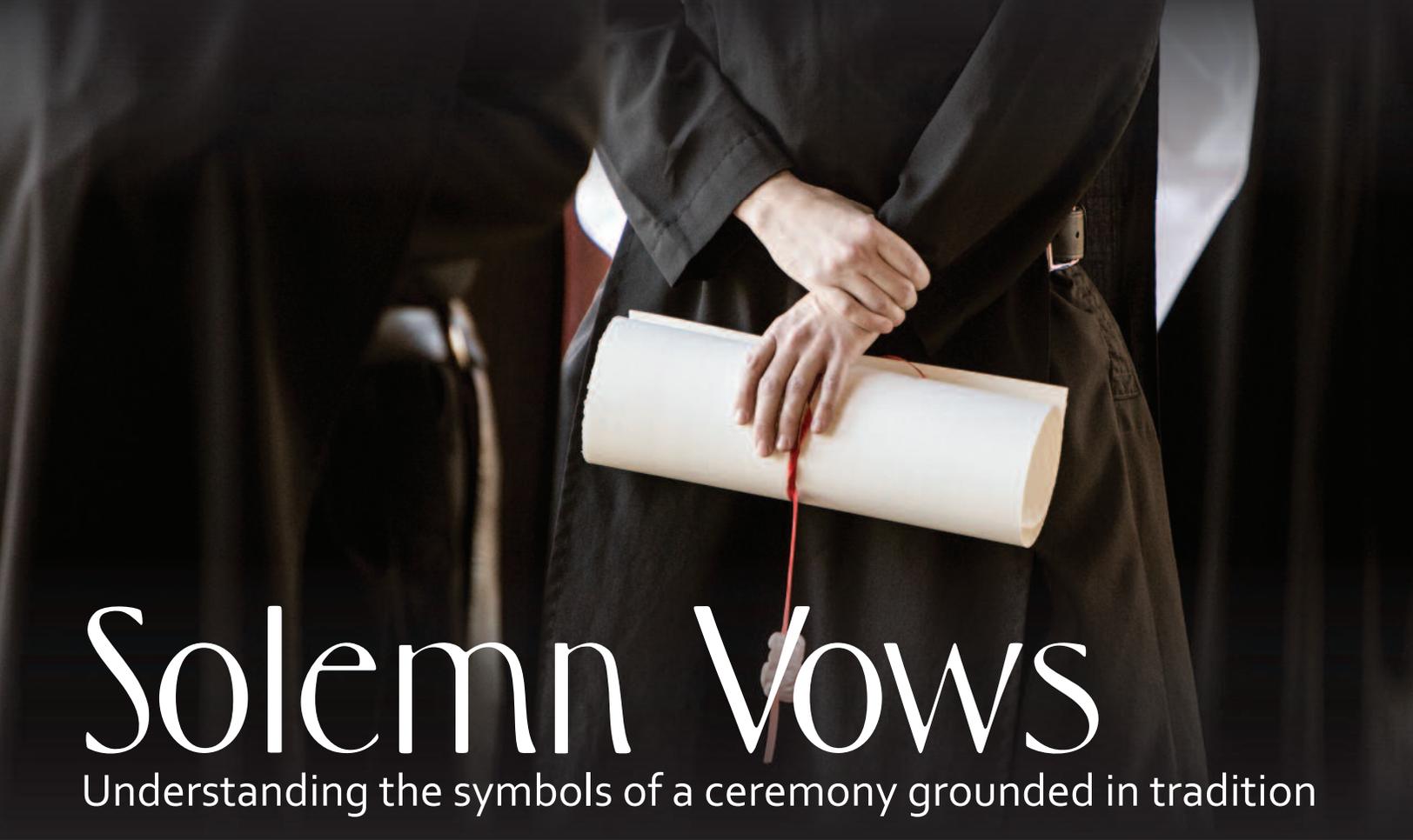


▲ *A schola practices chanting in the St. Joseph Oratory on February 5 during the St. Basil's School of Gregorian Chant Winter Conference.*

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. Or, send an email to news@saintmeinrad.edu



Solemn Vows

Understanding the symbols of a ceremony grounded in tradition

Many symbols and rituals that are part of the solemn vows ceremony may be unfamiliar to those outside the monastery. Here are some terms used in the ritual. On January 25, four monks took their final step and became permanent members of the monastic community.

