

# ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2023 • VOL. 62:3



*Saint Meinrad*

# ON THE HILL

SUMMER 2023 • VOL. 62:3

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Cover Photo: Master of Divinity graduates, from left, Dcn. John Wilebski, Dcn. Steven Ditzel and Dcn. Neil Blatchford celebrate outside of St. Bede Hall after the commencement ceremony on May 13, 2023.

## Monks' Personals

**Fr. Jeremy King** directed the annual retreat for the monastic community of St. Bernard Abbey in Cullman, AL, in June.

**Br. Stanley Rother Wagner** had an article and a book review published in the June 2023 issue of the *American Benedictine Review*. The article was titled, "New Einsiedeln: An Institutional Biography of Saint Meinrad Archabbey's Pioneer Years, 1854-1860."

**Br. John Mark Falkenhain** presented a webinar sponsored by Focolare Media on the topic of "Healing a Polarized World" alongside alumnus Fr. Aaron Wessman, author of a new book on societal polarization, on April 27.

**Fr. Lorenzo Penalosa's** article, "Joy in Holy Orders: Prayers Emphasize Eternal Joy for Deceased Bishops, Priests, and Deacons," was featured as the cover story in the July 2023 issue of *The Priest* magazine.

**Br. James Jensen** has been accepted into an online Graduate Certificate Program in Philanthropic Studies, conducted by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

**Fr. Adrian Burke** had an article published in the May issue of *The Priest*, titled "Father's Annual Retreat."

**Fr. Simon Herrmann** gave a presentation to young adults in Evansville, IN, at Theology on Tap on March 9, 2023. The topic was: "Reclaiming Holy Leisure."

**Fr. Mateo Zamora** presented "The Priest as a Local Missionary" to the presbyterate and seminarians of the Diocese of Tulsa on their annual Day of Prayer on April 4 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family.

**Br. Joel Blaize** has been assigned to the position of head refectorian. Br. Stanley Rother Wagner has been assigned assistant refectorian.

**Fr. Eugene Hensell** had an article published in the May issue of *The Priest*, titled "Get Your Heads Out of the Clouds."

**Fr. Eugene Hensell** and **Fr. Gueric DeBona** were elected to two-year terms to the Abbot's Council. **Fr. Kolbe Wolniakowski** was elected to a one-year term. **Fr. Harry Hagan** and **Fr. Adrian Burke** were both appointed to one-year terms by Archabbot Kurt Stasiak.

**Fr. Christian Raab** gave the community retreat to the Olivetan Sisters at Holy Angels convent in Jonesboro, AR, from June 5-9 on the theme of the Eucharist.

**Fr. Tobias Colgan** and **Archabbot Kurt Stasiak** were elected to serve terms on the Congregation Council for the General Chapter of the Swiss-American Congregation. ✚

# Five Saint Meinrad monks celebrate jubilees



From left: The jubilarians are, from left, Fr. Noël Mueller, Fr. Joseph Cox, Br. Jacob Grisley and Fr. Ephrem Carr. Not present was Fr. Guy Mansini.

Five Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey observed anniversaries of monastic profession this year. Fr. Ephrem Carr and Fr. Noël Mueller reached their 60th anniversaries of monastic profession, while Fr. Guy Mansini and Br. Jacob Grisley marked their 50th anniversaries of monastic profession and Fr. Joseph Cox celebrated his 25th anniversary. They were honored during Mass on May 28.

**Fr. Ephrem**, a native of Toledo, OH, professed his monastic vows on August 15, 1963, and was ordained a priest on September 24, 1967. He received a licentiate in Eastern Church studies in 1970 from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. In 1978, he received his doctorate in theology from Sant'Anselmo in Rome.

In addition to teaching at Saint Meinrad in the 1970s and 1980s, he served as academic dean of the School of Theology for six years. He also served as subprior (third in leadership) of the monastery from 1978-86.

