

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2021 • VOL. 60:2

Alumni Reunion planned for August



**Wish you were here:
Our postcard collection**

**Two monks take
next step in monastic life**

Cover: Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, incenses the casket of former Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB, who died January 22 at age 102.



Saint Meinrad



ON THE HILL

SPRING 2021 • VOL. 60:2

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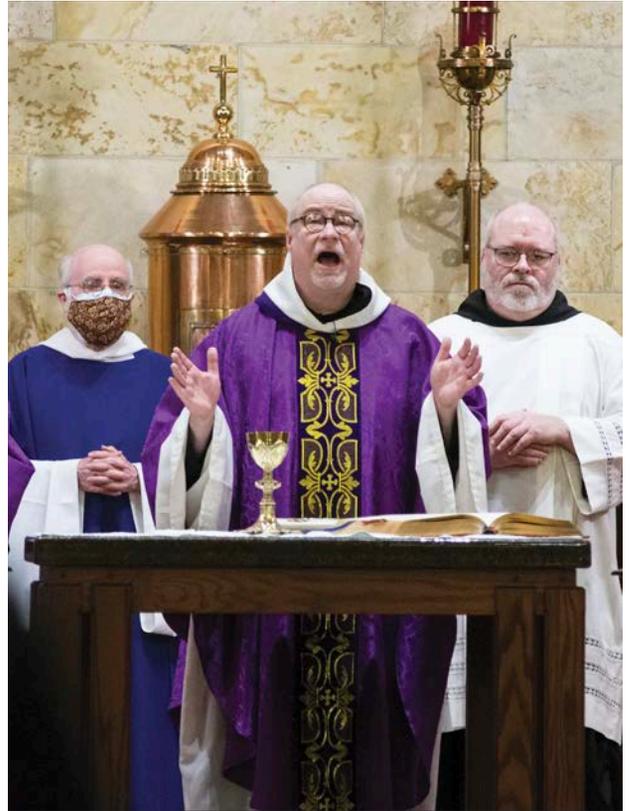
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Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, prays at the altar during the Ministry Installation in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on February 18, 2021.

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

Monks' Personals

Fr. Adrian Burke, using Zoom, presented conferences for the Cathedral of the Assumption (Louisville, KY) parish retreat (Nov. 14-15, 2020); for the Permanent Deacons and Wives retreat for the Diocese of Lexington, KY (Jan. 15-16, 2021); and for a Lenten Mission for St. Isidore Catholic Community in Defiance, OH (Feb. 28-March 2, 2021).

Fr. Eugene Hensell was appointed Guest House chaplain in January.

Br. George Rumley was appointed assistant to the masters of ceremonies in January.

Fr. Harry Hagan published an article on the prophet Balaam (Numbers 22-24) called "Balaam: To Bless or To Curse" in the January/February issue of *The Bible Today*.

Br. Martin Erspamer designed a new stained-glass window for St. Pius Church in Owensboro, KY, which was installed on March 30. The newly renovated church will reopen in April.

Fr. Meinrad Brune, archivist, and **Br. Stanley Rother Wagner**, assistant to the archivist, spent all day on March 25 cleaning up the gallons of water that came down the walls into the Archives in St. Gregory Hall following a water line break. They also had help from many coworkers and two novices.

Fr. Joseph Cox served as chaplain for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Indianapolis, IN, during Holy Week.

Br. John Glasenapp presented conference papers at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society (virtual), the Interuniversity Doctoral

Consortium Medieval Conference hosted virtually by Rutgers University, and the Medieval Liturgy Working Group at the University of Notre Dame.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner was accepted into the Master of Arts program in history at the University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. He will begin his studies in August.

Fr. Eugene Hensell will present a day of recollection via Zoom to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops from Ohio and Michigan on May 10.

Fr. Christian Raab presided at Holy Week services for the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist in Lowell, MI. He also was a guest on the podcast "A Positive Jam" (S2 E12; March 21, 2021) to discuss Catholic themes in contemporary rock music. ✚

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner professes solemn vows



Br. Stanley Rother Wagner

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB, professed solemn vows as a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in a ceremony on January 25, in the Archabbey Church.

Br. Stanley Rother, 33, of Quincy, IL, attended high school at Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary in Chicago. He earned a bachelor's degree in history from Quincy University and a master's degree in liturgical studies from University of St. Mary of the Lake. He was a member of St. Aloysius Parish in Springfield, IL.

Before joining the monastery, he was a high school teacher at St. Anthony High School in Effingham, IL, and an archivist for the Illinois Secretary of State.

His current work includes assistant to the Saint Meinrad archivist, oblate novice mentor, and custodian for Monte Cassino Shrine pilgrimages.