Vow Chart: When professing his vows, the monk reads from a document called a vow chart. He signs the vow chart at the altar, displays the signed chart to the archabbot and his assistants, and then returns it to the altar. The vow chart is handmade, often featuring calligraphy and artwork.

Suscipe: After lying on the floor, the monk rises to his knees and sings the “Suscipe.” Latin for “receive,” the “Suscipe” is sung three times by the newly professed monk: “Uphold me, O Lord, according to your promise, and I shall live. And do not confound me in my expectations.”

Funeral Pall: During the solemn vows ceremony, a funeral pall is draped over the monk as he lies facedown on the floor. Meanwhile, the church bells toll as at the death of a monk. This indicates the monk’s willingness to give up his old way of life and embrace a new, radical change to his life.

Tonsure: At Saint Meinrad, a monk receives the tonsure haircut at two times: when he becomes a novice and when he professes his solemn vows. The monk’s hair is cut so that only a fringe of hair remains, marking his entrance into a new life.

Cuculla: A solemnly professed monk receives the cuculla at his profession. This pleated, black garment features wide sleeves and is worn at certain times and events. It recognizes the monk’s status as a permanent member of the monastic community. ✝



▲ *Br. Simon Herrmann, from left, Br. Nathaniel Szidik, Br. Joel Blaize and Br. Jean Fish sing the Suscipe during their solemn profession in January.*



Four monks

profess solemn vows at Saint Meinrad in January

Four men professed solemn vows as Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in a ceremony on January 25, 2019, in the Archabbey Church. They are Br. Simon Herrmann, Br. Nathaniel Szidik, Br. Joel Blaize and Br. Jean Fish.

Br. Simon is a former resident of Findlay, OH, and he is a graduate of the University of Dayton, earning a bachelor's degree in communication management in 2010.

He worked as an associate editor for the national office of Beta Theta Pi fraternity from 2010-11 and then at Saint Meinrad Archabbey as the director of alumni relations from 2011-14. He also served as a college intern for three summers in Saint Meinrad's "One Bread, One Cup" program.

He is currently a full-time student in the seminary in his second year of theology. Br. Simon cuts the grass in the monastery courtyard, sandblasts designs into St. Meinrad sandstone, and enjoys sharing about monastic life to audiences that might be unfamiliar with this way of religious life.

Br. Nathaniel is a native of Grand Rapids, MI, and a 2011 graduate of the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

He worked for three years as a production manager in the byproducts and coal handling divisions at United States Steel in the St. Louis, MO, area. He also served as a college intern for two summers in Saint Meinrad's "One Bread, One Cup" program.

He is currently a full-time student in the seminary in his first year of theology. He is also the master of ceremonies for liturgies in the Archabbey Church. Br. Nathaniel also works as an ACE certified personal trainer with the Wellness Department and is one of the project organizers for Peanut Brother.

Br. Joel is formerly of Mount Carmel, IL, and a graduate of Southern Illinois University, with a bachelor's degree in English literature. He earned an associate degree at Wabash Valley College. He also studied at Ivy Tech Community College for drafting and design.

He formerly worked as a tool and die machinist and a design engineering technician at Hansen Corporation. He attended Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology for one year before entering the monastery.

Br. Joel currently works as an assistant in the liturgical music office, as an oblate dean, as webmaster of the Swiss-

American Congregation, and as a podcast host and composer.

Br. Jean, formerly of Poway, CA, is a 2013 graduate of Sonoma State University with a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

He has been a youth ministry volunteer and an intern at St. Gabriel Parish in Poway, and he worked in the shipping department of a moving company.

Br. Jean is an assistant in the monastery dining room and assistant guestmaster in the Archabbey Church. In addition, he is learning to make stained glass windows and he expects to complete a master's degree in theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in May.