Fr. Ephrem was on the faculty at Pontifical Athenaeum Sant'Anselmo from 1986-2013, where he taught courses in Oriental liturgy, Oriental monasticism and Syriac. From 2008-12, he served as president of the Pontifical Institute of Liturgy in Rome.

After serving on the faculty of Institutum Liturgicum in London, England, he returned to the monastery. Fr. Ephrem is

also the author and editor of many books and scholarly articles.

**Fr. Noël** is a native of Louisville, KY, and he professed his monastic vows on August 15, 1963. He was ordained a priest on September 22, 1968.

From 1969 to 1980, he served at Saint Meinrad's mission in Huaraz, Peru, teaching English and religion and serving as coordinator of both the Office of Liturgy and the Office of Marriage Encounter in the Diocese of Huaraz, as well as other duties.

He earned a master's degree in English literature from the University of Louisville in 1985 and taught for 13 years at Saint Meinrad College. He has also served as monastery guest master, and as associate director of continuing education and the associate dean for housing and food services for the School of Theology.

Other assignments have included secretary to the archabbot, seminary formation dean, spiritual director and retreat director.

**Fr. Guy**, a native of Indianapolis, IN, professed his vows as a Benedictine monk on August 24, 1973. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 1, 1977.

He graduated from Saint Meinrad College in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He earned a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad in 1977, a master's in philosophy from Marquette

University in 1978, a master's in religious studies from Indiana University in 1976, and a doctorate in theology from Gregorian University in 1984.

Fr. Guy taught for many years at Saint Meinrad College and Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. Currently, he is the Max Seckler Chair of Theology at Ave Maria University. He also serves as the abbey forester.

Fr. Guy also is the author of *Promising and the Good*, *The Word Has Dwelt Among Us: Explorations in Theology*, and *Ecclesiology (Sacra Doctrina)*.

**Br. Jacob** grew up in Indianapolis, IN. He professed his vows as a monk on August 24, 1973. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Saint Meinrad College.

For many years, Br. Jacob has worked in information technology for the Archabbey, doing computer programming, systems analysis and support work. Other assignments have included assistant novice and junior master for the monastery, director of candidates, choirmaster, and secretary to both the Archabbot's Council and the Monastic Chapter.

In addition to his work in computer services, he is the director of transportation.

**Fr. Joseph**, a native of Bloomington-Normal, IL, earned a bachelor's degree in international business from Quincy University and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He was ordained a priest on May 25, 1991, for the Diocese of Peoria, where he served as assistant pastor and pastor in parishes until 1997.

In 1997, Fr. Joseph joined the monastery at Saint Meinrad and made his first profession of vows on August 6, 1998. He then earned a master's degree in library science from Indiana University.

He is the subprior (third in leadership) of the monastery, library cataloger in the Archabbey Library, and chaplain for the Benedictine Oblate community. Previously, he served as secretary for the Archabbot's Council and the Monastic Chapter and as assistant refectorian. ✚

# Four seminarians ordained deacons at Saint Meinrad Archabbey

Four seminarians received the order of deacon from the Most Rev. Charles Thompson, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, at the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church on April 15.

The newly ordained deacons are Anthony Armbruster, Samuel Rosko and Justin Bobby Vogel, for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis; and Kyeongbeom Lee for the Diocese of Busan, South Korea. All

are students at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Others in their class will be or have been ordained deacons in their respective dioceses.

In the Catholic faith, a deacon can preach, baptize, witness marriages, offer Communion to the sick and aged, and perform other ministerial duties. The

newly ordained deacons are transitional deacons, meaning they are preparing for ordination to the priesthood. Many Catholic dioceses also have permanent deacons, who carry out the same role, but are not studying for the priesthood. ✝



*Starting top left, clockwise: Sam Rosko stands alongside Archbishop Charles Thompson as he incenses the altar during the Deacon Ordination on April 15, 2023; Dcn. Devereaux King, vests Anthony Armbruster; Archbishop Charles Thompson places the Book of the Gospels in the hands of newly ordained J.B. Lee, saying, "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach;" Dcn. Bobby Vogel is congratulated by Fr. Ben Horn on the Archabbey Church steps after the Deacon Ordination.*

# 50 earn master's degrees

## from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology

Graduates of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology were awarded master's degrees at the commencement ceremony on May 13. The Most Rev. Shelton Fabre, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, gave the address.

