

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2022 • VOL. 61:2

Br. Gregory professes first vows

**Distinguished Alumnus:
Fr. Joseph Ziliak**



**Abbey Woodworking
creates custom furniture**

Cover: Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa, OSB, teaches a seminary course on Liturgical Books on February 10, 2022.



Saint Meinrad





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*Snow dusts the statue of St. Meinrad on February 4, 2022.
Find more photos at <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>.*

Monks' Personals

Fr. Jeremy King served on the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Corrections Ministry Committee and participated in a panel discussion at the annual Corrections Conference on October 9 in Indianapolis.

Fr. Julian Peters directed a retreat for priests in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, January 24-28. He also directed a retreat for permanent deacons and wives from the Diocese of Lexington at Saint Meinrad February 10-13.

Fr. Adrian Burke facilitated a retreat for the "Happy Hearts" women's group from the Evansville Diocese on February 19-20. He led a Lenten retreat for parishioners at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, KY, on March 5-6.

Fr. Anthony Vinson spoke to youth at Holy Trinity School in Jasper, IN, as part of Catholic Schools Week on February 21.

Fr. Simon Herrmann served as chaplain for the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers' retreat at St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, CO, on March 4-6. He also organized a Lent music concert by the band Poor Bishop Hooper in the Archabbey Church on March 15.

Fr. Noël Mueller led a retreat in Spanish on Our Lady of Guadalupe to a group of youth from the Tulsa Diocese on March 25-27. They discussed the NASA report on the cloth that Juan Diego wore.

Fr. Christian Raab delivered three talks for the Source of Hope Missionaries and the young adult ministry at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption in Baltimore, MD, from March 4-6.

Fr. Harry Hagan published "Mercy's Many Meanings in the Scriptures" in the April edition of *The Priest* magazine.

Br. John Glasenapp presented a seminar on Cistercian chant to graduate students at the University of Limerick (Ireland) as well as a colloquium paper titled "Observant Chant Reform and Networks of Women's Learning in the Southern Low Countries." He was also hosted by the city of Provins (France) through Columbia University to study chant manuscripts in the local collection and was subsequently granted an extended stay at the Abbey of Solesmes (France) to research in their famed chant workshop.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner developed and designed a website for his digital history course at the University of Louisville. It is titled "Benedictine



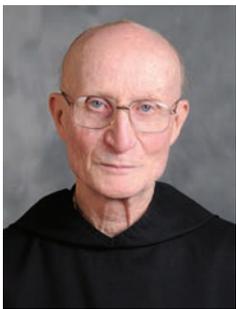
Stability in the Hoosier Hills: A Living Tradition." Scan the QR code to visit the page. ✚





Monastery News

Br. Mario Ibison, 60-year jubilarian, dies at 83



Br. Mario Ibison

Br. Mario Ibison, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died in the monastery infirmary on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, after suffering a stroke two days before. He was 83.

Br. Mario was born in Evanston, Illinois, on August 5, 1938, the third of four children, to Raymond and Elizabeth (Henneberry) Ibison, and was given the name Thomas Raymond at his baptism.

After completing his elementary education at St. Ita Grade School in Chicago in 1954, he enrolled in St. George High School in Evanston, from which he was graduated in 1958. He was invested as a novice at Saint Meinrad on November 5, 1960, and he professed simple vows on November 12, 1961.

Br. Mario's monastic assignments had him working literally all over the Hill. His service included stints in the plumbing department, the library, the sacristy, the tailor shop, and the shoe shop.

But two assignments in particular occupied 50 of Br. Mario's 60 years of monastic life. In 1970 he began working with Physical Facilities on the grounds and landscaping crew and in the monastery vineyard. Twenty-one years later, trading the gardener's hoe and spade for the painter's brush and buckets, he took on the assignment he would hold for the next 30 years and, indeed, until the very day of his death.

Although not one to boast or call attention to his accomplishments, Br. Mario could rightly claim there was scarcely a spot of land anywhere on the hill or a room inside any of its buildings that had not benefited from his hands-on care.

In the evening hours, Br. Mario often would put his energy into fierce games of chess with one of two confreres. Br. Mario seemed to be victorious more often than not, probably not realizing his confreres could detect whether he had won or lost that evening depending upon whether his face showed a scowl or a smile on his way to Compline. For further recreation, Br. Mario was an avid reader.

Always interested in how his confreres and co-workers were doing, Br. Mario could be full of questions – and comments. While formal meetings would

likely not be on his list of favorite things to do, he was not hesitant about asking questions or pointing out things he considered obvious.