In professing solemn vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community at Saint Meinrad, the monks become full and permanent members of the Benedictine community. ✚

Photos at top, left to right: Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, adjusts the cuculla for Br. Nathaniel Szidik, OSB.

Br. Simon Herrmann, OSB, reads aloud from his vow chart.



91st Alumni Reunion

Keeping up with old friends, new ideas

The schedule for the 91st annual Alumni Reunion includes opportunities for learning, renewal and fellowship. The 2019 event will be held July 21-24 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

This reunion will feature a golf scramble, workshops, time for prayer and socializing, and the awarding of the Distinguished Alumnus Award to three alumni.

The golf scramble tees off on Monday, July 22, at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus. For those on campus, Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology, will give a talk on “iGen: Preaching the Gospel to the Next Generation.”

Two alumni will lead sessions on Monday afternoon. Bob O’Connor, PhD, O’71 (’64-67) will give a program on The Saint John’s Bible, the handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible that was commissioned in 1998 by the Benedictine monks of Saint John’s Abbey and University in Collegeville, MN.

O’Connor is director of The Saint John’s Bible Project at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, TX, which has acquired the seven-volume The Saint John’s Bible Heritage Edition. The Heritage Edition is a fine art edition of the original Saint John’s Bible.

Also Monday afternoon, David Orberon MTS’05 (’01-04) will discuss his new book, *Thomas Merton – Evil and Why We Suffer*. Orberon earned a Master of Theological Studies from Saint Meinrad School of Theology and a PhD from the University of Louisville.

In his 2018 book, Orberon surveys Merton’s writings for insights into the question: Why does an all-powerful and all-loving God permit evil and suffering? The author finds that Merton repeatedly confronted this issue during most of his adult life.

The anniversary banquet will be held Monday evening, honoring the classes of 1969, 1979, 1994, 2009 and 2014. Also gathering for special anniversaries will be the Ordination Class of 1964, the Theology Class of 1999 and the High School Class of 1967.

The Messengers, a musical group comprised of three alums, will perform Monday night following the banquet.

Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, will give a day of recollection on Tuesday, with conferences in the morning and afternoon on “Being Doers and Hearers of the Word.” Originally from Brooklyn, NY, Fr. Brendan attended Saint Meinrad College and the Seminary and School of Theology. He joined the monastic community in 1992.

He has served in parish ministry, mission advancement, and seminary and lay ecclesial ministry formation. Since July 2015, he has been president-rector of Conception Seminary College in Conception, MO.

On Monday and Tuesday, tours of the new Abbey Caskets workshop will be offered, as well as guided tours of campus.

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

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

At the banquet Tuesday evening, Deacon Frank SS’79 (’77-79, ’83) and Mary SS’82 (’77-83) Olmsted of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and William McGuire O’64 (’52-58) of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

More reunion details can be found at <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>, and on the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SaintMeinradAlumni. †

VOICES from the Vineyard

Go online to alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/page/Voices for the latest issue



Photos, beginning at top, left to right: Dr. Shannen Dee Williams delivers the annual Black History Lecture titled “The Real Sister Act: Black Catholic Sisters in the United States,” on February 12.

The second-year theology seminarians visited the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, TX, in January to learn about immigration issues.

Fourth-year theology seminarians pose with a Yeoman Warder at the Tower in London on December 31, 2018. Pictured from left are Deacons Marc Bentley, Sean Aaron, Steven Reeves, Tim Pick, Kirt Prospère and Tony Cecil.

Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, learns how to perform CPR from Infirmary Nurse Etta Begle during a January Interterm wellness class.

Fr. Bede Cisco, OSB, left, talks with Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, before the installation of lectors and acolytes in February.

Distinguished

Three alumni will be honored for their service in July

Bill McGuire

Three Saint Meinrad alumni will be honored at this summer's Alumni Reunion. Bill McGuire O'64 ('52-58), Deacon Frank Olmsted SS'79 ('77-79; '83) and Mary Ann Olmsted SS'82 ('77-83) will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award on July 23. Here is a closer look at each of the recipients.

Bill McGuire can still see it. It's 1952 and he's sitting in the balcony of the Archabbey Church as a freshman in Saint Meinrad's Minor Seminary.

