



On the Hill

For Alumni and Friends
of Saint Meinrad

Vocations.

Young men rely on Internet, personal visits to learn more about monastic life.

How do you find men who might be interested in joining a monastery founded on the 1,500-year tradition of St. Benedict? Through the Internet, of course.

One of the most successful tools that Saint Meinrad uses to engage and inform men who are interested in a religious vocation is its Web site. Fr. Anthony Vinson, OSB, director of vocations for the monastery, says more than 75 percent of those he talks with

say they made their first connection with Saint Meinrad through the Web site. "It's clear that people are doing their homework when looking for religious communities," he says.

Regular updates appear on the pages under the "Vocations" link on Saint Meinrad's Web site. According to Fr. Anthony, one of the most popular pages is "About the House," an online journal of happenings in the monastery during the previous month.

Other Web pages include a video, vocation resources, profiles of some of the monks and answers to frequently asked questions.

But Saint Meinrad's Web site isn't the only method for finding young men who are discerning a vocation. Fr. Anthony also gets inquiries from a vocation site (www.vocation-network.org) that offers a Vocation Match quiz to help discerners find out which religious communities they would be best suited for.

When Saint Meinrad is one of the matches, the vocations office gets an e-mail with the individual's name. "An e-mail goes out immediately that welcomes him and sends him to our Web site, where there is a link to our video," says Fr. Anthony. "We follow up in two weeks with a letter and then I follow up with a phone call."

The other method of reaching young men is through college campus ministers and high school and parish youth ministers. Fr. Anthony maintains relationships with these ministers so they will get to know Saint Meinrad and its monastic community. "They're able to explain it when the men on their campus come to them saying that they're discerning. They know where to send them," he says.

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The men now in formation are, from left, Br. Francis Wagner, Br. Karl Cothorn, Br. Thomas Gricoski, Br. Matthew Mattingly, Archabbot Justin DuVall, Br. John Glasenapp, Novice/Junior Master Fr. Gueric DeBona, Assistant Novice/Junior Master Br. John Mark Falkenhain, Novice Gary Edwards and Novice Joseph Waugh.



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Alumni News

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Br. Stephen Shidler dies.



BR. STEPHEN

Brother Stephen Shidler, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and a jubilarian of profession, died at the monastery on January 21, 2009. He was 85.

He was born in Elkhart, IN, on May 17, 1923, to Earl and Ursula (Gettelfinger) Shidler, and received the name Arthur Daniel at his baptism.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Br. Lawrence Shidler, OSB, and Leo Shidler. Surviving are three brothers, Fr. Anthony Shidler, OSB, Conception, MO; Raymond Shidler of Louisville, KY; and Lawrence Shidler of Marion, IN; and a sister, Sr. Elnora Shidler, OSB, Ferdinand, IN.

He completed his elementary education at Union Park School in Florida and Haas' School in Depauw, IN. In 1938, he enrolled at St. Placid Hall in St. Meinrad, a high school-level program for young men interested in becoming Benedictine brothers.

Br. Stephen was invested as a novice on February 9, 1942, and professed his simple vows on February 10, 1943. He started work in the carpentry area, becoming an accomplished cabinetmaker.

In 1950, Abbot Ignatius Esser sent him to South Dakota as a founding member of the monastery at Blue Cloud. He transferred his stability there when that monastery achieved independent status as an abbey. He remained there for the next 20 years and was known as the author of the *Blue Cloud Blues*, a collection of stories about the early days and an unofficial chronicle of life in the community.

In 1970, he returned to Saint Meinrad and worked at various jobs at Abbey Press and served several years as an assistant caretaker of the abbey's

Camp Benedict. About this time, he invented the Billy Goat, a homemade, electrically powered device that crushed great quantities of aluminum cans for recycling.

In the 20 or so years he operated the Billy Goat, Br. Stephen crushed more than a million cans. The money he earned from recycling was used to buy a popcorn popper for the monastery, to benefit favorite charities and to fund some vacations for himself and his siblings.

In 1977, he made his transfer back to the Archabbey permanent. In recent years, he has lived in the monastery infirmary.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on January 24, followed by burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. +

Abbot Martin Marty Guild Day of Recollection.

October 17, 2009



Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, greets Fr. Theodore Heck, OSB, on his 108th birthday on January 16.

Saint Meinrad responds to economic challenges.

The current economic climate is affecting nearly everyone. Businesses are enduring slow sales. Companies are cutting back on production. People are losing jobs or getting shortened work hours. Nearly every business and every person is being affected in some way.

“The term ‘global economy’ has gone from being a vague buzzword to being a harsh reality that has invited itself to dinner and is now sitting down at our kitchen table,” says Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB.

At Saint Meinrad, the economic downturn has been evident in several areas. Gerald Wilhite, general manager of Abbey Press, said store traffic has been light in the gift, card and book stores that carry Abbey Press products. “As a result, they are cutting back on new orders,” he explains.

Like many other institutions, Saint Meinrad saw the investment performance of its endowment take a nosedive. Throughout 2008, the endowment lost 25% of its value. With a smaller endowment, the amount of money that is available to pay bills and support programs also decreases.

Another economic reality has been a decrease in financial gifts by donors to Saint Meinrad. Faced with their own economic struggles, many donors are cutting back on charitable giving or postponing their regular gifts.

“These hard times make it tough to balance justice, generosity and prudence,” says Archabbot Justin, “but I am committed to doing that as best we can in every season, favorable or not.”

Archabbot Justin continued, “While my brother monks and I are grateful for the strengths of Saint Meinrad, we also seek to maintain our solidarity with the people who are our co-workers and our benefactors in these challenging times.”

To that end, he outlined a series of belt-tightening measures for the institution on February 24. “We must

weather the current storm and use the gifts we have been given as best we can,” he said.

Facing the challenge

At Saint Meinrad, everyone is being asked to contribute toward the effort to cut expenses and improve revenue. Here are a few ways this will be done:

- A wage freeze is possible for Saint Meinrad co-workers. In addition, health insurance benefits will be reviewed for possible further savings.
- An early retirement option was offered to co-workers who will be 60 or older during 2009. Eight employees took advantage of that option.
- Departments are being asked to cut their budgets for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1.
- At Abbey Press, some departments were restructured to strengthen their ability to generate income. Eleven fulltime positions were cut, and some part-time and seasonal workers have had their hours cut back.
- The School of Theology’s Board of Trustees approved an increase in seminarian tuition and room and board for the next school year.
- In some departments, positions have not been filled when an individual leaves.

In the School of Theology, President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, has asked department heads to look closely at ways to cut expenses and increase income.

“Overall, our school budget is fairly lean,” he told students at a rector’s conference in early March. “There are, nevertheless, creative ways we can maintain the quality of what we do and cut costs. This is exactly the kind of challenge that everyone is facing today.

“We cannot risk the quality of our programs; the stakes are too great,” he continued. “But we can do

something, and so most of our budgets will be cut.”