Br. Mario would likely not understand being called an “ambassador of Saint Meinrad,” but in so many ways he was, even though he did not travel away from the hill often. Whether it be guests, students, oblates, co-workers, or even delivery drivers, it often seemed Br. Mario was the first monk those coming to the hill would encounter. He knew how to greet and how to make others feel welcome. And once met, Br. Mario would be remembered, and often asked about years later.

Br. Mario was preceded in death by his parents and sister Gloria. Surviving are two sisters, Donna Leonard of Arlington Heights, IL, and Jackie Kilkenny of Colorado Springs, CO; and many nieces and nephews.

At the time of his death, Br. Mario was a jubilarian of profession; he was in the 60th year of his monastic profession.

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

Br. Gregory Morris professes temporary vows



Br. Gregory Morris

Novice Matthew Morris professed his temporary vows as a Benedictine monk in a ceremony on January 20, 2022, in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church.

He has completed his novitiate, a year of prayer and study of the Benedictine way of life. As is the custom during the profession of vows, he was given a religious name. Novice Matthew is now Br. Gregory.

Br. Gregory, 34, is a native of Ft. Thomas, Kentucky. After graduation from Newport Central Catholic High School, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and theology from Bellarmine University.

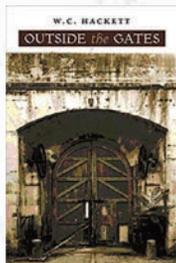
He has worked for The Kroger Co. for 18 years in a variety of positions. His home parish was St. Catherine of Siena in Ft. Thomas.

Temporary vows are typically for three years. This period offers a continuing opportunity for the monk and the monastic community to determine whether monastic life is, indeed, the right vocation for this individual. ✚



Noteworthy:

News-worthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events



Faculty member **Dr. Chris Hackett** has published a novel, *Outside the Gates*, based on the true story of French philosopher Jean Wahl's harrowing escape from a Nazi

internment camp. The book was published by Angelico Press in December 2021.

Saint Meinrad recently published **seven e-books** through PALNI Press. They are available through the Archabbey Library catalog and through WorldCat, a global catalog of library collections. The books include the five-book series of *Saint Meinrad*

Studies in Pastoral Ministry and two books by Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, *Mighty in Battle* and *Elements of Biblical Narrative*.

Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, a member of the Saint Meinrad community until his death in 2018, has been named to the inaugural class of the **St. Benedict at Auburndale Hall of Fame**. The high school became part of the Diocese of Memphis in 1988 while Buechlein was serving as bishop of the diocese, and he named the school after the patron saint of his religious order.

The January Interterm offers seminarians two weeks of **short courses and seminars** on various topics to enhance their priesthood formation. Among those

who joined Saint Meinrad staff members in presenting during J-Term were: Dr. Jason Winkle (leadership and team building); Fr. Vince Lampert (ministry of exorcism); Mrs. Caren LeMark (marriage preparation); Mrs. Betsy Corley (taxes); Mrs. Sara Vaal (hospice care); and Fr. Matt Schmitz (celibacy). Winkle, Lampert and Schmitz are alumni of Saint Meinrad.

Lucia Baez Luzondo, JD, an immigration attorney and co-founder of Family Renewal Ministries Inc., delivered the Cyprian Davis Lecture to students and faculty on February 10. She spoke on "A Shifting Demographic: Cultural Diversity and the Mission of the Laity." †

Campaign-funded renovation work begins this spring

Work is expected to begin in May on renovating two buildings on the Saint Meinrad campus. Work will be done to upgrade both St. Anselm Hall and the Archabbey Library to accommodate two new programs. The new programs are the Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization and the Institute for Sacred Music.

The campaign to fund the renovations and establish the new programs is nearing the end of its three-year run. As of April 1, \$10.6 million had been raised. The "Forward Together: For the Life of the Church" campaign ends on June 30.

Krempp Construction of Jasper, IN, has been selected to do the library renovation, while Empire Contractors of Evansville, IN, will do the work on St. Anselm Hall.

Total cost of the construction bids is \$10,782,000.

Work will begin after graduation on May 14 and is expected to take up to 16 months. Meanwhile, the new programs are already underway.

The Center for Youth and Young Adult Evangelization will expand Saint Meinrad's work with youth and young adults. In December, Lilly Endowment Inc. awarded Saint Meinrad a grant of nearly \$1 million to establish an Office for Hispanic and Latino Ministry within the Center.

Another Lilly grant for \$1.25 million will support the second phase of the Young Adult Initiative, which will continue the young adult engagement efforts overseen

by Saint Meinrad from 2017-2021. Hiring for both programs has already begun.