"I can still see all the major seminarians down below and the monks up in the choir stalls, and old Br. Meinrad up in that one alcove taking pictures," recalls Bill. "There are a lot of memories, and then at the Alumni Reunions you start talking about these kinds of things. These conversations and recollections spark the juices, so to speak."

Bill has been stirring up those memories at reunions every summer for more than 20 years, and he's been an active alumnus for much longer.

He grew up in Fort Branch, IN, where he developed a belief in serving and helping others. He grew up poor and says people helped each other out in those days.

Bill attended Catholic schools in Haubstadt and Fort Branch, IN. As he approached high school, he felt he was being called to the priesthood. He enrolled in the minor seminary at Saint Meinrad in 1952, during some of the most formative years of his life.

Bill says the five and a half years he spent at Saint Meinrad made a tremendous impact on his life. He formed lifelong friendships, became more aware of his faith, and cultivated his spirit of service. The structure of the seminary has also stuck with him.

"You didn't have to think about what you were going to do," he says. "I think the structure was really important after I left Saint Meinrad. Even today when I don't really need any structure in my life, it's still there."

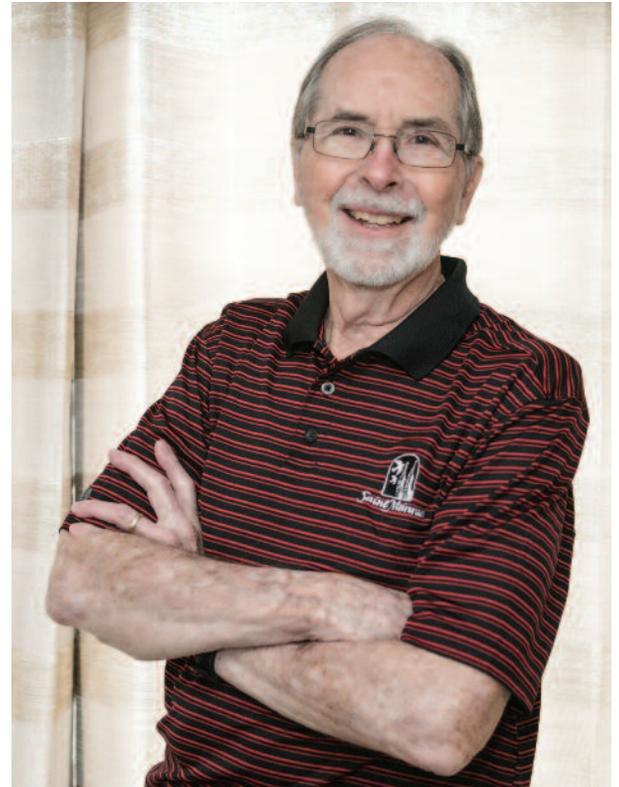
When Bill left Saint Meinrad, he attended the University of Evansville, where he met his wife, Margaret. He earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1962 and worked for nearly 30 years at Indiana Bell/Ameritech in Indianapolis. After retiring from Ameritech, he went to work at Hancock Telecom on a part-time basis.

In 2009, he retired from Hancock Telecom, where he was director of settlements and special projects. He received the distinguished service award in 2005 from the Indiana Telecommunications Association.

Bill has served the alumni of Saint Meinrad as an Alumni Association board member from 1973-1976 and again from 2011-2017. He has served as class chairman and still holds the record for recruiting the most class members to attend an Alumni Reunion.

"Something just hit me and said, 'I need to be connected and I need everybody in our class to connect,'" explains Bill.

Bill has been a Saint Meinrad Day of Service leader since 2015 and he attends regional dinners. He believes his involvement with Saint Meinrad has drawn him to other areas of service.



Bill McGuire

He is active at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis and served as the Eucharistic minister coordinator for 28 years, scheduling and training all Eucharistic ministers.

For the past 15 years, he has been going on mission trips to Tijuana, Mexico, and the southwest United States. He already has his plane tickets booked for his 23rd and 24th mission trips this summer.

Bill is one of three alumni who will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award on Tuesday night of the Alumni Reunion this summer.