In professing solemn vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and stability in the community at Saint Meinrad, he becomes a full and permanent member of the Benedictine community. ✚

Br. Peter Holden professes temporary vows



Br. Peter Holden

Novice Simon Holden professed his temporary vows as a Benedictine monk in a ceremony on January 20 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 chose a religious name. Novice Simon is now Br. Peter.

Br. Peter, 24, is a native of Lexington, KY. He earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of Louisville in 2019. As a student, he was also a music theory and music history tutor.

He is a graduate of Western Hills High School in Frankfort, KY. Most recently, his home parish was St. Leo Parish in Versailles, KY, where he was a volunteer in the parish's Alpha program.

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. ✚

Mass Intentions

You can now request Mass Intentions online

www.saintmeinrad.org/mass-intentions

May 8

Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology

September 12

Celebration of monastic jubilees.

September 17-19

Guest House Retreat: "How to Read the Biblical Prophets" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

September 24-26

Guest House Retreat: "Contemplative Living" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

September 28-30

Guest House Retreat: "Healing Anger Through Forgiveness" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.

October 1-3

Guest House Retreat: "Unpacking the Vocation of Marriage through Scripture and Married Saints" (Married Couples Retreat) by Josh and Angie Greulich.

October 8-10

Guest House Retreat: "The Rule of St. Benedict for Life Today" by Fr. Harry Hagab, OSB.

October 15-17

Guest House Retreat: "Being Humble, Being Holy" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.

October 18-22

Guest House Retreat: "A Conversation with St. Paul Regarding the Trials of Pastoral Ministry" (Priests Retreat) by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

October 26-28

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

November 7

Celebration of monastic and priesthood jubilees.

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

Two novices join Benedictine community



Novice Connor Zink

In a brief ceremony, Novices Connor Zink and Matthew Morris were clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19. They are now in a year

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

Novice Connor, 24, is from West Chester, OH. He was homeschooled and then



Novice Matthew Morris

earned a bachelor's degree in Catholic studies from Marian University in 2018.

He previously worked in retail for Meijer and did volunteer work at his parish, St. Maximilian Kolbe in Liberty, OH.

Novice Matthew, 33, is a native of Ft. Thomas, KY. 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.

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

Monk named semi-finalist in national performing arts competition



Br. Michael Reyes

Br. Michael Reyes, OSB, a junior monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, has been named a 2021 semi-finalist for The American Prize, a national competition in performing arts.

A seminarian at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, Br. Michael is one of the eight semi-finalist composers for the vocal chamber music category. His vocal piece was chosen from countless composition entries across the U.S. by a distinguished jury.

Br. Michael earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music composition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2019.

Br. Michael's work has been awarded by juries made up of experts in the field in various international competitions and concerts. In 2016, he won the grand prize at the 6th Sond'Ar-te Electric Ensemble Composition Competition, where he bested composers from 18 countries.

His international music achievements include the Ani Ng Dangal National Award for music bestowed by the Philippine government in 2017. Br. Michael is one of five composers from around the world to be invited by the University of London's prestigious School of Oriental and Asian Studies to write a new electroacoustic piece for its annual Composers Conference and Festival.

He also was selected by the University of Kent and the Vienna Acousmonium to diffuse his composition at the institution's Sound-Image-Space Research Center, also known as the Music and Audio Arts Sound Theater, alongside notable

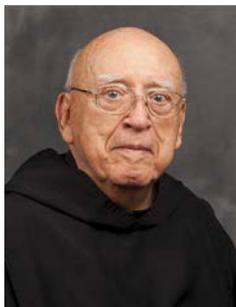
electroacoustic composers, including Jonty Harrison and Denis Smalley.

For his academic work in music, Br. Michael received the President's Research in Diversity Award from the University of Illinois, an award bestowed by the university president to 15 high-performing faculty and graduate students across the three campuses of the university conducting research in their respective fields. Br. Michael presented a paper on current compositional aesthetics and ideas at the University of London.

In collaboration with Saint Meinrad's Fr. Harry Hagan, OSB, Br. Michael recently composed and premiered a song commissioned by Epiphany Catholic Church in Louisville, KY, for its jubilee year celebration.

The finalists and winners will be announced later this year. ✚

Obituary of Fr. Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB



Fr. Bonaventure Knaebel

Fr. Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB, monk, priest, and former archabbot of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, died in the monastery infirmary on Friday, January 22, 2021. He was 102.

Fr. Bonaventure was born in New Albany, IN, on September 6, 1918. He entered the high school at Saint Meinrad in 1931.

He began college studies at Saint Meinrad in 1935, entered the novitiate in 1937, and professed his simple vows on August 6, 1938. He completed college studies in 1940 and began studying for the priesthood. He professed solemn vows on August 6, 1941, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 1943.

Immediately after ordination, Fr. Bonaventure began graduate studies in mathematics at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., earning an MS degree in 1946.