The other program, the Institute for Sacred Music, has begun developing resources and offering courses that will expand Saint Meinrad's outreach in the areas of chant and liturgical and other sacred music.

The "Forward Together" campaign reached its \$10 million goal six months ahead of schedule. Additional funds raised will go toward the increased construction costs and to buy furnishings and equipment for the new programs. †



A CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP FORUM
WOMEN of the **CHURCH**

Strength of the past. Hope for tomorrow.

Forum planned for June

Women of the Church, a Catholic leadership forum, will launch its first regional gathering June 17-19, 2022, at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Women of all ages will gather to nurture their leadership roles wherever they are on their journey. Participants will be invited to listen and learn from leaders in the Church and to bring their own experiences into conversation with others.

Registration is now open at www.womenofthechurch.org and will be capped at 50 participants. Deadline to register is June 1. The fee is \$250, which includes room and meals, or \$100 for commuters.

Plenary sessions will include a recorded video conversation with Kerry Alys Robinson and an in-person presentation by Dr. Kimberly Baker.

Robinson is the executive partner for global and national initiatives at Leadership Roundtable and the executive director-elect of the Opus Prize Foundation. Baker is a co-founder of

Women of the Church and associate professor of patristics at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Workshops will be led by Judith Fean, Rachel Forbes Kaufman and Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB.

Fean, retired vice president for mission at Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN, will lead "Leadership Lessons from One Woman's Journey."

Forbes Kaufman will lead "How Purpose Changes Across Your Lifetime: Tools for Discerning Life Transitions." She is the founding director of The Retirement Institute™, a ministry of Forbes Well-Being Advisors.

Sr. Jeana will speak on "Seeking the Visible Face of God: Praying with Icons." She is a Benedictine sister of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN, and dean of School of Theology programs at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

The regional forum is sponsored by Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and The Loyola Foundation. ✝

EVENTS ON THE HILL

May

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

May 6-8

Guest House Retreat: "The Ghent Altarpiece" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.

May 14

Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

May 18

Guest House Workshop: "TLC: Timing, Light and Composition" by Krista Hall.

May 20-22

Guest House Retreat: "Gratitude" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.

June 10-12

Guest House Retreat: "Parables of Jesus for the Present Day" by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB.

June 11

Guest House Workshop: "Cultivating the Virtues of Presence, Hospitality and Community in our Busy Lives" by Christian and Gillian Mocek.

June 17-23

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, and Br. Michael Moran, CP.

June 24-26

Guest House Retreat: "Deepening Prayer through Music" by Br. Michael Reyes, OSB.

July 1-3

Guest House Retreat: "Living Monastic Values in Everyday Life" by Br. Martin Erspamer, OSB.

July 11-15

Guest House Workshop: "Summer Chant Workshop" by Br. John Glasenapp, OSB.

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



Abbey Woodworking

A Work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey



Carving a niche in custom furniture

Since 2017, the Abbey Caskets workshop has been in place on the Saint Meinrad campus. Last year, the craftsmen there turned out hundreds of handmade caskets, cremation urns and keepsake crosses.

But when the builders are not working on those items, they are designing and building custom furniture for parishes and individuals.

Abbey Caskets Director Jenny Keller and Assistant Director Teresa Dilger have been with Abbey Caskets since almost the beginning. They understand that when people order a casket for their loved one, it needs to be ready to ship immediately. With that in mind, all styles of caskets are kept in stock so they can be delivered as needed.

To balance the “at need” part of the woodworking business, about five years ago they developed Abbey Woodworking to provide custom furnishings that can be ordered when churches need new or replacement furnishings.

The on-site workshop makes that possible as well. “We have more control over the design, what the customer’s looking for, if they want a certain finish – just all those kinds of pieces,” Keller says.

The variety of custom pieces has included presider’s chairs, altar server chairs, chapel kneelers and chairs, personal kneelers, cremation urn carriers (used at funerals), tabernacles and chalice carriers.

Last year, Abbey Woodworking built the altar, ambo and candle holders for the new Holy Angels Church in Indianapolis. “That was a very unique piece in that it had an arched base,” says Keller. “We had to do a process of laying laminate pieces and gluing them together on a curved board to get that arch.”

It’s a challenge the woodworkers enjoy, a nice counterpoint to building the caskets and cremation urns that are typically the same designs repeated in different woods and finishes.

In one case, for example, a church sent Abbey Woodworking a photo of a carved wood design in the church. “We engraved that onto their presider’s chair so that it would match the design in their church,” Keller explains.