"Bill would never admit to 'doing great things' for Saint Meinrad," says an alumnus who nominated him for the award. "In fact, he boasts in what Saint Meinrad has done for him, but Bill quietly and with great intention lives out what God planted in him so many years ago on the Hill in southern Indiana."

Frank and Mary Olmsted

An anecdote from Deacon Frank and Mary Olmsted's time as students at Saint Meinrad illustrates their deep connection to the place.

In the summer of 1983, Frank and Mary were at Saint Meinrad taking a Spanish

“Whenever I’m out here and then leave, I always think the Church is in good hands for the future. I just see it here. And I’ve always seen it here.”

class. During the last week of the class, they received an unexpected call from the adoption agency where they had applied. The caller said they needed to pick up their new baby daughter in Kansas City.

Surprised and unprepared, they sprang into action to make arrangements to get home to Kansas the next day. To their amazement, by dinner that evening, the Summer Session students and staff had pulled together a baby shower, complete with gifts, decorations and a cake.

“It was a community celebration,” Mary says of the memory. Appropriately enough, they named their new daughter Abby.

Frank and Mary were the first married couple to attend Summer Session classes, arriving in 1977. “They didn’t know what to do with us,” according to Frank.

The Olmsteds originally found Saint Meinrad because Frank had received a grant to take summer classes in the areas of youth ministry and religious education. After that first summer, they returned to Saint Meinrad for five more summers and both earned master’s degrees in religious education.

Saint Meinrad remained an important part of their lives – through raising their kids (they adopted a son, Justin, in 1990), working (Frank as a teacher and deacon

and Mary in parish work and teaching), and serving the school in various ways.

In 2018, Frank retired after 34 years as theology teacher and campus ministry director at De Smet Jesuit High School in St. Louis, MO, and 10 years at Benedictine College. He also taught evening and summer courses for Pope

Paul VI Pastoral Institute, St. Louis, for 20 years and is a deacon serving at St. Cletus Parish in St. Charles, MO.

Mary has retired as

director of religious education at St. Cletus, where she worked for 21 years in three different stints. She also taught English as a second language at Benedictine College (5 years), directed retreats at the Passionist and Marianist retreat centers in St. Louis (9 years), and was a theology teacher at Duchesne High School in St. Charles (7 years).

Besides the education they received at Saint Meinrad, Frank and Mary feel connected through the friends they’ve

made and the spiritual formation they’ve received. “Saint Meinrad has always been a family to us,” says Mary. “It’s been a true instance of grace in our lives.”

Frank agrees. “Whenever I’m out here and then leave, I always think the Church is in good hands for the future. I just see it here. And I’ve always seen it here.”

They have continued their Saint Meinrad connection in formal ways, as well. Frank served as dean of students in the summer school (1980-82), is a member of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Overseers, and both have served on the Summer Session Alumni Board of Directors and given workshops for Saint Meinrad’s diaconate program in the Diocese of Belleville.

In the words of one of their nominators for the Distinguished Alumnus Award: “Their love of the Church is without parallel. Their love of Saint Meinrad shows itself in so many ways Their dedication to evangelization is rock-solid. Their example is sterling. And they do it all with a blend of seriousness and cheerfulness.”

And on July 23, they will become the newest Saint Meinrad alumni to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award. ✚



Deacon Frank and Mary Olmsted

[Meet the Student]

Danny Taylor

Hometown: Lexington, KY

Diocese: Diocese of Lexington, KY

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

As the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen once put it, the idea that “a priest is not his own.” Shortly after high school, I thought about enlisting in the Marines. I had a vision of giving my life to a cause. While, ultimately, I discerned that military life wasn’t for me, the idea of self-sacrifice stuck with me. After a few years of discernment, God slowly revealed that my desire for a greater calling was to be lived out as a parish priest in my home diocese.

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

As a kid, I belonged to a Catholic Boys’ Club. Every Saturday, we went to Mass at the Cathedral and, afterward, delivered bread to the local housing projects. My experiences in this club served to plant a vocational seed in my heart. Through God’s grace, this seed grew and flourished. Eventually, sometime after college, it began to dawn on me that seminary was the next step that God was inviting me to take in my vocational journey.