Returning to Saint Meinrad, he taught in Saint Meinrad High School and College from 1946 to 1955, serving also as assistant spiritual director in the School of Theology. During these years, he also was assistant manager of *The Grail* and of the Abbey Press, and he studied advanced mathematics for three summers at the University of Pittsburgh.

Fr. Bonaventure was elected coadjutor abbot on June 3, 1955, to succeed Archabbot Ignatius Esser, and he was blessed as the fifth abbot and second archabbot of Saint Meinrad on August 31, 1955. He was the first Hoosier native to lead the monastery and, at 36, one of the youngest Benedictine abbots.

Under his leadership, Saint Meinrad Archabbey saw the construction of its first guest house and of St. Bede Hall,

which provided a residence hall for college seminarians, science laboratories, and music practice rooms until the closing of the College in 1998.

He also oversaw the foundation of two monastic houses – St. Charles Priory in Oceanside, CA, (now Prince of Peace Abbey) and St. Benedict Priory in Huaraz, Peru (which ceased operation in 1984). He also formed a Development Program Committee and reorganized the Abbey Press.

Saint Meinrad School of Theology and the College of Liberal Arts achieved accreditation by the North Central Association under his direction, the Board of Trustees was completely revised, and a Board of Overseers consisting of diocesan priests and laity was organized. Fr. Bonaventure resigned from the Office of Archabbot on June 3, 1966, having served 11 years.

Fr. Bonaventure then began missionary work at Saint Meinrad's foundation in Peru, South America. After eight years, he returned to the United States to serve from Saint Meinrad as mission procurator for the Huaraz foundation, work he continued for five years. In 1979, he accepted an assignment as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Jeffersonville, IN, for two years, after which he spent five years as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Charlestown, IN.

In 1986, the Abbot President of the Swiss-American Congregation sought his experience as an abbot and as a South American missionary and asked him to serve as administrator of Monasterio Benedictino in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, which he did for two years.

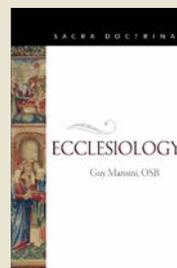
Returning to this country in 1989, he served successive assignments as chaplain of St. Paul's Hermitage, Beech Grove, IN, (six years); administrator of Corpus Christi Abbey, Sandia, TX, (two years); and administrator of St. Michael Parish, Bradford, IN (six years).

Fr. Bonaventure returned to the abbey in 2003. He was 85 years old, but he assisted in the Development Office and occasionally provided assistance in local parishes. For some years, he also regularly presided at Mass in the Infirmary Chapel and continued to preside at Spanish-language Masses at St. Mary's Parish in Huntingburg, IN.

The funeral was held on January 27, in the Archabbey Church, with burial in the Archabbey Cemetery. ✚

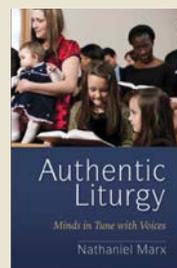
NEW BOOKS Published

A Saint Meinrad monk and a faculty member recently published books in their fields of expertise.



Fr. Guy Mansini, OSB, has written *Ecclesiology* (*Sacra Doctrina*), which was published in January by The Catholic University of America Press.

He holds the Max Seckler Chair of Fundamental Theology at Ave Maria University in Florida.



Dr. Nathaniel Marx, associate professor of sacramental and liturgical theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, is the author of *Authentic Liturgy: Minds in Tune with Voices*. The book was published in 2020 by Liturgical Press. ✚



POSTCARDS: Archives organizes collection

By Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, Archabbey Archivist

If you've ever come across an old collection of postcards or other memorabilia that had been forgotten on a closet shelf, you know what it's like to face the question: what to do with these?

The Saint Meinrad Archabbey Archives' collection of postcards spans several decades. But with more than 27,000 postcards in the collection, some work needed to be done to make the unwieldy collection useful.

The Postcard Collection contains many scenes from the history of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. And many of the postcards came from the personal collections of the monks, either as correspondence or collectables.

The reorganizing project began last May, when the Archabbey Archives staff decided to restructure and evaluate its Postcard Collection. Archivists Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB, and Br. Stanley

Rother Wagner, OSB, asked the monks assigned to the Archives to submit a proposal about how best to structure the collection.