Abbey Woodworking is trying to carve its own niche in the church furnishings business. “We’re trying to offer that one-of-a-kind piece that you can get and nobody else will have it,” says Dilger. In

addition, the new division also has some pieces on its website that are ready to order. Examples include presider’s chairs and personal kneelers.

To view some of the recent work, visit abbeywoodworking.com. †



**Contact us today
for a free quote.**

800.987.7380

info@abbeycaskets.com

www.abbeywoodworking.com



**Check us out on
Facebook!**





Photos, clockwise from top left: Deacon Greg Caldwell passes candlelight among the assembly in the narthex of St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel before Mass on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord; Khui Shing receives feedback from Fr. Mateo Zamora, OSB, after reading during the Proclaiming the Word January Interterm class in St. Theodore Guerin Chapel on January 21, 2022; Participants in the Winter Chant Conference attend a session on chant manuscripts led by Br. John Glasenapp, OSB, and Dr. Alison Altstatt in the Archabbey Library on January 27, 2022; On January 15, 2022, students made the annual pilgrimage to Monte Cassino Shrine in thanksgiving for Our Lady's intercession during a smallpox outbreak in 1871; Fr. John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary, gives a lecture titled "Do Whatever He Tells You": Listening to Christ, from Cana to NASA," during the Science for Seminaries lecture series on March 23; Br. Gregory Morris, OSB, receives the sign of peace from Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, during his first profession as a monk of Saint Meinrad on January 20, 2022.





Rest, Renew and Reconnect: Alumni Reunion planned for August 1-3



Return home to Saint Meinrad and reconnect with classmates on August 1- August 3, during the 94th Annual Alumni Reunion. This year's reunion will feature opportunities for rest and renewal as well as plenty of time to socialize.

Guests arriving on Sunday can join the monastic community for Vespers and Compline in the Archabbey Church. Sunday evening, there will be a reception in the Alumni Commons and a movie will be shown in the St. Bede Theater.

Reunion events will officially kick off on Monday, August 1, with a presentation by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on "Dear God, Are You Here? Finding God in Troubled Times."

Fr. Denis serves as the 14th president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He holds doctorates in philosophy and sacred theology from the Catholic University of Leuven.

Reunion guests can also compete in the annual golf scramble on Monday morning at the Christmas Lake Village Golf Course in nearby Santa Claus.

Saint Meinrad monk Br. John Glasenapp, OSB, will give a presentation titled "Sacred Song and Cosmic Harmony," about chant and the Institute for Sacred Music on Monday afternoon.

Br. John serves as the first director of the Institute for Sacred Music. He earned a Master of Arts in medieval studies from Fordham University and a doctorate in historical musicology from Columbia University in 2020, with specializations in liturgical chant and manuscript studies.

After attending Br. John's presentation, reunion guests can take a monk-led tour of the Saint Meinrad grounds or Monte Cassino Shrine, which was renovated in 2016-17.

Members of the graduation classes of 1972 (50th), 1982 (40th), 1997 (25th), 2012 (10th), and 2017 (5th) will be honored at the anniversary banquet on Monday evening, followed by socializing at the UnStable and Alumni Commons.

On Tuesday morning, Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, will present a Day of Reflection talk on Benedictine wisdom for non-monks.

Archabbot Kurt was elected as Saint Meinrad's 10th abbot and seventh archabbot on June 2, 2016. He received a Bachelor of Science in biology from Saint Meinrad College in 1974 and a Master of Divinity in 1980 from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He then earned a licentiate (1986) and a doctorate (1993) in sacramental theology from Pontifical Athenaeum of Sant' Anselmo, Rome.

After lunch, tours will be given of the Saint Meinrad grounds and the Abbey Caskets workshop. Reunion guests can also attend a presentation on Tuesday afternoon given by Mrs. Mary Schaffner. Her topic will be "Co-workers in the Vineyard."

Mary currently serves as parish life coordinator at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Nashville, Indiana. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Indiana University and a Master of Theological Studies from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. She also has a graduate certificate in spiritual direction and has directed retreats at Creighton University's Christian Spirituality Program.

The reunion Mass will be celebrated in the Archabbey Church on Tuesday afternoon. Auxiliary Bishop Joel Konzen, SM, of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, will preside and preach at the Mass.

Bishop Kozen earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Saint Meinrad Seminary in 1972. He then received a Master of Divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, and two master's degrees in systematic theology and educational administration from The Catholic University of America.

He joined the Society of Mary in 1975 and was ordained a priest in 1979. Bishop Kozen was ordained to the episcopacy on April 3, 2018.