### Receiving Master of Divinity degrees were:

Deacon Joseph Austin, Deacon Andrew Crabtree and Deacon Neil Blatchford, Diocese of Knoxville, TN;  
Deacon Christopher Kight and Deacon Christopher Grief, Diocese of Owensboro, KY;  
Deacon Steven Ditzel, Diocese of Tulsa, OK;  
Deacon Thomas LaPointe, Archdiocese of Mobile, AL;  
Br. Deogratias Satu, OSB, and Br. Gregory Sambu, OSB, Mvimwa Abbey, Tanzania;  
Deacon Hung Tran, Archdiocese of Hanoi, Vietnam;  
Deacon Jack Wright and Deacon Jose Neri, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN;

Br. Pachomius Alvarado-Garcia, OSB, and Br. Paschal Pautler, OSB, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, AL;  
Br. Fraternalis Fidelis, OSB, Hanga Abbey, Tanzania;  
Deacon Devereaux King, Archdiocese of Nassau, Bahamas;  
Deacon Ha Nguyen, Deacon Hien Nguyen and Deacon Tuan Nguyen, Diocese of Thanh Hoa, Vietnam;  
Deacon Oscar Romero Avelino, Diocese of Nashville, TN;  
Br. Peter Shults, OSB, St. Gregory's Abbey, Shawnee, OK;  
Deacon John Wilebski III, Diocese of Crookston, MN.

### Receiving Master of Arts (Catholic Philosophical Studies) degrees were:

Casey Deal, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN;  
Nathan Folz, Diocese of Evansville, IN;  
Hunter LeBlanc, Diocese of Owensboro, KY;  
David Neumaier and James Southard, Diocese of Tulsa, OK.

### Receiving Master of Arts (Theology) degrees were:

Sr. Mary Jane Athieno, Binghamton, NY;  
Joseph Augustine Sr. and David Gilles, Nashville, TN;  
Susan Frazier, Lebanon, TN;  
Deacon Christopher Gutierrez, Owensboro, KY;  
Zachary Haselhorst, Anderson, IN;  
Christopher Hoover and Shawn Phillips, Mount Juliet, TN;  
Vincent Jansen, Indianapolis, IN;  
John Kwiatkowski, Avon, IN;  
Dale Magre Jr., Louisville, KY;  
Josef Maurer, Mount Horeb, WI;  
Alec McGuire, Williamsburg, VA;  
Brittney Owens, Fort Smith, AR;  
John Radez, Evansville, IN;  
Christopher Simpson, Watertown, TN;  
Seth Slone, Springdale, AR;  
Craig Thomas, Gallatin, TN;  
Ginger Thomas, Ware, MA;  
Stephen Weick, Carmel, IN;  
William Wester, Springfield, MO;  
Deacon Michael Wiedemer, Winchester, TN;  
Jared Wuerzburger, Davenport, IA. ✝



*Susan Frazier puts on her cap and gown before the commencement ceremony on May 13, 2023.*



*Master of Divinity graduate Dcn. Andrew Crabtree is congratulated after the commencement ceremony.*

# I've decided I need a will. How do I proceed?

In a previous issue of *On the Hill*, we provided "8 reasons to have a will." In this article, we would like to take this to the next stage and discuss how to go about planning for and executing a will.

Procrastination is so easy for most of us. You've made a good decision; don't put it off. The tips below will help you start thinking about the things that will be important to you as you get ready to meet with an attorney about writing a will.