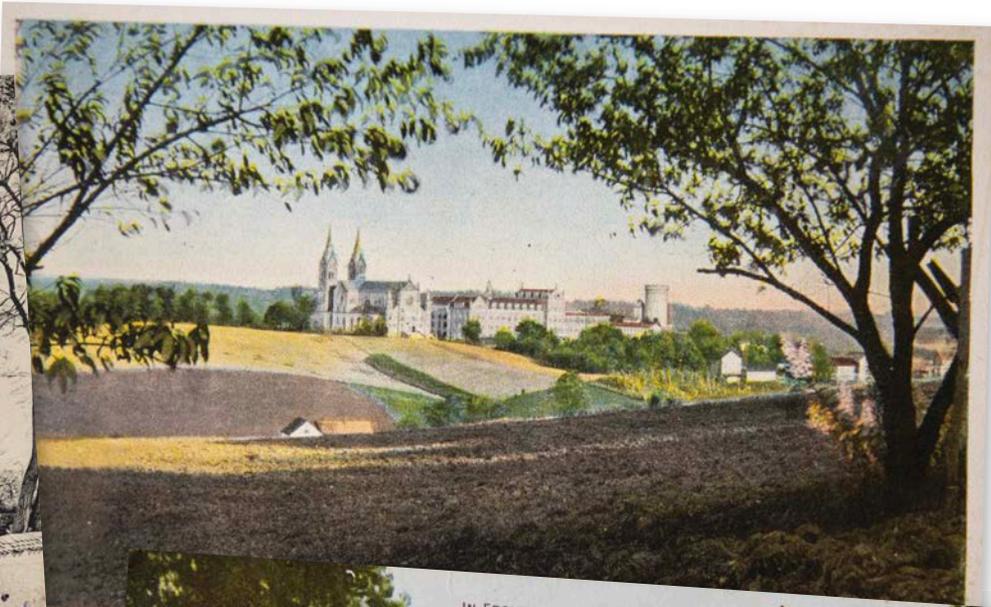
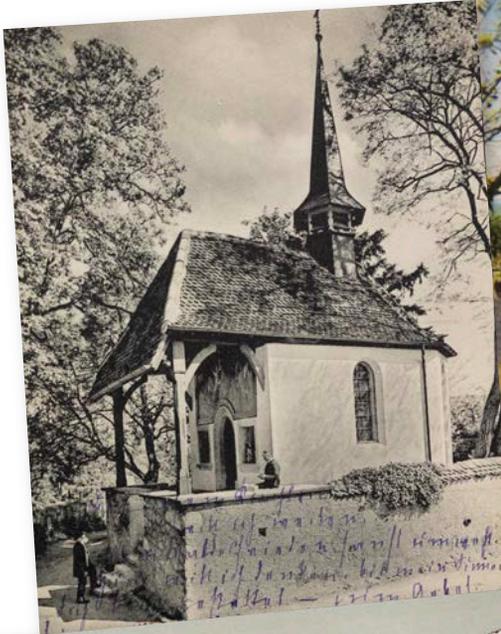
Br. Peter Holden, OSB, was initially the only staff member to work on the project, but the work quickly grew so that Novices Benjamin Ziegler, Matthew Morris and Connor Zink were assigned to help complete the work.

The metric for judging a postcard's archival value relied on the fact that the Archives is part

of a Christian institution. With that in mind, the archivist and staff members decided that postcards in the collection that depicted churches and monasteries from around the world would be retained.

Any other postcards would be withdrawn from the holdings, including those that





contained correspondence from current and deceased monks. About 6,000 postcards remained after removing the ones with personal information and writings, and a further 3,000 were given to a collector.

A Collection and Master Catalog was put together from the remaining cards and it contains about 600 unique cards. With that information, the postcards depicting churches were organized by nation, province, state or region, and were then catalogued. The monasteries were given prominence because of the number of

Benedictine monasteries – both men’s and women’s communities – that were included in the group.

The postcards of Benedictine institutions were grouped with the photograph collection. All other monastic postcards – Trappist, Cistercian, Augustinian, Orthodox Christian, etc. – were placed with the churches.

The archivists still seek to incorporate new cards into this collection, although not in large quantities.

The Archives staff came up with a novel idea on what to do with the hundreds of duplicate postcards. They packaged them into 73 sets of 10 cards each that depict Saint Meinrad scenes. Those are now available for sale at the Archabbey Gift Shop and at the Scholar Shop for \$7 a set.

Stamps from the postcards were also collected and saved in a separate collection. ✚

Photos, opposite page: Monks, from left, Novice Matthew Morris, Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, Fr. Meinrad Brune, Br. Peter Holden, Novice Benjamin Ziegler and Novice Connor Zink worked together to organize Saint Meinrad’s postcard collection.

Photos, this page: The Saint Meinrad Archabbey Archives recently organized more than 27,000 postcards in its collection. The postcards span several decades and continents. Duplicate cards that depict scenes of Saint Meinrad were packaged in groups of 10 and are for sale in the Archabbey Gift Shop.





Photos on the preceding page, starting top left, clockwise: Seminarian Drew Williams sleds with his classmates on February 16.

Greg Caldwell prays during the spring semester opening Mass on January 25 in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.

Seminarians Seth Slone, left, and Nick Rivelli act in Kingfisher, Catch Fire, a play written by Fr. Albert DiGiacomo about priest-poet Gerard Manley Hopkins in St. Bede Theater on February 25.

Br. Peter Holden, OSB, signs his vow chart during his first profession as a monk of Saint Meinrad on January 20. At right is Fr. Gueric DeBona, OSB.