At the banquet on Tuesday evening, Fr. Joe Ziliak will be posthumously honored as the Distinguished Alumnus. Fr. Joe, a retired priest of the Diocese of Evansville, passed away on February 8, 2022. He lived a life of service to the diocese, Saint Meinrad and the people of God. A story about Fr. Joe is on page 10.

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





Alumni Board Slate: Five seek seats on Alumni Board

Five alumni are seeking approval to serve 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>. Voting ends July 1.

Seeking to serve a second term on the board are Fr. Matthew Gerlach, Mrs. Angie Greulich and Fr. Nicolas A. Ajpacajá Tzoc. Fr. Mike Clark and Steve Flynn are seeking their first terms.

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 in Tulsa 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 in Tulsa. He is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Mrs. Angie Greulich, MTS'13, is the director of major gifts for the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, IN. Prior to that, she served as a major gift officer and as the multi-parish youth ministry director in Jasper, IN.

She earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Abilene Christian University in 2004 and a Master in Theological Studies degree from Saint Meinrad in 2013. She also earned her status as a Certified Fundraising Executive in 2022.

She and her husband, Josh, have two children and live in Jasper.

Fr. Nicolas A. Ajpacajá Tzoc, T'16 ('11-16), is a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He has served as pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish since 2021.

Previously, he served as associate pastor at Holy Spirit Parish and at St. Simon the Apostle Parish, both in Indianapolis, and assisted St. Lawrence Parish with Hispanic ministry.

He earned a Master of Divinity from the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Very Rev. J. Michael Clark T'95 ('89-95) has served as the pastor of Blessed Mother Church in Owensboro, KY, since 2014. Previously, he was pastor of St. Anthony, Utica; Sacred Heart, Hickman; St. Edward, Fulton; and St. Jude, Clinton.

Fr. Mike is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, earning a bachelor's degree in marketing. He then earned a Master of Philosophy and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology, and a licentiate in canon law from The Catholic University of America.

Additionally, he serves as dean of the East Deanery of the diocese and as a member of the Priests' Personnel Board and the Priests' Council.

Mr. Stephen Flynn, C'87 ('84-87), graduated from Saint Meinrad College in 1987 and has been serving as class chairman since 1998. He was married in 1992 to his wife, Shannon, and they have two adult children, Patrick and Brigid.

He is a retired operations manager at FedEx, where he worked for 24 years.

Steve and Shannon live in Greenwood, IN, where they are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Indianapolis. ✝



Fr. Matthew Gerlach



Angie Greulich



Fr. Nicolas
A. Ajpacajá Tzoc



Very Rev.
J. Michael Clark



Stephen Flynn



Distinguished Alumnus

Fr. Joe Ziliak honored for service and leadership

Leader, visionary, compassionate, gentle soul, etc. These are all words people have used to describe Fr. Joe Ziliak. He died earlier this year on February 8 at the age of 85. In his almost 60 years as a priest for the Diocese of Evansville, Fr. Joe answered the call to help whenever and wherever needed, including at Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Joe will be posthumously awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award during the Alumni Reunion this summer. Tim Florian, director of alumni relations at Saint Meinrad, met with Fr. Joe after he was notified that he was chosen to receive the award.

“Apart from being completely surprised, Fr. Joe expressed sincerely that he was very honored and humbled to be chosen as a Distinguished Alumnus of Saint Meinrad,” says Tim. “Fr. Joe had a deep love for Saint Meinrad, and he was an inspiring example of what it means to be a priest.”

In a 2016 interview, Fr. Joe stated that the Benedictines have been with him his whole life. He was baptized at St. Benedict’s Church in Evansville and attended grade school there until eighth grade. St. Benedict’s Church was founded and staffed by monks of Saint Meinrad. Monks were family friends and would come to his home for dinner.

After grade school, Fr. Joe attended high school and college at Saint Meinrad College, graduating in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. He directed music and served as first prefect, the highest student position, during his sixth year of studies. The years he spent at Saint Meinrad were formative and the place remained close to his heart after he left the Hill.

Fr. Joe went on to study theology at Collegium Canisianum Seminary and



Fr. Joe Ziliak

University of Innsbruck, Austria. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 7, 1962, in Innsbruck. His world travels began during his time in Austria.

“I had a motorcycle and we traveled in the summers for three months,” he said during the 2016 interview. “We’d take off, two on a cycle usually, and we would get to do all kinds of things that way.”

During his life, Fr. Joe led pilgrimages and tours to more than 50 countries on six continents. He visited Rome and Vatican City during the service of four popes, St. John XXIII, St. John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis.

Fr. Joe returned to the United States after his ordination and studied English literature at the University of Notre Dame. He graduated with a master’s degree in August 1966. He then taught English, German and history as a founding member of the faculty of

Magister Noster Latin School in Evansville. He also served as vice rector and librarian of the school.