He is also asking the School’s departments to consider ways to increase revenue. Ways to reduce financial aid will also be examined.

Fr. Denis also spoke about the value of responsible stewardship. “Our benefactors and friends and dioceses and religious communities give us money so that they can have good priests and deacons and lay ministers,” he said. “All of our resources must go toward that goal. They give from their own need to maintain this house of prayer.”

He also encouraged ongoing outreach to those in need, through food drives, firewood deliveries and other initiatives. “It is not enough for us to remain a strong city on a hill weathering the storm. We must open our doors and our hearts.”+



The School of Theology’s Justice and Service Committee initiated a food drive for Dare to Care Food Bank. Dare to Care serves 13 counties in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky. Recognizing the need that exists throughout our immediate area, the seminary community responded generously to the drive. Carl Wertin, left, Diocese of Pueblo, and Steve Henriksen, Archdiocese of Louisville, bag items to deliver to the food bank.

Vocations, from page 1

After he makes contact with a potential monk, through a phone call or a visit to their campus or community, Fr. Anthony encourages the young man to visit Saint Meinrad. "When someone visits Saint Meinrad, the place and the number of monks allow people to really experience the rhythm of the life here."

A Monastic Observance

Sometimes young men visit on their own, staying at the Guest House and getting a sense of the rhythm of prayer and work. But each December, a focused experience called "A Monastic Observance" allows men who are discerning religious life to take part in Saint Meinrad's community for five days.

The men follow the daily routine, starting with prayer with the monastic community at 5:30 a.m. In the mornings, the observers get work assignments and the afternoons are devoted to conferences given by monks, including a panel discussion where the men can ask questions.

Each evening, Fr. Anthony meets with the group and gets their impressions of the day's events. At the end of the visit, he interviews each one and asks, "What surprised you most about your visit?" Invariably, it's getting to see and know the human side of the community.

What are they looking for?

In the last five years, Fr. Anthony has found that fewer men are focused primarily on becoming ordained priests after they join the monastery. "When I started five years ago, the question was 'How will I be ordained?'" Instead, the men are seeking a life of community.

Men discerning religious life are particularly interested in a community's vows, according to Fr. Anthony. At Saint Meinrad, the monks take vows of obedience, stability and fidelity to the monastic life, also called *conversatio* (conversion of life).

"*Conversatio* encompasses that sense of changing our life, so the person we were yesterday should be different than the person we are today," he explains. "There continues to be an appreciation for the monastic tradition and what that holds. It's not a remnant of something; it's something that has continued to sustain through time."

He continues, "People are thirsting for a life of contemplation. While they may not know what that means, there's an appeal to that."

In his work, Fr. Anthony talks with men in different stages of discernment. Some are just exploring the idea, some want to reconnect with the Catholic Church and some have good careers but they're not being fulfilled. "I say to people, 'Discernment will be the hardest work you ever do, because it is a real conversation with God, yourself and others—in that order.'"

"Listen"

The first word in the *Rule of St. Benedict* is "Listen," and Fr. Anthony takes that to heart. "That truly is the hallmark of what it means to be a vocation director. I'll meet someone for lunch on their college campus and I'll probably ask three questions, and 60 minutes can pass by rather quickly."

Being a patient listener allows Fr. Anthony to develop relationships with men who are discerning their next step. Last year, he and his staff were in contact with 137 men. About 34 of them made initial visits to Saint Meinrad. Currently, 11 men are making regular visits as part of their discernment. Fr. Anthony says that perhaps two of every 100 contacts will enter the monastery.

"I often tell people we are humans striving to connect with the divine; we're not the divine trying to connect with the divine," he explains. "Our life in the monastery should give us the hope and the opportunity to connect with the divinity of Christ through the treasures of the Church and the tradition of monastic life."+

Two begin novitiate.

In a brief ceremony at the monastery entrance, Gary Edwards and Joseph Waugh were clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19. They now begin a year of monastic formation, including study of the *Rule of St. Benedict* and monastic history.



NOVICE GARY

Novice Gary, 29, was born in Norwich, CT, where he attended St. Bernard High School and was a member of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. He earned a bachelor's

degree in philosophy from the Catholic University of America. Since graduating, he has worked as a paralegal, a high school teacher and a dean of students.



NOVICE JOSEPH

Novice Joseph, 44, was born in Weston, WV, where he attended Lewis County High School. He was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Salem, VA. He

attended Radford University in Radford, VA. He most recently worked in information technology for a company in Roanoke, VA.

As novices, the two men take a year off from formal studies and/or 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. +



Donors can make simple gifts from their estates.

Creative donors have found ways to provide for Saint Meinrad Archabbey's future through their estate plans—without changing their will or living trust. These gifts generally avoid probate and may also save income taxes or "death taxes."

Gifts from financial accounts

Generally speaking, it's possible to pass bank account proceeds to an individual or organization without making or changing a will by naming Saint Meinrad Archabbey as the death beneficiary of the account.

Many states allow so-called POD (pay on death) accounts that let you name a beneficiary of almost any financial account: savings, checking, CD, credit union savings, etc. You can indicate that your deposit will be "payable on death" to any charitable, educational or religious organization and keep the right to change or revoke the arrangement at any time.

If POD accounts are not used in your area, you can probably use a "Totten Trust" or "self-declaration trust." These are bank deposits that you have indicated to be "in trust for _____" (a named beneficiary). Ask your

account manager how beneficiaries may be named.

Gifts of retirement death benefits

Charitable organizations generally can be named as death beneficiaries of retirement savings plans. So those who participate in pension plans, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), 401(k) plans and other qualified retirement savings plans have an opportunity to make important gifts through a simple beneficiary designation.

Life insurance, in addition to providing family protection and peace of mind, offers a multitude of other benefits, including significant help for Saint Meinrad's programs. You can keep lifetime ownership rights in a policy (the right to borrow against the policy or cash it in, for example), but name Saint Meinrad Archabbey as the death beneficiary.

Your estate will be entitled to a charitable deduction for the proceeds passing to us. If you prefer, you can name us as contingent beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Saint Meinrad would receive the proceeds only if your primary beneficiary died before you. Or you can make us the

co-beneficiary and share insurance proceeds with another.

Gifts of securities

Securities that are being held for you in a brokerage account can be transferred to worthwhile organizations at death through a "TOD" (transfer on death) designation. Your broker can provide you with simple forms on which you can name Saint Meinrad Archabbey as a beneficiary. Securities transferred from your estate for our benefit will be free of income taxes and federal estate taxes and will pass outside probate, as well.

If any of these ideas are of interest to you, we would be glad to answer any questions you might have. We would also be grateful if you would notify our office when you decide to include us in your estate plans. Knowing of your plans is important in framing our own plans for the future. Of course, we would also like to recognize you for your generosity, either publicly or privately.

All communications will be held in strict confidence. Contact Barbara Balka in Saint Meinrad's Development Office by calling (800) 682-0988 or e-mailing bbalka@saintmeinrad.edu.