Snow blankets the Saint Meinrad campus on February 16.

Deacon Alex Crow reads the Gospel during the ministry installation on February 18.

Photos on this page, starting top left, clockwise: Br. Kolbe Wolniakowski, OSB, makes his deacon promises on February 25 in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel.

The Marian shrine at night, photographed by Deacon Ben Riley on January 27.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB, chants the Suscipe during his solemn profession in the Archabbey Church on January 25.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, gives his homily during the solemn profession ceremony for Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB.

The monastic community processes to the Archabbey Cemetery for the burial of Fr. Bonaventure Knaebel, OSB, on January 27.

CareNotes' new title offers support for helping professions

In response to a challenging year, CareNotes has developed a new title to add to their line of eight-page booklets. CareNotes is a ministry of Saint Meinrad Archabbey that offers inspirational booklets on a variety of topics to help individuals heal mind, body and spirit.

“Being Alert to the Signs of Compassion Fatigue” is written for those in the helping professions (medical, mental health, teaching, spiritual guidance, funeral services and many others). This past year, these professionals have worked endlessly helping others – caring for patients, supporting families through loss,

counseling others as they maneuver through life and teaching students in the midst of unprecedented challenges.

“It is our hope that this new title can provide a bit of support to those who have spent seemingly unending hours over the past year continually giving of themselves without asking for anything in return,” says CareNotes Director Jennifer Keller.

The booklet is written by Judith E. Courtney, MPS, MA, LPC, NCC, a licensed professional counselor. She offers practical advice on how to

recognize the signs of compassion fatigue and steps to avoid and alleviate burnout.

Section titles include Working Your Way Through, Find a Balance, Recognize the Signs, Set Limits, Realize that Hospitality Comes First, Seek Support and Guidance, and Take Heart.

Copies of this CareNote can be ordered online at www.carenotes.com.

For a free sample of “Being Alert to the Signs of Compassion Fatigue,” call 800-325-2511 or email info@carenotes.com. ✚

Painting memorializes former philosophy teacher Gill Ring

Alumni who learned philosophy – and more – from Gill Ring during his 40-plus years of teaching at Saint Meinrad have found a way to honor their beloved teacher. In January, a group of alumni donated a painting of Ring to the school.

The painting was presented to President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on January 28, with Ring’s family members attending. Alumni Dan Conway O’75 and Tim Fout O’79 coordinated the project as a memorial to the teacher and philosopher, who died in February 2016.

At the unveiling ceremony, Conway explained that when he and Fout hit on the idea to commission a portrait, they knew the perfect artist for the job: Gill’s son, Nick Ring.

Nick is an award-winning artist who works in sculpture, painting and drawing mediums. He and his wife, Christine, have studios in Jasper, IN, and Greenville, SC. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts at Indiana University and attended the New York Academy of Art.

“Nick has succeeded beyond all our expectations,” Conway said. “By ‘depicting the extraordinary in the ordinary,’ he has captured for us the man we knew and loved, and he has introduced this great teacher to all present and future students and faculty at Saint Meinrad.”

Nick calls the portrait “Gill Ring, A Serious Teacher.” Gill is depicted in the

foreground with Plato (left) and Aristotle behind him. A stack of books sits beside him.

Fr. Denis, who accepted the portrait on behalf of the school, was also one of Gill’s students. He remembered him as a “pure genius” and called him “one of the most brilliant minds I’ve ever encountered.” ✚



The Ring family, from left, Kathy Brandt, Gail Ring, Nick Ring, Tracy Beane, Molly Mitchell and Christine Ring pose for a portrait with the painting of their father and husband after the painting was presented to Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, on January 28.

[Meet the Student]

Deacon Brian McCaffrey

Diocese: Salina, KS

Hometown: Manhattan, KS

Q. What attracted you to the priesthood?

Throughout high school and college, I was very involved with my parish, diocese, and campus center. Through various activities, I had the privilege of getting to know and working alongside a lot of priests and seminarians. Seeing the authentic joy that they had made the priesthood look very attractive.

During college, the more I studied the Church's traditions, got involved in campus ministry, and served in the liturgy, the more I fell in love with the Church, and I felt a deep desire to give my life in service to God and his people. When I took these desires to prayer, it became pretty clear that I was being called to enter seminary formation.

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

The various priests and seminarians that I met in high school and college were the biggest influence on my discernment. These men constantly encouraged me to consider the priesthood and to discern whether I might be called to it.

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

I was a student in the School of Education at the University of Kansas. Before making the decision to enter seminary, I had wanted to be a high school history teacher. I graduated from KU with a degree in secondary education in the spring of 2015 and entered seminary that fall.

Q. Favorite saint and why?

St. Josemaria Escriva would have to be my favorite. When I was in college,

somebody gave me a copy of his book, *The Way*. I had never even heard of him before, but I read it over and over and it changed my life. His blunt writing style constantly challenges me to grow and take the call to holiness seriously.