1. Set a deadline. Life can get in the way of things we don't prioritize. Plan to have it done by the end of the year or by your next birthday or anniversary.
2. Become an educated consumer. It is much better to become educated about the basics of estate planning on your own time than to pay an attorney or other professional to educate you. Save your money for questions about your specific situation. There is good general information available online and in books written specifically for consumers. Attorneys often provide seminars on estate planning; these are an excellent way to start your education and to meet local attorneys.
3. Organize your financial information. Create a personal balance sheet. Make a listing or spreadsheet of your assets, their market values, any debts

against them, and the resulting net values. Be sure to include everything: your home, other real assets, etc. Include your debts. Be honest! Your attorney can do the best job for you if he or she has as much accurate information as possible.

4. Make a list of the people and organizations you want to inherit from you. Include their legal names and their relationship to you. Give some thought about whether you want your estate to be distributed right away or over a period of time.
5. Give some careful thought to who should be your executor or trustee. Make sure this is someone you are willing to trust with your estate. Give some thought to their location. Your most trusted friend who lives across the country from you may struggle to keep up with distributing your assets from long distance.
6. Who do you want to make health care decisions for you should you become unable to make them for yourself? Be sure to consider any specific instructions you want to make now for your care should you be unable to in the future.
7. Write down thoughts and questions that come to you as you consider this

process. In this way, you'll be able to recall them when you do sit down with your attorney.

8. Yes, you do need an attorney! An experienced estate planning attorney has the technical expertise to draft documents correctly for your state of residence and will know how to make your plan work for you.

If you are concerned about the expense, tell your attorney your concerns. Perhaps you can pay in installments or work out some other way of lowering the cost. Your attorney can help you with this.

Yes, this is a big project, and it can seem overwhelming. But remember why you are doing this: you love your family, and you want to do what is best for them. Once your estate plan is in place, you will have the best benefit of all, peace of mind.

If you have any questions about the process and would like to talk to someone in advance, feel free to call Dcn. Michael Shumway, Director of Planned Giving, at 812-357-6501 or toll-free at 800-682-0988. You can also email him at [plannedgiving@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@saintmeinrad.edu). We cannot provide legal advice, but we would be happy to help you with general questions. ✚

## Noteworthy:

*Newsworthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events*

In March, a Benedictine oblate visited Saint Meinrad and brought along her grandson, who would soon take Meinrad as his **Confirmation name**. The oblate made a small request: "During Catholic Schools' Week, grandson Aidan dressed in a cassock and spoke to the pre-K through third grade, telling them about St. Meinrad, his poverty, his ravens, and his hospitality. I hope you can offer him a blessing prior to his last weeks of school before Confirmation."

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, gladly gave Aidan a blessing and presented him with a framed photo of the St. Meinrad Shrine that is located in the Archabbey Church.

Following a January Interterm trip to Guatemala, seminarians in their second year of theology studies initiated a **fundraiser** to aid a school in Santiago Atitlán that was founded by Blessed Fr. Stanley Rother. Fr. Stanley, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK,

served in Guatemala for 13 years until he was martyred in 1981. The students raised \$25,372.49, which will buy new desks, computers, and a tuba for the school band.

Br. Fraternalis Fidelis, OSB, a recent graduate who studied at Saint Meinrad for Hanga Abbey, has translated the *Rule of St. Benedict* into **Kiswahili**. This is the language of Tanzania, where his monastery is located. He relied on the new Saint Meinrad translation of the *Rule*. ✚

# Saint Meinrad receives grant to nurture children's participation at Sunday Mass



Saint Meinrad has received a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for a project called the “Children’s Revival of Participation at Sunday Mass.” The Children’s Revival project is an initial five-year effort supported through Lilly Endowment’s Nurturing Children through Worship and Prayer Initiative.

The project aims to increase the capacity of parishes to incorporate children’s leadership and children’s ways of worship into their regular Sunday Masses, with help from experts in liturgy, catechesis, and child development.

To pilot concrete efforts, Saint Meinrad will seek 10 to 15 partner parishes eager to make their Sunday Eucharist the source and summit of all activities that nurture the faith of children. Parishes will plan and implement their first Children’s Revival efforts in 2024, just as the National Eucharistic Revival is moving from its Year of Parish Revival to a Year of Mission.