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

I was working at our family’s business in Nicholasville, KY (a Thoroughbred racehorse breeding farm) and studying for the CPA exam. Ever since I was a kid, I expected that I would live and die raising Thoroughbreds. But God was calling me to break family tradition, in order to serve my family in a different capacity.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

I come from an English-Catholic background, so I will have to say Thomas

More. He was a lay Catholic who loved God, the Church and, most strikingly, his enemies. “I die the king’s faithful servant, but God’s first.” What a great soul this man had!

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

Psalm 147:10-11. “God takes no delight in the strength of horses, no pleasure in the runner’s stride. Rather the Lord takes pleasure in the devout, those who await his faithful care.” As a Kentuckian, I crack up when the psalmist “disses” horses. Besides being humorous, the psalmist makes a profound point: God does not love me because of my “strength,” but rather when I await him like a child. This is the Little Way of St Thérèse.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I am a huge fan of UK basketball. The cult of UK basketball borders on the level of religion in the Bluegrass! I’m a little less fanatic than I used to be, but I still consider myself to be one of the faithful of “Big Blue Nation.”

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

All the great people that I have had the privilege to meet and learn from. Seminary life has introduced me to people from a wide array of vocations, backgrounds, cultures and personalities – all who are devoutly Catholic. Seminary has taught me that the true meaning of Catholicity is that every person serves a sacrament, each one of them revealing a small part of the depth and expansiveness of God’s greatness!



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

Clinical Pastoral Education (or CPE). Basically, CPE is a summer internship as a hospital chaplain. CPE gave me the opportunity to learn how to be with others in times of death, suffering and despair. The graces that God gifted me during this time go beyond what I can detail here!

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

Pray. Priests often tell me that the one thing they wished they had done differently in seminary would be to establish a greater habit of prayer. This is simple advice, but it has stuck with me and helped me to remember that relationship with God comes first.

Q. *Other comments?*

Saint Meinrad is wonderful place to be formed for the priesthood. I am so grateful to all of the faculty, formation staff and everyone who makes this place work. Thank you for being an icon of God’s love! Y’all make me be proud to be Catholic. Today, this Kentuckian is a little less prejudiced against Hoosiers than he used to be! ✝

Saint Meinrad

DAY OF SERVICE



Over 180 alumni, oblates and friends of Saint Meinrad participated in service projects in 10 cities on March 9 for the Saint Meinrad Day of Service.

More photos at: <https://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com/Alumni/Day-of-Service-2019/>

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Sam J. Ajamie O'54 ('45-47), of Indianapolis, IN, died on February 12, 2019.

Fr. Benedict L. Auer, OSB, O'80 ('77-80), of St. Martin's Abbey in Lacey, WA, died on June 8, 2018.

Deacon Richard Bagby PD'08 ('04-08), of Germantown, IL, died December 18, 2018.

Fr. Christopher Bazar T'04 ('94-04), of Tiffin, OH, died on January 31, 2019. ✚

Mr. Joseph Bender O'63 ('54-55), of Bristow, IN, died on January 10, 2019.

Mrs. Mary Anne Morrison (Mundy) Boedeker SS'93 ('91-93), of St. Louis, MO, died on January 6, 2019. She was a member of the Summer Session Alumni Board and the Alumni Board, serving two terms as vice president.

Mr. Raymond F. Boehm O'57 ('45-57), of Williamsville, NY, died on November 29, 2018. ✚

Fr. Thomas Craig O'82 ('78-82), a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth, TX, died on January 5, 2019.

Fr. P. Martin Donnelly O'65 ('56-61), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, died on January 27, 2019.

Mr. Robert P. Edwards O'60 ('52-53), of Concord, OH, died on November 15, 2010.

Mr. James L. Fleck SPH ('55), of Maltersville, IN, died on November 28, 2018.

Mr. Keith F. Gehlhausen O'72 ('60-63), of Tell City, IN, died on February 21, 2019.

Mr. George Haendiges Jr. MA'04 ('01-04), of Marengo, IN, died on December 29, 2018.