Other favorites include St. John the Baptist, St. Therese of Lisieux, and Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati.

Q. Favorite Scripture verse and why?

"And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave." (1 Kings 19:11-13).

I think this is my favorite because it reminds me that we need to seek God out in silence and allow him to speak to us in that silence.

Q. Hobbies?

Reading is how I spend most of my free time. I have a variety of literary interests that include history, theology, science fiction/fantasy, and the classics. Some of my favorite books include *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien and *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas.



When I'm not reading, you can usually find me spending time with friends, exercising or, more recently, learning how to cook.

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

I'd say the most rewarding part of seminary has been the community. We're a large group of guys from different backgrounds but have one common goal. Getting to live in a community like this is a pretty unique experience. I've been able to make a lot of great friendships during my time here, and it's one thing that I will miss after graduation.

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

I'd say the most challenging part of seminary has also been community life. When you spend as much time together as we do, you're bound to experience conflicts or clashes of personalities. However, this presents us the challenge of being patient with each other, along with the opportunity of growing in fraternal charity.

Q. Best advice you've heard in seminary?

Make sure prayer is your top priority each day. ✝

LETTER

from the Director of Alumni Relations

Dear Alumni of Saint Meinrad,

When was the last time you stopped for just a moment to think about a beloved memory you have of Saint Meinrad? Yesterday? Last week? Years ago? Perhaps as you began reading this letter, your mind could not help but wander back to the remote tranquility of the Hill, its sacred sandstone structures, and its many halls and rooms that are filled with your stories and experiences.

It seems to me the most profound beauty of Saint Meinrad is that it is a place that cultivates growth and spirituality, teaching us to enter into the mystery of faith and guiding us to truly appreciate the spectacular humanness of life.

I was recently hired as the new Director of Alumni Relations at Saint Meinrad. I am originally from Pensacola, Florida, where much of my family still lives. In 2018 I received my MA degree in Catholic philosophical studies as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Mobile before I realized that God was not calling me to the priesthood. I am deeply grateful for my experience at Saint Meinrad, and now I am excited to be back on the Hill and a part of its long-standing mission.



Everyone has a story to tell, and I look forward to the opportunity to get to know you and hear about your experience of Saint Meinrad. Please feel free to give me a call, send me an email, or write me an old-fashioned letter. However you decide to reach out, I will respond in kind.

In time, when we return to some kind of normal, I hope to meet you in person – perhaps at the annual Alumni Reunion, the Alumni Retreat, a dinner, a service activity, or simply a quick visit to my office. Until then, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Timothy Florian in blue ink, enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

Timothy Florian
Director of Alumni Relations
tflorian@saintmeinrad.edu
812-357-6501

93rd Annual Alumni Reunion

Honoring anniversary classes



Like many events planned since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the 2021 Alumni Reunion will be a little different this year.

Because the Saint Meinrad classes that would have celebrated anniversaries in 2020 did not have the opportunity to gather on campus last year, they – along with those classes marking anniversaries this year – will be invited to attend the in-person Alumni Reunion on August 1-3.

Because of the social distancing that will be necessary at meals, liturgies and activities, registration for this year's gathering will be open to 100 attendees.

The Reunion Mass, the annual meeting of the Alumni Association, and the special talks will be livestreamed for any other alumni who would like to join the Reunion virtually.

Graduation classes that will be honored this year are the classes of 1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1995, 1996, 2010, 2011, 2015 and 2016. The classes of 1960 and 1975 will also be celebrating special anniversaries.

“In my conversations with alumni, I’ve noticed a common theme: they miss visiting the Hill,” said Alumni Director Timothy Florian. “I’m excited to have this

opportunity for alumni to get back to Saint Meinrad.”

Note: The events listed below are tentative and subject to change. The most up-to-date Reunion information will be posted on the alumni website, alumni.saintmeinrad.edu.

Sunday, August 1

Alumni who arrive on Sunday afternoon or evening are welcome to attend Vespers at 5 p.m. and Compline at 7 p.m.

Dinner will be served in Newman Dining Room from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. That

evening, a reception is planned, along with a movie showing in St. Bede Theater.

All Reunion meals will be held in Newman Dining Room and all on-campus events will take place in St. Bede Theater.

Monday, August 2

Alumni can choose to join the golf scramble at the Christmas Lake Golf Course in nearby Santa Claus or attend the first session of the day of recollection given by Scripture scholar Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB. Both begin at 10 a.m.

Fr. Eugene's topic is “Encountering Jesus as a Teacher of Wisdom.”

He is associate professor emeritus in the Seminary and School of Theology. Besides teaching, he served as vice rector of Saint Meinrad College and, from 1987 to 1996, as president-rector of both the College and the School of Theology.