Fr. Joe’s career in communications began in 1964, when he was assigned to be the diocesan director of radio and television. In 1968, he became editor of the Evansville edition of *The Criterion*, the newspaper for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

After two years, he became the founding editor of *The Message*, the diocesan newspaper of Evansville. Under his direction, the paper made a profit in its first year. *The Message* also became the third Catholic newspaper in the United States to own its own typesetting equipment, giving the staff more control over the quality of the printed product.

In 1984, Fr. Joe was elected to a two-year term on the Catholic Press Association Board of Directors. He was reelected in 1986 to a three-year term. During that time, he served as treasurer and chaired



Fr. Joe Ziliak



two national conferences, bringing the conference to Evansville one year.

Fr. Joe's parish work began by providing weekend help at Nativity Parish, Evansville, from 1963-1966. He then helped at St. Clement, Boonville (1966-68), and St. Wendel, Wadesville (1968-70). In 1970, he was assigned as administrator of St. Nicholas Church, Santa Claus, and served there until 1980.

He was pastor of Nativity Parish, Evansville, from 1980-1987. In 1987, Fr. Joe was assigned as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Newburgh. At that time, he became the associate publisher of *The Message*.

He served at that parish until he retired from pastoral ministry in 2012. Over the 25 years Fr. Joe spent at St. John the Baptist, the town of Newburgh grew and so did the parish. The parish built the

church in 1993, added on to the school at least four times, and built a new rectory. When he retired, there were about 750 families and 5,300-5,400 parishioners.

After retirement, Fr. Joe continued to help at parishes around the diocese and was the vicar for retired priests until his death.

At Saint Meinrad, Fr. Joe was always willing to share his time and talents. He served as class chairman for the Saint Meinrad Alumni Annual Giving Program from 1970 until his passing. As class chairman, he helped keep his former classmates connected to their alma mater.

From 1994 until 2000, Fr. Joe shared his experience and expertise in the communications field by serving on the Saint Meinrad Communications Advisory Board. He also served on the Board of Overseers and its Resource Development Committee from 1999-2005.

Most recently Fr. Joe spent two three-year terms on the Alumni Board of Directors.

"Fr. Joe Ziliak was wonderful, so very kind, firm in his faith and generous of his time in service to the Diocese of Evansville, the Saint Meinrad Board of Overseers and, most recently, the Alumni Board of Directors," says Chris Carr, president of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association.

"Personally, Fr. Joe was a friend, mentor and spiritual advisor when needed, and I am grateful to have known him and served with him on the board. We were a better board because of his active engagement and contributions."

Fr. Joe's life of service will be celebrated on Tuesday, August 2, when he is posthumously presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award during the Alumni Reunion banquet. ✝

"Fr. Joe Ziliak was wonderful, so very kind, firm in his faith and generous of his time in service to the Diocese of Evansville, the Saint Meinrad Board of Overseers and, most recently, the Alumni Board of Directors."

—Chris Carr, president of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association

[Meet the Student]

John Wilebski III

Diocese: Diocese of Crookston

Hometown: Greenbush, Minnesota

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

I was attracted to the priesthood from a young age. Sometimes I might be embarrassed to admit it, but I was one of those kids who grew up playing Mass at home. Going to Mass was always a priority for my family when I was growing up, and so every weekend I saw the priest make Jesus present at the Mass. I have always wanted to help people, and I was able to see how the priest helped people and helped to make Christ present to people in the sacraments. Deep down, there has always been an attraction to the priesthood in the depths of my heart.

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

Growing up, my grandmother was extremely supportive of the idea of me becoming a priest and always helped me to engage my faith and to grow in my relationship with God. My pastor at my home parish was also influential in my discernment for the priesthood. He trained me as an altar server and gave me many opportunities to serve my parish community.

Finally, the priest at the Newman Center I attended before seminary helped me to discern that the time was right to begin seminary studies. He gave me the final push I needed to say yes to the Lord's call, and I finally said yes to seminary and the priesthood.

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

Before entering seminary, I attended a local community college near my hometown and received an associate's

degree. After graduating, I began pursuing a degree in elementary education from the University of North Dakota. While I was at UND, I felt a strong call to seminary, and so I left the college and applied to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Crookston.