Mr. Jack Kenkel O'54 ('45-50), of Crescent Springs, KY, died on November 14, 2017.

Mr. Thomas K. Kern T'84 ('80-83), of Clear Lake, IA, died on June 28, 2018.

Fr. William Knott O'59 ('51-53), a retired priest of the Diocese of Rockford, IL, died on September 26, 2018. ✚

Sr. M. Raphael Kochert, OSF, SS ('83), died on December 30, 2018.

Mr. James W. Mattox O'79 ('74-77), formerly of Wheat Ridge, CO, died on November 2, 2009.

Mr. Howard "Vince" McHugh O'60 ('56-60), of Elkhorn, WI, died on March 22, 2018.

Mr. Michael E. Metras O'75 ('71-73), of Santa Fe, NM, died on June 26, 2018.

Ms. Shirley J. Miller SS'75 ('69-74), of New Lenox, IL, died on January 12, 2018.

Fr. Jerome F. Nowakowski O'63 ('53-55), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on December 12, 2018.

Fr. Robert Poandl O'68 ('66-68; '72), a member of Glenmary Home Missioners, died on January 15, 2019, in Durham, NC.

Sr. Mary Celestine Pond, OSB, SS ('73), a member of the Olivetan Benedictine Sisters of Holy Angels Convent in Jonesboro, AR, died on October 26, 2018.

Fr. Thomas J. Preston, OSB, O'54 ('46-47), a retired chaplain in the U.S. Army, died on December 8, 2014.

Mr. Terry L. Swift O'76 ('68), of Indianapolis, IN, died on November 21, 2018.

Fr. Kenneth E. Taylor O'77 ('69-73), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 19, 2018.

Mr. John E. Waigand O'62 ('50-51), of Hazelwood, MO, died on January 30, 2019.

✚ - 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 attend a presentation given by Dan Conway during the Alumni Retreat in February.

ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Thomas Bailey, OSB, T'04 ('96-04), a monk of Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL, has been assigned as the prefect of studies at the Pontifical Greek College of St. Athanasius in Rome.

Fr. Mark Boyer O'76 ('72-76), a retired priest of the Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau, published five new books in 2018. Titles are: *Talk to God and Listen to the Casual Reply: Experiencing the Spirituality of John Denver*; *Christ Our Passover Has Been Sacrificed: A Guide through Paschal Mystery Spirituality – Mystical Theology in The Roman Missal*; *Rosary Primer: The Prayers, The Mysteries, and The New Testament*; *From Contemplation to Action: The Spiritual Process of Divine Discernment Using Elijah and Elisha as Models*; and *In All Things Mary: Honoring the Mother of God – An Anthology of Marian Reflections*. All were published by Wipf and Stock.

Mr. Patrick Cahill O'71 ('59-63), of Terre Haute, IN, received the Chapman S. Root Award from Hospice of the Wabash Valley on December 6, 2018.

Fr. Jason Gries T'04 ('00-04), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, has earned his degree in canon law from The Catholic University of America.

Fr. Kevin Haines T'87 ('79-87) has published a book, *Messages from Assisi: The Life and Teachings of St. Francis of Assisi for Today*. It can be ordered from Amazon. He is pastor of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Westfield, IN.

Mrs. Debi Haug '04; '07-08 has been appointed executive director for mission for the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. She is based at Neumann University in Aston, PA.

Mr. Timothy Hussey C'84 ('82-84), of Clyde, NC, has released his first album, "Songs from the Labyrinth." A collection of songs written during his training at the Haden Institute Dream Work Program. It is available at CDBaby.com.

Very Rev. James T. Kirk Jr. T'86 ('82-86) was appointed dean of the Brandywine Hundred Deanery and the diocesan director of worship for the

Diocese of Wilmington, DE. He remains as pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in North Wilmington.

Mr. Chad Lueken C'97 ('94-97), of Jasper, IN, is seeking the Republican nomination for the District 3 seat on the Jasper Common Council. He is an agent with Knights of Columbus Insurance.