After lunch, the afternoon presentation by Fr. Eugene will convene at 1:15 p.m.

Beginning at 3 p.m., tours will be offered of the newly renovated Monte Cassino Shrine, the Abbey Caskets workshop, and the Saint Meinrad grounds.

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ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Joseph Bush, O'64 ('58-59), of Louisville, KY, died on February 25, 2021.

Mr. Kenneth Cronin, O'55 ('46-47), of Tell City, IN, died on October 8, 2020.

Mr. Ralph Dietz, O'57 ('45-47), of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 29, 2021.

Sr. Ruth Doane, SP, GTP'95 (91-95), of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN, died on February 5, 2021.

Fr. Charles Duman, O'52 ('48-52), a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD, died on January 25, 2021.

Fr. James Endress, O'60 ('48-56), a priest of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, died on January 20, 2021.

Mr. Eugene "Gene" Fleck, O'70 ('58-63), of Huntington, IN, died on January 15, 2021.

Fr. Peter Gallagher, T'87 ('79-87), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on February 6, 2021.

Mr. Donald Gronotte, O'59 ('47-50), of Lacey, WA, died on November 21, 2020.

Mr. Glenn Hicks, O'73 ('61-62), of Salt Lake City, UT, died on November 14, 2020.

Fr. Bryan Lamberson, T'00 ('95-00), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on March 17, 2021.

Mr. John McMullen, O'61 ('49-52), of Spencer, IN, died on January 16, 2021.

Mr. John Mistrik, O'70 ('58-64), of Lakeside, PA, died on November 28, 2020.

Mr. Francis Moll, O'49 ('38-39), of Nashville, IN, died on December 28, 2020.

Fr. James Murphy, O'65 ('59-65), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on January 23, 2021.

Mr. Gerald Page, SMPH ('55-57), of Aurora, IN, died on November 24, 2020.

Mr. John "Jack" Range, O'69 ('63-69), of Memphis, TN, died on July 13, 2020.

Fr. John Reynolds, T'90 ('82-90), a priest of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, died on February 16, 2021.

Mr. Robert Rogers Jr., O'57 ('45-47), of Orlando, FL, died on November 5, 2008.

Mr. Nicholas "Nick" Rohrman, PhD, O'63 ('51-52), of Saco, ME, died on December 26, 2020.

Mr. Oliver "Ollie" Schapker, O'56 ('44-46), of Evansville, IN, died on November 22, 2020.

Mr. Joseph Scheidler, O'58 ('52-57), of Chicago, IL, died on January 18, 2021.

Mr. Thomas Schnellenberger Sr., O'57 ('45-46), of Huntington, IN, died on December 25, 2020.

Mr. Harold Teepool, O'78 ('70-72), of Evansville, IN, died on January 12, 2021.

Fr. Joseph Trapp, O'59 ('53-59), a priest of the Diocese of Belleville, IL, died on January 26, 2021.

Fr. Robert Wilhelm O'59 ('53-55), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on March 11, 2021.

Mr. Clark Wills, O'69, ('67-68), formerly of Seattle, WA, died on November 17, 2020.

Sr. Mary Ann Wiltzius, DC, SS'85, of Evansville, IN, died on December 17, 2020.

Mr. Daniel Worland, O'58 ('47-48), of Vincennes, IN, died on February 5, 2021.

A key to the initials behind the names of alumni:

C: College

GTP: Graduate Theology Programs

HS: High School

MAT: Master of Arts (Theology)

MAPT: Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology)

MTS: Master in Theological Studies

O: Ordination

PD: Permanent Deacon Formation Program

S: Sabbaticant

SPH: St. Placid Hall

SS: Summer Session

T: Theology †

ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Robert Armato, SS'90, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, NY, celebrated his silver jubilee of priesthood on May 20, 2020. He is pastor of St. Margaret's Parish, Middle Village, NY.

Dr. Carolyn Berghuis GTP'20 ('14-21), of Carmel, IN, offered a retreat on Julian of Norwich at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove in January.

Fr. Mark Boyer, O'76 ('72-76), of Springfield, MO, has written *My Life of Ministry, Writing, Teaching, & Traveling*. It was published by Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Fr. Joel Rippinger, OSB, O'74 ('62-68), of Marmion Abbey, Aurora, IL, is the author of *Struggle and Ascent: The History of Mount Angel Abbey*, published by Liturgical Press.

Mr. Dan Schipp, honorary alumnus, retired in March from a nearly 40-year career in development. For almost 13 years, he has been a senior consultant at Johnson, Grossnickle and Associates of Greenwood, IN. Before that, he was vice president of development at Saint Meinrad. He resides in Carmel, IN. †

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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Vespers will be at 5 p.m. The evening events will include a reception followed by the anniversary class banquet, where the classes celebrating milestones will be recognized.