I finished my bachelor's in philosophy degree and attended college seminary at St. Mary's University of Minnesota. Now I have been at Saint Meinrad for about three years. The decision to follow the Lord's call and enter seminary formation has been the best decision I have ever made in my life. It has come with much peace and joy as I journey toward the priesthood.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

My favorite saint is St. Pio of Pietrelcina, also known as Padre Pio. I felt my devotion to him grow while I was in college. On his feast day, I listened to a radio special recounting his life and spirituality. The program mentioned three things that Padre Pio said were necessary for growth in holiness: receiving the Eucharist daily, a daily holy hour, and the regular celebration of confession. I felt a strong call to implement these three things in my life, and they helped me discern and find clarity in my call to the priesthood.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

My favorite scripture verse is John 20:16-17. This story of Peter and Jesus summarizes well the experience and mission of a man studying for the priesthood. We come here to the seminary



to cultivate and grow our relationship with Jesus. He is constantly calling us to grow in love of Him and his people. During formation, we learn how to become self-gift for others. Upon ordination, as a man leaves this Hill, he is sent to tend and feed Christ's sheep.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I like watching NHL and college hockey, and since I have been at Saint Meinrad, I have become a Nashville Predators fan. Recently, I have ventured into the world of virtual aviation through Microsoft Flight Simulator and enjoy flying to many destinations from the comfort of the seminary.

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

Community life at Saint Meinrad has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my time in seminary. The community at Saint Meinrad is like a family, and we are all journeying together toward the common mission of holiness and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Community life does not only consist of my brother seminarians, but we are led by a formation staff, faculty, and co-workers who journey with us, day in and day out. They genuinely and authentically care for the well-being and growth of the seminarians.

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Saint Meinrad **DAY OF SERVICE**



Over 303 alumni, oblates and friends of Saint Meinrad participated in service projects in ten cities on March 12 for the Saint Meinrad Day of Service.

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



ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Carlton Beaver, O'74 ('70-74), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, retired in September 2020. He volunteers three days a week at the local St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. He also works as a missionary for Food for the Poor, traveling throughout the United States to speak about its work in 18 of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere.

Mr. Matt Etzkorn, T'00 ('93-98), of Delphos, OH, has been named vice president of mission for Mercy Health in Lima, OH. Previously, he was director of mission for Mercy Health – St. Rita's Medical Center. He also is co-chair of the Mercy Health – Lima Ethics Committee and serves as an ethics consultant.

Mrs. Angie Greulich, GTP'14 ('09-13), of Jasper, IN, has been awarded the Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) designation after completing a series of standards set by CFRE International. She is the director of major gifts for the Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, IN.

Mr. Clint Johnson, T'25 ('19-21), of Fort Branch, IN, has joined the firm of VPS Architecture, Evansville, where he will be involved in projects from initial conception, through design and modeling, and into final construction documents.

Dr. Sylvester Kreilein, O'65 ('53-61), of Wauwatosa, WI, is president of the

Goethe House Wisconsin, an educational-cultural society of the Milwaukee German Societies. He is also treasurer of the Hessen-Wisconsin Society, a partnership with the German State of Hesse.

Mr. Jim Krupka, GTP'22 ('20-22), of Traverse City, MI, has written *Make Your Marriage Unbreakable: 10 Steps to a Lifetime of Joy in an Unbreakable, Divorce-Proof Marriage*. It was published in 2020 by Westbow Press.

Fr. John Thomas, T'93 ('88-93), a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, is the rector of St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. Previously, he served as pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green, KY. ✝

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

Journeying through seminary during the COVID-19 pandemic has been the biggest challenge that I have faced. The pandemic brought many twists and turns that I could have never expected. Yet, throughout the pandemic, the community banded together and made the best of a difficult situation. Living in the seminary during a pandemic has certainly prepared me for ministry in ways that I could have never expected when I first arrived on the Hill.

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

Since I have been in seminary, the best advice I have heard is to persevere even in the most challenging moments. Seminary life can present many challenges, but when a seminarian places his trust in the formation process and his relationship with Christ, God can take even the most trying situations and provide an opportunity to grow and encounter God in an even more profound way.

Q. *Other Comments?*

Saint Meinrad has indeed been a gift in my life, and I am grateful for all the beautiful relationships that I have formed in my time as a seminarian here. Saint Meinrad is a place where God dwells, and his love is made known. Seminarians are prepared here and are then sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ! ✝



ALUMNI ETERNAL

Dr. Bill Barrett, C'74 ('70-74), of St. Louis, MO, died on February 3, 2022.

Mr. Kenneth Bechert, O'66 ('54-66), of Coral Springs, FL, died on September 14, 2021.

Fr. Clifton Bishop, O'83 ('77-79), a priest of the Diocese of Allentown, PA, died on December 15, 2020.