According to project supervisor Dr. Nathaniel Marx, the parishes will work to

increase children’s participation in five areas: preparing the environment for worship, singing and moving, proclaiming the Word and hearing it explained, leading and listening to spoken prayers, and going forth from worship to witness.



“Intergenerational parishes thrive and our eucharistic faith shines forth when children are seen, heard, and valued in the Church’s central act of corporate worship,” says Marx, a faculty member at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

During the first year of the project, Marx is convening a study group to discuss research, identify the best resources, and generate recommendations that will become the foundation of specific parish plans during the next phase. The group also will draft a *Handbook for Children’s Participation in Sunday Mass*.

For more information or to inquire about becoming a partner parish in the Children’s Revival project, contact Marx at [nmarx@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:nmarx@saintmeinrad.edu).

Saint Meinrad is one of 26 organizations taking part in the Nurturing Children Initiative, which Lilly Endowment launched in 2022 as part of its commitment to support efforts that strengthen the religious education and formation of children and enhance the vitality of Christian congregations. ✝



*Starting top left, clockwise: Propaedeutic year seminarian Seth Hickey receives guidance from Sr. Jeana Visel, OSB, while painting an icon on March 2, 2023.*

*Dr. Clayton Jefford attends evening prayer in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel before the President-Rector Dinner on May 4, 2023.*

*The seminary community participates in a Spoons card game tournament in the evening on April 18, 2023. Pictured, from left, are Dcn. Devereaux King, Michael Oguizu, Hung Nguyen, Justin Farr and Joel Brackett.*

*The Office of Hispanic and Latino Ministry hosts a Cinco de Mayo fiesta at the UnStable on May 5, 2023. Seminarians, Thomas Day, from left, Bobby Vogel, Dcn. Jose Neri and Caleb Scherzinger talk with Eva Lara during the party.*

*Br. Stanley Rother Wagner, OSB, graduated from the University of Louisville with a Master of Arts in American History on May 13, 2023. He was recognized as the 2023 Outstanding Graduate in History at the commencement ceremony. The award is given in recognition of exceptional achievement and dedication to the study of history.*



## EVENTS ON THE HILL

### July 21-23

*Guest House Retreat: "Christian Hospitality: Welcoming One Another as Christ" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.*

### August 7-11

*Guest House Retreat: "Summer Chant Workshop: Praying with Chant" by Br. John Glasenapp, OSB.*

### August 18-20

*Guest House Retreat: "Bible Bootcamp" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.*

### August 25-27

*Guest House Retreat: "Experience of Prayer in the Bible" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.*

### September 1-3

*Guest House Retreat: "Contemplative Christianity: God's Call to Holiness" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.*

### September 8-10

*Guest House Retreat: "Benedictine Spirituality as Lived in Marriage" by Deacon Rich and Cherie Zoldak.*

### September 29-October 1

*Guest House Retreat: "The Eucharist: What Did Jesus Have in Mind?" by Fr. Jeremy King, OSB.*

### October 6-8

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

### October 20-22

*Guest House Retreat: "Christian Hospitality: Welcoming One Another as Christ" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.*

### October 23-27

*Guest House Retreat: (Priests Retreat) "The Sermon on the Mount: Matthew's Handbook for Living in the Kingdom of Heaven" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.*

### October 28

*Abbot Martin Marty Guild and Einsiedeln Society Day of Recollection.*

*For more information, call 812-357-6611 or visit our website [www.saintmeinrad.org](http://www.saintmeinrad.org)*



*Join us for the IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL  
On The Hill 5K*

Saturday, September 23, 2023  
at 8:30 a.m. CT

Get details and register online at:  
[wellness.saintmeinrad.edu](http://wellness.saintmeinrad.edu)



## [Meet the Student]

# Adriana “Annie” Sheridan

Hometown: Petersburg, IN

Degree: MA Theology with a specialization  
in teaching high school

**Q.** *When did you begin your studies?*

Fall 2022

**Q.** *What influenced you to begin studying for a master’s degree in theology?*

I had been contemplating it for a while, but the requirement for my job spurred me into action.