Seminarians gather in the School's St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on February 10 as Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis (not shown), installs the ministry of acolyte on 12 seminarians and the ministry of lector on 28.

The Einsiedeln Society Dinner.

Sunday,
June 14, 2009.

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Reflections on a presidential inauguration.

By Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB

An inauguration of the president of the United States was not something very special in my life. As Washingtonians say, I was born “in the district.” As a boy, we would all go downtown to “the Avenue” (Pennsylvania Avenue, that is) to catch a glimpse of the grandstand where the new president and his cabinet reviewed the soldiers filing past.

I vividly remember FDR; he was practically the only president I knew during my childhood. Schools were closed, so the children were sent to see the parade. During the Second World War, the ceremonies were curtailed. Inaugurations of wartime presidents were, however, much the same as before. In January of 1945, FDR was a tired old man, and few realized that in a few months the only president I had ever known would die.

The inauguration of Barack Obama was a very different experience. I was given the opportunity to be present at the inauguration on January 20. This inauguration was very special. One could feel in the air that this was a new day. For Washington, it could be seen in the Metro, on the streets, in the shop windows.

An orator, he was ready to speak to the crowds as the day of the inauguration neared. On the Sunday before, he spoke to the crowds at the Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Memorial and told us that “we are one.” On Monday, he recalled Martin Luther King, Jr. Barack is a seasoned community organizer and civil rights attorney. It is clear in the way he handles a crowd. In a real sense, he is “a man for all seasons.”

On Tuesday, January 20, this slender, well-spoken, brown-skinned man would stand before the nation and take the oath of office for president of the United States. He was not just an African American, he was not just the nominee of the American population, nor was he simply the leader of the free world. He was the grandson and great-grandson of black men and women who had known slavery



FR. CYPRIAN

firsthand. He was the youngster who now could dare to dream, the young black man daring to hope. As for myself, I could not keep from asking: what would my father have said?

I was able to find lodging at Catholic University with one of my confreres who teaches there. In the days prior to the inauguration, various members of the District’s presidential inauguration committee published in the newspaper and on TV details for the huge crowds who were already headed to D.C. by car, by train, by bus, by airline.

Getting there

The program was to begin at 11:30 a.m. The swearing-in ceremony would be at noon. My two confreres and I decided that we should take the Metro at about 9 a.m. We should have left earlier. Normally, the ride from Brookland-CUA is 10 to 15 minutes to the Metro Center. This time it took 35 to 45 minutes. The Metro Center was where the crowds would be converging on the Mall. The trains, packed with people, were arriving one after another.

From the time I had arrived in Washington, I tried to find people who might have a ticket for the inauguration ceremony. I tried to find my “contacts.” The tickets—free, of course—were for those who would have a seat on the Mall.

I had called my cousin, a Washingtonian; she reminded me of my age. Was I crazy to think that I could stand in the freezing weather? She would be watching the ceremony on TV. I ran into a seminarian who had been a student at Saint Meinrad; he did not have a ticket for me. The last two words were essential—“for me.”

Once leaving the Metro Center, we followed the crowd—this was already a crowd of the ticketless, the bewildered. We were on F Street going west; the police were pushing us on.

The message came from those in front of the crowd—turn on 18th Street to find a place for standing.

In circumstances like this, the crowds normally become restive, irritated, complaining. Oddly enough, the crowd was not angry. In fact, the atmosphere during this inauguration was excited and good humored. We finally turned into the viewing area of those without tickets, without seats, but with plenty of comfort stations.

We found ourselves on the slight knoll at the Washington Monument. We saw the viewing stand where the presidents and other officials were seated very far in the distance. We saw the special occupants of the special seats in the VIP section. Then there were those with tickets and a seat, except many of those with ordinary tickets never got to their seats, for one reason or other.

One of a million

And then there were us standing at the very edge of the crowd. In fact, it was a good section. We were able to look at the gigantic TV screens and hear the loudspeakers. According to the newspapers, there were over a million spectators. We were the million. And yet the police reported no arrests and no problems.

It began at 10:30 with music. Aretha Franklin sang. There was an instrumental piece with violinist Itzhak Perlman and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. It was much too cold (30 degrees) for the cellist to actually play, so his rendition was given by a recording.

Supreme Court Justice John Roberts received the oath of Barack Obama. He made a mistake in giving him the words of the oath. Few seemed to realize there was a mistake. (The next day the Supreme Court Justice and Obama repeated the words, correctly that time.)

The invocation was given by Rick Warren. After Obama’s address, we heard the poem by Elizabeth Alexander. Everyone was getting ready to leave when she read her poem. She

had to compete with the crowd. I read the poem later. It is, I believe, a powerful poem that will probably be overlooked in time to come.

The benediction of Joseph Lowery took us back to the Civil Rights Movement and the "I Have a Dream" address. It brought us back to King standing in the very same place at the Lincoln Memorial over 40 years ago. It was where I stood 40 years ago just back from Europe.

Final thoughts

The inaugural address that Obama gave was not as eloquent, perhaps, as many others, but it was profound. "...we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.... For the world has changed, and we must change with it." If I can sum up the inauguration of Barack Obama, it is hope and change; responsibility and realization.

It was easier to get back to Catholic University. I watched the parade on TV and I saw the Obamas dance the first dance at the opening ball at the Washington Convention Center. I even had an invitation to a party, but it was too late.

I left on the earliest flight from BWI at six in the morning. But the euphoria kept on. As we flew into Louisville, the woman across the aisle asked me if I had been at the inauguration. I told her yes. "Was it not amazingly wonderful?" she asked. Yes, it was. History had been made and, as always, it carried the seeds of hope. +

Fr. Cyprian is a monk of Saint Meinrad and a professor of Church history in the School of Theology. The first African American to make his final vows at Saint Meinrad, he attended the Civil Rights March in Washington in 1963, where Martin Luther King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, and took part in the March on Selma in 1965. His groundbreaking book, The History of Black Catholics in the United States, was published in 1990.

Download free Saint Meinrad content from iTunes U.

Saint Meinrad has begun offering free audio downloads of some of the special lectures, retreats and other presentations given on campus, through a site on Apple's iTunes U.

The iTunes U site allows educational institutions to create a Web page of content and make it available to others. A link to the new site can be found at the Saint Meinrad Web site, www.saintmeinrad.edu, by clicking on "Connect Saint Meinrad" at the bottom right.

Users can listen to the selections on a computer or download them to an MP3 player, such as an iPod.

Currently, the new page includes samples of Gregorian chant from the monks' CDs; retreats by Saint Meinrad monks Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB, and Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB; guest lectures on preaching, black history and theology topics; and some presentations from past Alumni Reunions.

A selection of homilies given in the Archabbey Church and the School's St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel will soon be added as well.

To access the free content, users will need to download the free iTunes software from Apple by visiting www.apple.com/itunes/download.

To get to the Saint Meinrad page, use this link: www.saintmeinrad.edu/itunes. +

Sign up for the e-newsletter.