Mr. Robert Brunette, SPH'46 ('43-46), of Huntley, IL, died on January 28, 2022.

Mr. John Caito, O'59 ('47-48), of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 14, 2021.

Mr. Michael Doyle, O'64 ('56-60), of San Francisco, CA, died on March 13, 2021.

Mr. Francisco Salazar Fierro, C'96 ('92-96), of Tolleson, AZ, died on January 29, 2022.

Mr. Ronald Fry, SS ('92-93, '96-98), of Wichita, KS, died on August 1, 2011.

Mr. Bernard Gehlhausen, O'65 ('53-58), of Newburgh, IN, died on February 1, 2022.

Mr. James Gerth, O'59 ('47-48), of Seymour, IN, died on August 28, 2021.

Dr. Cynthia Getz, SS'81, of Leitchfield, KY, died on January 5, 2022.

Mr. Nolan Gouthier Jr., T'84 ('79-84), of Livingston, TX, died on June 26, 2020.

Mr. John Habermel, O'65 ('53-54), of Evansville, IN, died on January 22, 2022.

Mr. Randolph Hartley, C'70 ('66-67), of Indianapolis, IN, died on September 6, 2021.

Fr. Robert Holden, O'62 ('54-56), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on March 8, 2022.

Fr. James Holmer, O'76 ('72-76), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on February 11, 2022.

Fr. Paul Hulsman, O'58 ('46-54), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on February 28, 2022.

Fr. William Karg, O'64 ('52-53), a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, OH, died on April 18, 2021.

Mr. Patrick Kennerk, O'68 ('61-64), of Middletown, NY, died on April 7, 2020.

Mr. Michael Killebrew, O'81 ('73-76), of Newburgh, IN, died on September 27, 2021.

Mr. John Knaff, O'56 ('44-51), of Fort Myers, FL, died on February 5, 2022.

Msgr. Joseph Lamonde, U.S. Marine Navy Captain, O'74 ('62-63), of Mount Lebanon, PA, died on November 18, 2021.

Mr. Robert Lawler, O'61 ('49-55), of Renton, WA, died on April 18, 2021.

Mr. Robert Lewis, O'62 ('50-51), of Cecilia, KY, died on September 13, 2020.

Mr. Stephen McCracken, O'68 ('60-61), of Bonita Springs, FL, and Carmel, IN, died on March 9, 2022.

Fr. Charles Messler, CR, T'01 ('97-98), of St. Louis, MO, died on May 26, 2017.

Fr. Frederick Niefeld, O'46 ('41-43), at 101 the oldest priest in the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on February 6, 2022.

Mr. Arnold Reyling, O'70 ('58-66), of Jasper, IN, died on March 4, 2022.

Mr. Richard Scheller, SPH'57 ('55-57), of Evansville, IN, died on October 17, 2020.

Mr. Donald Schweisthal, O'65 ('55-57), of Belmont, VT, died on November 20, 2021.

Mr. Max "Dave" Smith, O'64 ('52-56), of Wadesville, IN, died on October 21, 2021.

Fr. Jonathan Stewart, T'91 ('85-91), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on May 2, 2021.

Fr. Donald Thibault, OP, S'03, a member of the Dominicans' Province of St. Joseph, died on January 8, 2022.

Mr. Philip Uher, O'68 ('56-61), of Monroeville, PA, died on January 11, 2021.

Mr. Theodore Wickford, O'61 ('49-51), of Huntley, IL, died on August 4, 2021.

Fr. Joseph Ziliak, O'62 ('50-58), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on February 8, 2022. (Read more about Fr. Joe on page 10.)

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 †

HAVE YOU...

gotten a new job or parish assignment?

Written a book?

Received an award?

Added to your family?

Let us know! Visit

<https://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/share/> to send in your news.

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Alumni Phonathon raises over \$46,000

During February and March, seminarians participating in the annual Alumni Phonathon/Thankathon manned the phones for a few hours of calling on six evenings.

The result was another successful phonathon. Students spoke with more than 540 people and received gifts and pledges totaling \$46,265. In addition, 60 pledges of an unspecified amount were made.

Each evening, the students 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 alumni returned calls to Saint Meinrad to make a gift.

“The annual phonathon and thankathon, like many things over the past couple of years, have had a different look. For the safety of our seminarians, we set up the event to be socially distant last year,” says Brandon Hopf, associate director of annual giving, who organized the annual event.

“This year, however, we were excited to recreate our community atmosphere. Each night, you could feel the energy and enthusiasm for the students to give back

to Saint Meinrad, to speak to our alumni and benefactors, and to be among one another for the event,” added Hopf.

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 2021-22 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu. ✝

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