Mrs. Kathryn (Scoville) Mach MA'16 ('09-16) received the 2018 national leadership award from the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry. She is currently the director of pastoral and spiritual care for the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Notre Dame, IN.

Fr. Douglas Martis T'89 ('83-85; '87), a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, IL, has begun his novitiate year at Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL.

Fr. Joe Mills O'53 ('42-46) was honored at Mass at the McRaith Catholic Center on November 29, 2018, in celebration of his 35 years of service to the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, as a member of the

tribunal. He helped to establish the tribunal and served as the diocese's first judicial vicar.

Very Rev. James Nall T'87 ('79-87) was honored by the Diocese of Belleville, IL, for his 20 years of service as judicial vicar in the diocesan tribunal.

Deacon Richard Preske O'58 ('46-48), of Evansville, IN, was honored in December for his 22 years of service as chaplain of the Serra Club of Evansville.

Fr. Paul Scaglione O'73 ('69-73; '92), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, has joined the staff at St. Luke Center in Louisville.

Fr. Victor Schinstock, OSB, T'13 ('10-13) is assistant professor of theology and chaplain to the sophomores at Conception Seminary College, Conception, MO.

Fr. Jerry Schweitzer O'71 ('67-70) gave a Lenten day retreat at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center on March 16. He is a retired priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN. †

Phonathon raises nearly \$30,000

In February, students participating in the annual Alumni Phonathon manned the phones for a few hours of calling on five evenings.

The result was another successful phonathon. Students spoke with more than 450 people and received gifts and pledges totaling \$29,080. Each evening, they talked with alumni from across the country. Phone messages were left with those they couldn't reach and on days following each phonathon, a good number of them returned calls to Saint Meinrad to make a gift.

"The annual phonathon had a slightly different look this year. We incorporated some technology to help in the training and recording processes," says Brandon Hopf, associate director of annual giving, who organized the event for his first time.

"Since I'm new, we wanted to take the opportunity to do some updating, but also keep the focus on the phonathon as a ministry opportunity," added Hopf.

"It was neat to see the mixed emotions each seminarian brought to the start of each night. You saw excitement and nervousness, but by the end of each night you saw a sincere appreciation for our alumni."

Gifts to the phonathon help fund classroom instruction, financial aid, spiritual formation programs, ministry opportunities, library resources, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds.

Alumni can make gifts to the 2018-2019 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu. †

Return Service Requested

Alumni Board Slate

Saint Meinrad alumni seeking to serve

Four alumni are seeking approval as members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Candidates are presented as a slate for approval. Alumni can submit their approval or disapproval by email to alumni@saintmeinrad.edu, by calling the Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988 or by voting on the alumni website at <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>.

Information on the fourth member of the alumni board slate can be found on the alumni website. Voting ends July 24.

PRE-1983



Mr. T. Michael Egan

Mr. T. Michael Egan O'75 ('63-69) retired in 2012 as a manufacturing management and operations consultant. His work took him to Australia and various cities in the U.S.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville in 1971 and an MBA from Bellarmine University in 1986.

He and his wife Kathy have three children. They reside in Louisville, KY, and are members of Cathedral of the Assumption Parish. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the parish council.



Fr. Matthew Gerlach

1984-1998

Fr. Matthew Gerlach T'96 ('92-96) C'92 ('89-92) has served as pastor of St. Anne Parish in Broken Arrow, OK, since July 2018.

Previously, he was pastor of St. Pius X Parish for seven years.

He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Saint Meinrad College and a Master of Arts and Master of Divinity from the School of Theology.

He has received the Distinguished Graduate Award from the National Catholic Educational Association and the De La Salle Award from Bishop Kelley High School, Tulsa. He is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

1999-PRESENT



Mrs. Angie Greulich

Mrs. Angie Greulich MTS 2013 ('MTS '14, '09-13) is a major gift officer for the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, IN. She served as the multi-parish youth ministry director in Jasper,

IN, for the past three years.

She earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Abilene Christian University in 2004 and her Master in Theological Studies from Saint Meinrad in 2013.

She and her husband Josh have two children and live in Jasper, where they are members of St. Joseph Parish. ✝