To receive brief updates on what's happening at Saint Meinrad, you can sign up for a free e-newsletter.

To sign up, go to the link on the front page of the Web site: www.saintmeinrad.edu. Or, send an e-mail to news@saintmeinrad.edu. +

Events On the Hill

May 1-3

Guest House Retreat:
"Praying the Rosary" by
Br. Zachary Wilberding,
OSB.

May 9

School of Theology
Graduation.

May 17

Organ Concert by
Frederick Hohman, 3
p.m., Archabbey Church.

June 14

Einsiedeln Society Dinner.

June 15-19, June 26-30, July 6-10

Summer Liturgical
Leadership Conferences.

June 14

Concert by Louisville
Mandolin Orchestra.

June 22-24

Guest House Retreat:
"Friendship with God"
by Br. Francis Wagner,
OSB.

July 16-18

Guest House Retreat:
"Jesus Today" by Fr. Noël
Mueller, OSB.

September 3-5

Guest House Retreat:
"Use Time—Don't Let It
Use You" by Fr. Pius
Klein, OSB.

October 17

Abbot Martin Marty
Guild Day of Recollection.

For more information, contact
Mary Jeanne Schumacher at
(812) 357-6501 or visit our Web
site www.saintmeinrad.edu.

Give a gift in memory or honor of loved ones, friends.

Saint Meinrad offers a Memorial and Tribute Gifts program designed to let you remember or honor a loved one or friend while also supporting the work of the monastery and School of Theology.

By giving in memory of others, you create a thoughtful remembrance and, at the same time, support Saint Meinrad's many and varied ministries for the Church. It is a wonderful way to help carry on the work of Christ in their name.

With a tribute gift, you help make a difference in the life of the Church by honoring a special person or event. It is a fitting way to acknowledge a birthday, an anniversary or any other significant time in your life or the life of someone special.

If you prefer, you can designate your gift to support seminarian education, lay ministry education or the monastery. Your gift in support of seminarian or lay ministry education benefits not only the students, but also the countless people to whom they will minister.

A gift to the Archabbey helps support the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad as they live out their calling of daily prayer and work for the good of the Church and the world.

If you wish, we are happy to send a special card to the person or family you are remembering to inform them of your gift. The amount of your gift will not be disclosed.

Included in this edition of *On the Hill* is an envelope for the Memorial and Tribute Gifts program. If you would like further information or additional envelopes, please call (800) 682-0988 or visit the Web site at www.saintmeinrad.edu. ✚

A word from the Hill

Sheep without a shepherd.

By Very Rev. Denis Robinson, OSB

I have so many books on time management and no time to read them.

There seems to never be as much time in the day as we need. We lay everything out so neatly, in columns, with checklists. We put everything in the palm computer, the iPhone, whatever. We plot. We plan. We spend a lot of time, managing time.

And then we are caught out.

The phone rings. Someone needs something. This project took too long. We are distracted. My secretary is losing it. I have one 30-minute appointment available in April... of 2012.

There is never enough time to accomplish all our work. Much less time for the quality of life that somehow is supposed to make all the labor worthwhile.

No one knew that better than Jesus and His apostles. They just wanted a day off, for goodness sake. But the work of discipleship never ends. Why?

Because the work of discipleship is all-consuming. We can never preach the Gospel enough.

While our lives can be taken up with all kinds of projects, plots, plans—when all is said and done, there is only one thing to do. We must be for God.

Placing God first in our iPhone, our palm thingy, our schedule assures that we will understand our lives, because we can never comprehend life's great mystery until we interpret all the work, all the business, all the chaos, in

light of the ever-consuming vocation of being a Christian.

Simply put, in the words of Abbot Lambert, we are called to:

Grow up
Put away the God of childhood
Put aside the comfortable God
Put behind you the assurances of things attained and live into the substance of things hoped for
Be militant
Be bold
Be courageous
Speak the truth
Live the faith
Live the faith without compromise.

The sheep without a shepherd are not just Jesus' responsibility; they are ours. And His mission to reach out, to solve the overwhelming issues that confront us are ours. And we have the power to accomplish that mission.

If we only could believe for a moment the power of Jesus to change our lives. If we knew the strength of mind and heart and body and spirit that He wants to give us. If we knew for a minute what is happening here, would there still be war, crime, violence, abuse? Would we not be able to stop it?

If we really believe what is here in this chapel, would we ever be able to stop talking about God, loving God, loving one another? It is a militant love that we see broken for us and poured out for us in this place, in this chapel.

This altar gathers all the blasphemies of our lives and makes them beautiful. It puts time in order. It takes all the confusion and turmoil and suffering and stress of our lives and makes them one bread, one cup, one body for the life of the world. It gives us the heart of God and the mind of Christ.

He was a great time manager, that Jesus; he simply gave all His time to the Father.

Fr. Denis is president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology. You can read more of his homilies and reflections on his blog, <http://substancehopedfor.blogspot.com>

Alumni Reunion—August 3-5—events lined up.

For 80 years now, alumni have been gathering for annual reunions. The time together on these occasions offers individuals the opportunity to rekindle friendships and memories made while on the Hill.

Hundreds of alumni are expected to reunite this summer for Mass, conferences, banquets, leisure activities and simply renewing old friendships. The annual reunion takes place Monday, August 3, through Wednesday, August 5. Alumni Director Joseph Cook, T'94, says the schedule provides a nice balance of activities and free time for alumni to spend together.

Monday

The annual golf scramble returns to Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus. The scramble format tournament with shotgun start begins at 10:00 a.m. Back on the Hill, reunion attendees have time to play cards or walk the grounds. "Members of anniversary classes are choosing more and more to spend this time to catch up with one another," Cook says. "We reserve spaces for those classes to meet privately."

The afternoon offers attendees an opportunity to tour the grounds, including the new and renovated

spaces on campus. A hands-on demonstration of the Alumni Web site will be conducted. Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology, will present "Dynamics of Spiritual Leadership," which focuses on how spiritual leadership can be renewed in the life of the body of Christ.

Classes celebrating 10, 25, 40 and 50 years will be honored at the evening banquet. Class photos are taken and provided to attendees. Musical entertainment closes the day.

Tuesday

Catholic writer, author and journalist Russell Shaw will give two presentations on Tuesday. His presentations are titled "Ministry, Apostolate, and Vocation" and "Secrecy vs. Communion in the Catholic Church."

Shaw is a former public relations spokesperson for the U.S. bishops and has published thousands of magazine and newspaper articles. He is a faculty member of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome, and the Catholic Distance University, Hamilton, VA. He is currently serving his third five-year term as a consultor of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Fr. Dominic Garramone, OSB, T'92 and a monk of St. Bede Abbey in Peru, IL, will also give two presentations on "Baking as a Metaphor for the Spiritual Life." He will combine his culinary talents with some spiritual insights.

Fr. Dominic is the head of the Religion Department at St. Bede Academy. He teaches Church history and Christian doctrine and is also the drama director. He has published two plays and several books and cookbooks, as well as being the host of a PBS cooking show for two years.