**Q.** *What else are you doing besides seeking a master’s degree (work, family, volunteer work)?*

I teach theology full-time at a Catholic high school and lend a hand with my family, the community, or wherever I’m needed.

**Q.** *Favorite saint and why?*

This fluctuates depending on life’s circumstances, but lately I’ve been building a relationship with St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. (Or she’s been building one with me!)

**Q.** *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

John 21:10: “Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish you just caught.’” Jesus is appearing to the Apostles after the Resurrection for the third time. He miraculously gives them fish, as when He first called them, and asks that they join their fish to his in their meal. Any time life

gets complicated or monotonous, I think back to this passage, which speaks volumes. The whole passage, but particularly that verse, reminds me of the humility of God, how much He loves us, and what kind of relationship and communion He calls us to every day.

**Q.** *Hobbies?*

When I’m not at work, I like to work around the house, play sports with my brother, or read.

**Q.** *What aspect of your coursework has been most rewarding?*

The most rewarding aspect of the coursework is the way it carries with you.



I feel I am able to see the world and those around me in a better, fuller way.

**Q.** *What aspect of your coursework has been most challenging?*

The most challenging aspect has definitely been balancing my coursework with teaching and family.

**Q.** *What plans, if any, do you have after you receive your degree?*

Use it however God wants. ✝

*Photos from opposite page, starting top left, clockwise: Emilio Hernandez participates in ice breaker activities on the first day of the “One Bread, One Cup” conference on June 12, 2023.*

*Danielle Bird reacts to finding little faces hidden in a chant manuscript during a presentation given by Br. John Glasenapp, OSB, on June 15, 2023.*

*Mariah Lizarda celebrates after getting an answer correct while playing the Moose, Meese, Moosen game on June 12, 2023.*

*“One Bread, One Cup” College Ministerial interns, Olivia Halle, from left, Claire Schomogyi and Joshua VanderLaan greet other interns as they arrive in the St. Bede Circle on June 2, 2023.*

*Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, gives a homily during the opening Mass of the “One Bread, One Cup” conference on June 12, 2023.*

# One Bread, One Cup





*Starting top left, clockwise: Br. John Glasenapp, OSB, gives a presentation on chant manuscripts to “One Bread, One Cup” youth participants on June 15, 2023.*

*Propaedeutic seminarian Aidan Huersperger attends morning prayer in the St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on May 4, 2023.*

*Fr. Tobias Colgan, OSB, leads a prayer at the final gathering of the semester of the international seminarian community on May 2, 2023.*

*Propaedeutic seminarians, Lucas Nicholas and Matthew Gupton work together to plant flowers in the monastery garden on April 26, 2023.*

*Students, monks and Saint Meinrad co-workers gather in St. Bede Circle for the National Day of Prayer on May 4, 2023. Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, lead the prayer.*

# Staying the course: Financial aid can help



Kristina Seipel

Life can throw you a curveball.

Kristina Seipel was still paying off the debt she had accumulated from her undergraduate degree while working full time in her parish as

the director of religious education. Then she realized she needed more education to be able to do her job better.

“When I decided I wanted to pursue my master’s, I wasn’t going to do it unless I could get the cost covered,” she says. Fortunately, her pastor was willing to assist with some professional development funds.

She inquired about classes in Saint Meinrad’s Graduate Theology Program and asked if any financial aid was available. She was put in touch with the financial aid director, Ruth Kress, who explained the options. Kristina qualified for a grant that matched what her parish offered and another grant for those who work in paid or volunteer ministry positions.

Kristina took her first class in 2016. Taking one class a semester, she graduated in 2021 with a Master of Arts (Pastoral Theology). “Without the financial assistance, I would have decided to not pursue my degree at that time because I did not want to go into debt again. I would have at least waited to finish paying for my undergraduate degree before starting my master’s.”