Also at the banquet, Michael A. Ziemianski C'87 ('83-87), will be posthumously honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Ziemianski passed away on June 25, 2019, from lung cancer. He led multiple fundraising efforts for Saint Meinrad over 20 years of service in the Development Office, leaving a lasting impact on Saint Meinrad and its alumni.

Following the dinner, spaces will be set aside for anniversary classes to gather and socialize.

Tuesday, August 3

The day's events begin with breakfast, followed by Morning Prayer in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at 8:30 a.m.

At 9 a.m., the annual meeting of the Alumni Association will be held. Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, will then give a conference on "Church Life in a Post-Apocalyptic World" at 10 a.m. Fr. Denis is the president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and



associate professor of systematic theology.

Lunch service will begin at 11:45 p.m.

The Alumni Reunion Mass will be held at 1:30 p.m., with the Most Rev. Mark Spalding, C'87 ('83-87), of the Diocese of Nashville, as presider and homilist.

A native of Kentucky, Bishop Spalding was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 1991. He served as associate pastor and pastor of several parishes and in various roles in the Metropolitan Tribunal, including his appointment as vicar general in 2011. His appointment as the 12th bishop of

Nashville by Pope Francis was announced in November 2017.

The Reunion will conclude after Mass and the taking of the 2021 group photo.

Health and Safety Precautions

Saint Meinrad has developed policies and procedures to ensure that the health and safety of guests is a priority. According to Florian, the recommended precautions for gathering will be followed. "We want alumni to know that we will ensure the Reunion is both safe and enjoyable," he said.

You can find Saint Meinrad's COVID-19 information at this link: www.saintmeinrad.edu

Annual Student Phonathon reaches hundreds of alumni across the U.S.

In the first week of March, Saint Meinrad seminarians participated in the annual Alumni Phonathon. They took to the phones for a few hours over several evenings.

The result was another successful phonathon. Students spoke with more than 360 alumni of Saint Meinrad and received gifts and pledges totaling \$27,923. Each evening, they talked with alumni from across the country.

"I am grateful to the alumni who generously supported Saint Meinrad through this year's phonathon. Our

student callers know well the difficult times we are in and felt blessed to have many enriching conversations that will be with them throughout their time in formation," says Brandon Hopf, associate director of annual giving, who organized the event.

"The phonathon isn't only about asking for financial support," added Hopf. "It's also to let our benefactors know we are holding them in prayer – perhaps this year more than previous years. Despite this year's socially distant event, the seminarians were able to share many prayer requests with the monastery in

addition to raising funds in support of their education."

Gifts to the phonathon help provide a quality education and formation for seminarians as well as those studying for the permanent diaconate and lay ministry. Gifts help fund financial aid, spiritual formation programs, and ministry opportunities for students.

Alumni can make gifts to the 2020-2021 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu. ✚



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New online workshops allow for being present when miles apart

By Agnes Kovacs, Director of Continuing Formation

Life as we knew it ended abruptly when COVID-19 invaded. Saint Meinrad, a Benedictine place of hospitality, had to close its doors to visitors, students and participants in our diverse programs. Instruction in the school moved online. In-person programs were canceled.

Yet, the need for connection, for being present to one another, and for tools in a shifting ministry environment amplified. Recognizing that need, we developed a series of workshops and formation sessions that can be delivered via online platforms like WebEx or Zoom.

We know that the communal dimensions of living our Catholic faith are being transformed by the pandemic. We know that the spiritual hungers awakened by it can and should be answered in new ways. We know that connection and presence are paramount for human well-being. We

selected topics to address these different dimensions of formation – the intellectual, spiritual, human and pastoral aspects of serving God’s people.

Workshop topics range from the church of the home (the domestic church) to the spirituality of money; from hospitality to emotional intelligence; from making decisions as a Catholic to praying with the Church throughout the liturgical year. By offering a range of topics, we hope to connect with a wide audience, from business managers in parishes to families struggling to take on religious education in the home.

Our primary audience is comprised of those engaged in some way in parish and diocesan ministry or in healthcare, but anyone is welcome to participate. To be good stewards of time and talent, we charge a nominal fee of \$45 for a three-

hour workshop and \$90 for a full-day event. To nurture connections with friends of Saint Meinrad, we have added one-hour webinars that are free.

While most of these online offerings are synchronous, that is, in real time, some are recorded and made available on Saint Meinrad’s YouTube channel. A schedule of the online workshops can be found on the website: www.saintmeinrad.edu/continuing-formation/pastoral-formation-workshop/

We yearn for the time when our eyes can meet off camera and away from a screen. That time will come. However, the pandemic is teaching us that online delivery can widen accessibility, broaden support for those in ministry, and nurture connections to our institution and with one another. We are discovering the gift of being present while miles apart. ✝

*A schedule of the online workshops can be found on the website:
www.saintmeinrad.edu/continuing-formation/pastoral-formation-workshop/*