Following the afternoon presentations, the authors will be available for book signings.

Archbishop Patrick Pinder O'79, Archdiocese of Nassau, will preside and preach at the Reunion Mass in the Archabbey Church Tuesday evening. Priest alumni are invited to concelebrate.

At the banquet, two alumni will be awarded the Distinguished Alumnus medal—Mr. Paul F. Stabile, Jr. O'68 and Msgr. Fred Easton O'66 (see page 10 for full story).

Make plans to attend the Reunion and experience the spirit and hospitality of the Hill.

More information about the Alumni Reunion and registration information can be found on the Web site, alumni.saintmeinrad.edu. Or call or e-mail the Saint Meinrad Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988 or alumni@saintmeinrad.edu to register. ✦



Alumni stroll the grounds at last year's Reunion.

Alumni Reunion Dates.

2009 – August 3-5

2010 – August 2-4

2011 – July 18-20

2012 – July 23-25

Check Web site for details:
alumni.saintmeinrad.edu

Stabile, Easton to be named Distinguished Alumni.

Two alumni who will share the honor of Saint Meinrad's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2009 also, it turns out, share a connection to the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The honorees are Paul F. Stabile Jr. O'68 ('56-'61) of Canonsburg, PA, and Msgr. Fred Easton O'66 ('54-'60) of Indianapolis.

While the two are now three states and more than 350 miles apart, they arrived at Saint Meinrad within two years of each other, from the same parish of St. Patrick in Canonsburg.

Paul F. Stabile Jr.



PAUL STABILE

Stabile, a graduate of Saint Meinrad High School, has been the director of planned giving for the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 2003. He is also director of the Pittsburgh Diocesan

Foundation. He and his wife, Ila, are members of St. Patrick Parish and the parents of two children, Holly Lynn Stabile-Davis, and Paul F. III, and grandparents of Jeremy and Jessica Stabile.

In addition to his work at Saint Meinrad from 1969 to 1983, Stabile served as the chief development officer at St. Fidelis Seminary (1967-69), Duquesne University (1983-93) and La Roche College (1993-2002). Throughout his career, Stabile has been a catalyst for each institution—implementing new programs and raising millions of dollars through major giving and highly successful capital campaigns.

He has also served on the Capuchin Franciscan Development Board, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Planned Giving Council, Canonsburg General Hospital Advisory Board, Kiwanis Club of Downtown Pittsburgh, and the Schweizer Fest Committee of Tell City, IN.

A long way from home

At age 14, Stabile came to Saint Meinrad as a freshman. At that time, there were as many as 15 students from his parish and many more from around the Diocese of Pittsburgh that made up the more than 700 seminarians enrolled at Saint Meinrad in 1956.

"It was a great adventure," he recalls. "Saint Meinrad gave me a formation for life and I carry that foundation no matter where I go. I've always been proud of my education at Saint Meinrad. I realized I wasn't going to be a priest, but I had a sincere interest in priesthood and vocations and that has been a part of my life ever since. My work with Catholic higher education has been a bonus."

After departing Saint Meinrad in 1961, Stabile went on to earn a bachelor of arts in journalism from Duquesne University and became the editor of the Carnegie, PA, *Signal-Item* weekly newspaper.

In 1964, he was called to serve in the U.S. Army. From 1966-67, he was a platoon leader and paratrooper with the First Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged as a first lieutenant and awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces.

Upon his return, he became the first development director at St. Fidelis Seminary in Butler, PA, where he worked for two years before returning to Saint Meinrad, this time as an employee. He spent the next 14 years doing development, public relations and alumni relations work. "It was like being in heaven," he says. "I was working with the same Benedictine monks who were my mentors and heroes while a seminarian."

Stabile enjoyed the hard work at Saint Meinrad, but even more the connections he and his wife formed and still keep today. "It was a great group of people to work with," he says. Stabile's wife, Ila, also worked for nine years as an editor and managing editor of *Marriage and Family Living* magazine, published by Abbey Press. Around this time, Stabile

reconnected with Msgr. Easton, who was now a priest for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and the two would meet occasionally for dinner or a visit.

Stabile has remained connected to Saint Meinrad over the years through many alumni and continues to provide financial support as well. He returns to the area at least once a year to reconnect with old friends and colleagues, as he and his family lived in Tell City, IN, and were members of St. Paul Parish there.

He was humbled by the news of the award. "There have been so many outstanding leaders over the years that have provided the spark to keep alumni active," he says. "I'm very flattered. I've always tried to stay in the background and focus on the work that needed to be done, but I will cherish this honor and receive it with great pride on behalf of all Saint Meinrad alumni."

Msgr. Fred Easton



MSGR. EASTON

Msgr. Easton, a graduate of Saint Meinrad High School and College, is vicar judicial for the Indianapolis Archdiocesan Tribunal.

"When I was told that I was receiving the award, I was almost knocked off my chair," he says. "This is such a positive affirmation of what I've been able to do in service to the Church and it's coming from my alma mater, which had such a role in my formation."

Msgr. Easton has held numerous positions during his long career, including vicar judicial since May 1980, assistant pastor at St. Vincent de Paul in Bedford, IN, assistant pastor at St. John's Church in Indianapolis, part-time assistant at St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, and secretary, vice president and president of the Canon Law Society of America (CLSA).

As a CLSA member, Msgr. Easton has, among other things, been involved with numerous issues surrounding diocesan

policies regarding sexual abuse. In 2003, he received the Role of Law Award given annually by the CLSA. He is a member of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the author of several articles and editor of an anthology of articles.

A big move

Msgr. Easton was born July 6, 1940, in Bloomington, IN. However, when he was 10 years old, his father was given a promotion with RCA, which included a move to Canonsburg, PA.

“My interest in becoming a priest was already formulating early in those years,” says Msgr. Easton. “As was customary in that time, many young men entered the seminary as early as their first year of high school.”

And so, like Stabile, Msgr. Easton was sent by the Diocese of Pittsburgh to study at Saint Meinrad in 1954. “My first year at Saint Meinrad was the year of the centennial, and it was quite an exciting first year in the seminary,” he says. “Actually, all of the years at Saint Meinrad hold for me many fond memories.”

For several of those years, Stabile’s parents would bring Msgr. Easton’s mother with them when they made the long drive to Saint Meinrad to visit.

Following high school, he attended Saint Meinrad College from 1958-60, before transferring to St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, PA, where he earned a degree in scholastic philosophy.

“I truly regard my time at Saint Meinrad as major formative years,” he says. “One of the principal elements of formation was in liturgy. Here I mean not so much the theoretical aspects of liturgy, but the practical experience of celebrating liturgy with the monks as well as in the minor seminary chapel (now St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel).”

He earned his master’s degree in sacred theology from St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD. During his time there, his father died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage. He was taken back to Bloomington and buried on the same day as President John F. Kennedy, recalls Msgr. Easton. His mother would soon move back to Bloomington as well.