Then came more curveballs. “While I was a student, I met my husband, got married and we had our first child,” she explains. “None of that was on my radar when I started classes, but Saint Meinrad worked with me when I took time off for those life events.”

Today, Kristina has a new position, working as the director of discipleship and catechesis at Holy Family Parish in New Albany, IN. Her advice to prospective students? Make sure to ask what financial assistance is available for your situation. “Don’t just assume a master’s degree is out of your reach,” she says. ✝

*“When I decided I wanted to pursue my master’s, I wasn’t going to do it unless I could get the cost covered.”*

—Kristina Seipel

## Student Aid Options

Saint Meinrad’s Graduate Theology Program offers a variety of financial aid options. For details, visit: [www.saintmeinrad.edu/graduate-theology/financial-aid/](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/graduate-theology/financial-aid/).

**Ministry Grants:** Need-based tuition assistance for those in paid or volunteer ministry, up to 80% of tuition per year.

**Matching Grants:** Saint Meinrad will match an employer or parish contribution, up to \$300 per term.

**Diversity Scholarship:** A scholarship for part-time or full-time non-Anglo students, up to 50% of tuition per term.

**Government Assistance to Veterans:** Aid is available through the GI Bill for veterans, service members and immediate family, amount varies.

**Work-Study:** Students taking at least two classes in a term may be eligible for part-time work at Saint Meinrad, amount based on the number of hours worked.

**International Scholarships:** Available to full-time, international students, limited to three students per year, up to 75% of tuition.

**Federal Direct Student Loans:** Graduate, unsubsidized, direct loans may be available to those seeking a graduate degree, up to \$21,500 a year.

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Fr. Edward M. Aigner Jr., O'72 ('68-72)**, a priest of the Diocese of Wilmington, DE, died on April 1, 2023.

**Mr. William J. Alstadt Jr., O'58 ('46-49)**, of Strongsville, OH, died on May 2, 2023.

**Mr. James R. Armstrong, O'67 ('59-66)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on March 13, 2023.

**Mr. Timothy K. Berg, O'78 ('69-78)**, of Chehalis, WA, died on April 18, 2023.

**Mr. John "Jack" M. Brockman, O'65 ('59-61)**, of Woodbury, CT, died on August 25, 2022.

**Mr. Jerry L. Chappell, O'65 ('56-57)**, of Danville, IN, died on May 25, 2023.

**Mr. David E. Coats, O'74 ('66-74)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on June 1, 2023.

**Mr. James R. Cramer, O'57 ('45-49)**, of Greenville, NC, died on December 29, 2022.

**Mr. Thomas M. Dattilo, O'69 ('58-63)**, of Louisville, KY, died on March 23, 2023.

**Mr. Stephen E. Dyer, O'67 ('55-62)**, of New Castle, IN, died on May 31, 2023.

**Mr. Stephen V. Flynn, C'87 ('84-87)**, of Greenwood, IN, died on March 30, 2023. He was a member of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Board.