In 1966, during his final year of seminary, he requested a transfer to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to be closer to his family. His first appointment was assistant pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford. A couple of years later, he went to the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, Italy, where he earned a licentiate in canon law in 1969.

Over the years, Msgr. Easton has continued to be involved with Saint Meinrad through alumni reunions and dinners. He has also assisted with alumni phonathons and was involved with Saint Meinrad’s recent capital campaign.

“For me, being an alumnus means staying connected and continuing to share in the spirit of Saint Meinrad,” he says. “Being an alumnus enables me to continue to renew and refresh what I received so many years ago as a student.”

Back together again

A few years ago, when in Pittsburgh for a canon law convention, Msgr. Easton had a chance to go back to Canonsburg, both to revisit the town and to have dinner with Paul and his family. The two have remained friends and kept in contact over the years.

“It was never planned,” says Msgr. Easton. “It just worked out that way. Now it feels like we’ve come full circle. We’re back to where we started, back together again at Saint Meinrad.” +

Msgr. Easton and Stabile will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 81st annual Alumni Reunion on August 4.

Phonathon brings together students, alumni.

The annual alumni phonathon, held for five nights during March, raised \$28,690 in pledges for Saint Meinrad.

Four nights of the phonathon were held at Saint Meinrad and were staffed primarily by seminarians. This year, each of the four seminary houses of formation was responsible for one night of the phonathon, an idea that worked very well, according to Duane Schaefer, director of development. “This was a service project for each house,” explains Mr. Schaefer. “By participating in the phonathon, the students are able to connect with our alumni and friends on a very personal level.”

“Even during these challenging economic times, those who received calls were very supportive of Saint Meinrad’s work,” notes Mr. Schaefer. “I think our alumni and friends enjoy hearing directly from the students who are benefiting from their generosity.”

The fifth night of calling was hosted by Msgr. Fred Easton in Indianapolis. Seven alumni made calls on behalf of Saint Meinrad that night.

All totaled, the callers received pledges of specific amounts from 302 alumni and friends. In addition, another 153 of those contacted agreed to make a gift to Saint Meinrad, but did not indicate a specific amount. +



1956 Class Photo: Paul Stabile is second from right, bottom row.

Slate of nominees for Alumni Board of Directors.

Six alumni are candidates for approval as new or returning members to the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors. Instructions for approving the slate are at the end of this article.

Alumni from Classes before 1973

Thomas L. Norris O'64 ('58-64) lives in Louisville, KY. His wife, Patricia, is an alumna of Saint Meinrad Summer Session. They have four children. In addition to seminary studies, he studied business administration at the University of Louisville and Bellarmine University. Norris spent seven years in active ministry for the Archdiocese of Louisville. Since 1971, he has worked for Arrow Electric Co., Inc.

He helped to establish the local chapter of Independent Electrical Contractors and served as a board member and officer for 20 years. He has also served on the board of GuardiaCare, Inc. and was a recipient of the Bell Award for volunteer service. In his free time, he does repairs and construction for volunteer organizations.



FR. THOMAS BOYER

Fr. Thomas Boyer O'68 ('60-68) is a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK. He earned his BS from Saint Meinrad College in 1964 and his MDiv from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1968. He is pastor of St. Mark Parish in Norman.

He previously served as pastor of Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City, St. Thomas More University Parish in Norman, and St. Joseph Parish in Union City. For 15 years, he served as director of vocations for the archdiocese. He is a member of the Priests Personnel Board, National Pastoral Musicians and the National Organization for the Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy. This is his fourth year on the Alumni Board.

Alumni from Classes of 1974-1988

Fr. Frank Torres O'81 ('74-76) is a priest of the Diocese of Gary and



FR. FRANK TORRES

currently serves at St. Casimir Parish in Hammond. A native of Gary, he is the fifth of six children. He and several of his family members worked in the steel mills of northwest Indiana. Fr. Torres also served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He has served in a number of parishes, most recently at St. Joseph in LaPorte.

Fr. Torres credits his vocation, in part, to the many Saint Meinrad alumni who served as his pastors. An avid runner, he competes annually in the Chicago marathon.

Alumni from Classes of 1989-Present



ANN TULLY

Ann Tully T'03 ('96-03) earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. She serves in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Tribunal as judge

instructor/assessor.

Tully earned a bachelor's degree in business and finance from Indiana University at Indianapolis and is certified by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania as an employee benefits specialist.

She is a member of the Canon Law Society of America, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Vocation Advisory Team and Deacon Formation Policy Board, Catholic Charities Committee SHINE (Spreading Hope in Neighborhoods Everywhere) and the Archdiocesan Chapter of Bread for the World. She and her husband, Tim, have two sons. She enjoys bicycling and travel.

Deacon George C. Stonikinis, Jr. PDP'03 ('99-03) is a member of Saint Meinrad's first class of permanent deacons, ordained for the Diocese of Richmond, VA. He earned BS and MS

degrees from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth and completed a two-year program in spiritual direction.



GEORGE STONIKINIS

Deacon Stonikinis retired from a 35-year career at Longwood University in Farmville, VA, where he served, variously, as professor, academic administrator, program director and academic chair. He served as pastoral administrator of Good Samaritan Church in Amelia, VA, before relocating to North Carolina. He currently serves the Raleigh Diocese as a deacon to two parishes. He and his wife, Vee Suzanne, have two children.



KENNETH JOHANNING

Deacon Kenneth Johanning PDP'05 ('01-05) is ordained for the Diocese of Evansville and serves at St. Anthony Parish in St. Anthony and Sacred Heart Parish in Schnellville.

Deacon Johanning earned a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a master's of education from the University of Southern Indiana.

He taught at North Harrison (County) High School for 13 years. He now teaches physics and integrated chemistry and physics at Greater Jasper High School. He and his wife, Gladys, have six children and numerous grandchildren. They reside in Jasper.

Candidates for the Alumni Board are elected as a slate by approval. Alumni can submit their approval or disapproval in one of three ways: by e-mail to alumni@saintmeinrad.edu (type "Ballot" in the subject line), by calling the Development Office at (800) 682-0988, or by voting on the Alumni Web site at <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/?ballot>. A ballot will not be mailed separately. Voting ends July 15. +

Religious journals just one click away.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library and the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association recently announced a new benefit for alumni provided through a two-year grant from the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) and supported by generous funding from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Alumni can now access ATLASerials® (ATLAS), an online collection of more than 100 major religion and theology journals selected by leading religion scholars and theologians. Through this platform, alumni can research the history of a topic from as early as 1924 to the present through more than 211,000 articles and book reviews.

Director of Alumni Relations Joseph Cook T'94 says he has seen a lot of interest in the journals since the new service was announced in early January.

Currently, alumni are able to use ATLAS as a search tool to retrieve PDFs of the pages in more than 100 journals, with fully searchable texts that allow for keyword proximity and citation set searches.

Available titles

Some of the online journals include:

- ARTS: The Arts in Religious and Theological Studies
- Catholic Biblical Quarterly
- Christian Century
- Christianity Today
- Ecumenical Review
- First Things: A Monthly Journal of Religion and Public Life
- Greek Orthodox Theological Review
- Harvard Theological Review
- Journal of Pastoral Care
- Journal of Pastoral Theology
- Pro Ecclesia
- Theology Today.

Daniel Kolb, Archabbey Library director, helped spearhead the new service. "We are pleased to be able to provide ATLAS to our alumni free of charge. ATLAS has a wide range of important, high-quality journals that

will provide those working in ministry with sources for sermon preparation and Church administration, as well as reading for intellectual and spiritual growth and development."

How to access ATLAS

ATLAS is open to all Saint Meinrad alumni. However, to verify alumni status, you must be a registered member of the Alumni Web site. Membership in the Saint Meinrad Alumni online community is free.

If you are an alumna or alumnus of Saint Meinrad but not yet a registered member of the Alumni Web site, you can register by visiting <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>. If you are already a registered member of the Web site, you can access ATLAS by signing into your alumni account and then clicking on "Online Theology Journals" in the left menu. +



May they Rest in Peace.

Fr. Edward J. Bawiec O'54 ('50-54), of the Diocese of Peoria, IL, died October 17, 2008.

Mr. Paul T. Berndt O'46 ('37-38), of South Bend, IN, died October 1, 2008.

Mr. David J. Bessette O'64 ('54-56), of Seattle, WA, died September 7, 2008.

Mr. Robert J. DeCabooter O'72 ('67-72), of Phoenix, AZ, died October 20, 2008.

Fr. Donald J. Evrard O'56 ('44-56), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died December 27, 2008.

Mr. James J. Glover O'44 ('32-39), of Ellicott City, MD, died July 16, 2008.

Fr. Francis J. Hay O'42 ('38-42), of the Diocese of Wichita, KS, died November 12, 2008.

Mr. Herbert Krahan O'44 ('33-36), of St. Ann, MO, died in May 1976.

Fr. Thomas W. Kuhn O'57 ('49-53), of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died December 4, 2008.

Mr. Kenneth A. Lightfoot SPH ('41), of St. Louis, MO, died February 9, 2004.

Sr. Ramona Lunsford, OSF SS ('87), of Oldenburg, IN, died October 15, 2007.

Mr. John K. McCarrel O'83 ('75-77), of Indianapolis, IN, died January 5, 2009.

Fr. Ronald Patterson O'63 ('59-61), of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE, died November 3, 2008.

Fr. Stephen F. Phillips O'83 ('80-83), of the Diocese of Orlando, FL, died December 5, 2008.

Mr. Michael P. Robison O'59 ('47-56), of Indianapolis, IN, died November 30, 2008.

Mr. Nicholas J. Schmit SPH ('58), of Huntersville, NC, died on January 24, 2008.

Fr. Edward P. Schneider O'64 ('52-64), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died December 29, 2008.

Mr. Verne L. Steimer O'79 ('71-72), of Ligonier, PA, died September 17, 2005.

Fr. James R. Sullivan O'47 ('44-48), of the Diocese of Springfield, IL, died November 13, 2008.

Fr. Cletus Ternes, OMI O'60 ('48-51), of Cotabato City, Philippines, died July 15, 2008.

Mr. Norbert Vennekotter O'50 ('39-40), of Ottawa, OH, died August 22, 2008.

Fr. Hilary F. Vieck O'55 ('43-55), of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died November 27, 2008.

Mr. Joseph E. Weintraut O'56 ('44-46), of Mount Vernon, IN, died December 5, 2008.

Mr. John V. Whitaker O'44 ('32-42), of Cincinnati, OH, died December 21, 2008. +

An updated list of obituaries available at alumni.saintmeinrad.edu.

Alumni News

Fr. Stephen J. Banet O'75 ('63-71), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, was among nine central Indiana pastors who were recognized as "good shepherds" during the "40 Days for Life" closing prayer rally on November 2, 2008, at St. Augustine Home for the Aged Chapel in Indianapolis. Other alumni honored on that occasion were:

Fr. John Beitans O'73 ('65-73), **Fr. Glenn L. O'Connor O'80 ('74-80)** and **Fr. Rick Nagel T'07 ('02-07)**.

Mr. David A. Bower C'71 ('66-71), of Evansville, IN, and his wife, Mary, received a "Special Recognition Award" from St. Mary Parish in Evansville in the fall of 2008 for their many years of service to the parish.

Fr. Mark G. Boyer O'76 ('72-76), of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO, has published his 29th book, *Take up Your Cross and Follow: Daily Lenten Reflections* (St. Pauls/Alba House, 2009). He is the founding pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Nixa, and a part-time faculty member in the Religious Studies Department of Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield.

Fr. Patrick P. Brownell T'94 ('87-94), of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN, as a U.S. military chaplain for troops in Iraq, was awarded the Bronze Star for "exceptionally meritorious service." He had served from September 2007 to May 2008. The event was recorded in *The East Tennessee Catholic* for October 26, 2008.

Mr. William J. Browning O'72 ('60-65), of Ledyard, CT, is president of the Institute of Operations Research and Management Science Roundtable, a group of technical executives and senior managers.

Mr. William F. Cook C'89 ('85-88), of Swanton, OH, is director of development for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Oregon, OH.

Fr. Richard J. Doerr T'93 ('88-93), of the Diocese of Lafayette, IN, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Carmel, was featured in the March/April 2008 issue of *Purdue Alumnus* in an article titled "Following Their Faith." Also featured was

Fr. Thomas Schliessmann T'89 ('84-89, '98-99), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, who is pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Edinburgh and St. Rose of Lima in Franklin.

Mr. Jeff A. Ebert C'97 ('94-97), of St. Meinrad, IN, and his wife, Theresa, have a little girl, Claudia Elizabeth, who was born October 20, 2008.

Mr. Duane J. Etienne O'67 ('55-67), of Indianapolis, IN, has retired as president and chief executive officer of CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions, Indiana's largest area agency on aging, after 29 years in that position.

Mr. Keith Fritz C'99 ('95-97) was featured in the 2008 Annual Report of The Catholic University of America as one of the nation's leading makers of fine furniture.

Fr. Thomas J. Hart T'06 ('02-07), of the Diocese of Little Rock, AR, associate pastor of St. Mary of the Springs Church, Hot Springs, led a group of parishioners on a mission trip to the island nation of Haiti in November 2008.

Abbot Thomas A. Hillenbrand, OSB O'65 ('53-59), of Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD, resigned as major superior January 1, 2009.

Fr. Roger A. Houle O'77 ('73-77), of the Diocese of Providence, RI, is serving in a newly created position of senior priest advisor since November 1, 2008. He ministers to 95 retired, senior priests making sure that they are not neglected and that provision is made for their spiritual, physical and financial needs.

Fr. J. Ronald Knott O'70 ('64-70), of the Archdiocese of Louisville and director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates, Saint Meinrad School of Theology, was the 2008 reunion keynote speaker at Conception Seminary College, Conception, MO.

Mr. John W. McMullen T'91 ('85-90, SS'99), a theology teacher at Mater Dei High School in Evansville, IN, was quoted extensively in an article in *Evansville Courier & Press* for December 23, 2008, "Mater Dei mission expressed in holiday."

Abbot Denis Quinkert, OSB SPH'54 ('50-54), S'92), of Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD, was elected abbot of the community on January 10, 2009. He previously served as abbot from 1986 to 1991.

Mr. Sheldon L. Roy C'82 ('80-82), of Miami Beach, FL, is the senior vice president of development for the Miami Science Museum.



Fr. J. Michael Clark

Fr. J. Michael Clark T'95 ('89-95) was elected by the College of Consultors of the Diocese of Owensboro as administrator, effective January 6, 2009. He will administer the diocese until a new bishop is appointed to succeed Bishop John McRaith.

Appointed judicial vicar of the diocese in February 2004, Fr. Clark also serves as the diocesan ecumenical officer and as pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Utica, KY. He was ordained to the priesthood in May 1995.

He has a BA from the University of Kentucky, an MRE and MDiv from Saint Meinrad School of Theology and a licentiate degree in canon law from The Catholic University of America. +

Fr. Samuel Russell, OSB O'79 ('73-75), of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, addressed the Region IX annual Serran Convention in Kansas City. His topic was "Today's Seminarians—You'll be Surprised."

Mr. Michael E. Ryan O'64 ('52-60), of Osoyoos, Canada, is serving a three-year term on the Town Council.

Mr. Steven M. Shockley C'96 ('92-01), of Louisville, KY, and his wife have a daughter, Rachael Esther, born August 10, 2008.

Sr. Marie Kevin Tighe, SP S ('92-93, '08), of the Sisters of Providence, St. Mary of the Woods, IN, received the Career Achievement Award in the fall of 2008 from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for her many ministries.

Fr. Darrell E. Venters T'89 ('84-89), of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, was featured in a *New York Times* article on December 28 titled "Serving U.S. Parishes, Fathers Without Borders." He is responsible for recruiting foreign priests to serve in the diocese. In the last six years, he has brought 12 priests from Africa, Asia and Latin America to compensate for the lack of needed priests in the area.

Mr. James S. Wayne O'74 ('62-66), of Louisville, KY, received for the second time Kentucky Housing Corporation's Mae Street Kidd Award on October 23, 2008, for his work in promoting affordable housing.

Fr. Paul Weberg, OSB C'98 ('94-98), of Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL, and a member of the Illinois National Guard, was one of four Catholic chaplains serving the 4th Infantry Division from Ft. Hood, TX, during their tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq, in the summer of 2008.

Mr. William J. Woerz O'76 ('64-72), of Newburgh, IN, a sales consultant with National Wine & Spirits Corporation, was recognized November 7, 2008, by the Society of Wine Educators as a certified specialist of wine. +

Passion Play part of Alumni trip in 2010.

The Saint Meinrad Alumni Association is hosting a trip to Switzerland and southern Germany in 2010 that will include tickets to see the famous Passion Play of Oberammergau. The dates of the trip are September 25-October 4. The base price is \$3,349 per person, departing from New York.

Other places included on the tour are Frankfurt, Heidelberg, the Rhine Valley, Lake Lucerne, Neuschwanstein, Munich and Rothenburg. Participants will spend a day in Einsiedeln, the site of the monastery that founded Saint Meinrad more than 150 years ago.

For a free brochure about the trip, including a registration form, e-mail or phone the Alumni Office with your name and mailing address. E-mail alumni@saintmeinrad.edu or call (800) 682-0988. The full itinerary is available on the Alumni Association Web site: <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>, where you can also request a brochure. +



Saint Meinrad seminarians participated in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, this January. More photos at www.saintmeinrad.edu/enevs/March_Life_09.html

Caskets, from page 16

shaped design," says Keller. A traditional, rectangular casket was added, which was also available in the natural and cherry finishes.

Later, urns were added to the list of products and, in 2005, the line of caskets was expanded to include premium woods—oak, cherry and walnut. The latest offerings by Abbey Caskets are infant and oversize caskets. "In the past, we would special order these items as needed, but now we keep them on hand," Keller adds.

Abbey Caskets also offers a prepaid option and receives a steady stream of prepaid orders. This allows customers to choose and purchase a casket immediately, with the money placed in a trust until the casket is needed.

Growth continues

Keller has seen an ever-increasing demand for Abbey Caskets. In its first year in 1999, Abbey Caskets sold 59 caskets. This year, they anticipate sales of 350 caskets. Keller says that because all of the proceeds benefit the monastic community, purchasing an Abbey Casket is another way to be part of the Archabbey's long Benedictine tradition.

"Word is getting out about us and interest is definitely increasing," says Keller. Many people find Abbey Caskets on the Web site, but the biggest catalyst seems to be word of mouth. "A lot of people just see our caskets at a funeral and ask about them." She says the state fairs have raised added awareness, but there is still work to be done. "There are still a lot of people out there who don't know about us. Our biggest goal for the coming years is to increase awareness."

Besides Keller, the staff at Abbey Caskets includes Pat Clark, Br. Terence Griffin, OSB, and Teresa Dilger. To find out more about Abbey Caskets, visit them on the Web at www.abbeycaskets.com, call (800) 987-7380 or e-mail info@abbeycaskets.com. +



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Abbey Caskets celebrating 10-year milestone.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, well known for its 155-year history and tradition, reached a new milestone this year. In 2009, Abbey Caskets celebrates its 10th anniversary of making simple, elegant caskets for the public.

“For the past 10 years, Abbey Caskets has been one more way in which the monks of Saint Meinrad have been able to share our monastic values with others. The caskets display the physical value of good and honest craftsmanship and the spiritual value of our belief in the dignity of the human person, even in death,” comments Archabbey Justin DuVall, OSB.

Jenny Keller, associate director of Abbey Caskets, says an open house at the Abbey Caskets showroom on the Archabbey grounds is planned to mark the milestone, with details to be announced soon.

Abbey Caskets will also celebrate its 10th anniversary with a booth at the Kentucky State Fair, August 20-30. This will be Abbey Caskets’ second

appearance at the Kentucky State Fair. The staff also attended the Indiana State Fair for the second time in 2008. Keller says she plans to continue attending both state fairs on alternating years.

In response to requests from the public, Saint Meinrad Archabbey opened Abbey Caskets on March 19, 1999, offering one type of casket—the

shaped monastic-style casket similar to the one used by the monks—made from poplar wood in natural and cherry finishes.

New products added

As interest grew, more options were added. “People liked the simplicity of the coffins but not all of them liked the

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Teresa Dilger, left, and Br. Terence Griffin, OSB, right, show Abbey Caskets products to a group from New Albany during a recent open house.