**Fr. John E. "Jack" Hartzler, O'54 ('45-54)**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 21, 2022.

**Mr. Albert H. Helming, O'58 ('46-47)**, of Jasper, IN, died on January 12, 2023.

**Fr. Philip Hoffmann, O'64 ('58-61)**, a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, died on April 4, 2023.

**Mr. Richard H. Hollenkamp, O'57 ('53-57)**, of Fredericksburg, VA, died on April 6, 2023.

**Fr. Roger A. Houle, O'77 ('73-77)**, a priest of the Diocese of Providence, RI, died on February 27, 2023.

**Fr. Kenny L. Kamber, O'53 ('48-53)**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on April 21, 2023.

**Mr. Edward M. Kirch, O'63 ('51-63)**, of North Richland Hills, TX, died on March 31, 2023.

**Fr. Isaac D. Kreutzer, T'97 ('95-97)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, died on December 11, 2022.

**Mr. Donald W. May, O'73 ('63-66)**, of Pittsburgh, PA, died on April 6, 2023.

**Fr. James R. Nischan, O'64 ('52-57)**, a priest of the Diocese of Victoria, TX, died on December 29, 2020.

**Mr. Anthony F. "Tony" Perry, O'59 ('50-51)**, of New Lenox, IL, died on January 10, 2020.

**Fr. Christopher P. Pinne, SJ, C'74 ('71-73)**, of St. Louis, MO, died on April 14, 2023.

**Fr. Richard Powers, O'59 ('47-55)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, died on February 13, 2023.

**Mr. Stuart B. Priddy, T'12 ('07-12)**, of Elizabethtown, KY, died on June 13, 2023.

**Fr. Michael E. Roverse, C'80 ('77-80)**, a priest of the Diocese of Savannah, GA, died on March 15, 2023.

**Mr. Kenneth E. Stalboerger, PD'12 ('10-12)**, of New London, MN, died on March 13, 2022.

**Mr. Gary A. Taylor, O'78 ('74-76), SS'84**; of Holton, IN, died on May 22, 2023.

**Mr. Patrick L. Ziehr Sr., O'71 ('59-60)**, of Holland, OH, died on October 4, 2019.

### 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 Annual Giving Program supports future Church leaders

Alumni donors to Saint Meinrad take seriously their responsibility to help prepare the future leaders of the Church. Their gifts support ministry opportunities, spiritual formation, and many other aspects of a world-class theological education.

As in years past, alumni showed their passion for supporting their alma mater with gifts totaling \$857,950.75 during fiscal year 2022-23 – an impressive 22.57% response rate.

"We are blessed to have the ongoing generous support of our alumni," says Tim Florian, Saint Meinrad's director of alumni relations. "It is this support that aids Saint Meinrad in its mission to form priests, deacons, and lay people for

meaningful work in the universal Church."

Giving every year continues a long tradition of alumni supporting the formation of future ministers of the Church.

Alumni can give to Saint Meinrad online, by phone, or by mail in response to the kickoff of the 2023-24 Annual Alumni Giving Program that will be mailed in late August.

Those who make a gift of \$200 or more to the Alumni Annual Giving Program, or are first-time donors making a gift of \$100 or more, will receive a custom-designed etched metal bookmark depicting the Archabbey Church. †

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Sr. Clarita Browning, OSU, SS'85 ('81-85)**, celebrates her 75th year of religious life in 2023. She has served as a teacher for 39 years, professor of education at Brescia University, and pastoral associate and director of religious education at three parishes. Congratulatory cards can be sent to her at the motherhouse in Maple Mount, KY, located at 8001 Cummings Road.

**Dr. Carolyn Berghuis, GTP'20 ('14-20)**, of Carmel, IN, has published her third book, *Catholic Lent Devotional: A Journey into Imaginative Prayer with Julian of Norwich – Year A*. It is available on Amazon.

**Fr. Ross Caniglia, T'19 ('13-19)**, a priest of the Diocese of Sioux City, IA, has written a music setting for the Divine Praises, published by OCP.

**Mrs. Kathy Davis Shanks, GTP'01 ('94-01)**, of Columbus, IN, retired at the end of April after 38 years of service in various positions at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Columbus, IN.

**Fr. Wilfred "Sonny" Day, O'67 ('61-67)**, sacramental minister at St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight, IN, and St. Mary Parish in Navilleton, IN, was

honored with the Spirit of Hope Award on April 20. The award is given by St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany, IN, to honor those who have contributed generously of their time and talent to help the organization and those it serves.

**Mr. Chris De Espinosa, C'89 ('85-89)**, of Lowell, IN, in April completed 25 years of employment at the Children's Hospital of Chicago Medical Center, in the Information Management Department.

**Mr. Sean Gallagher, T'01 ('95-99); GTP'02 ('99, '02)**; of Indianapolis, IN, was awarded first place in the 2023 Catholic Media Association of the United States and Canada Awards in the category of Best Reporting on Vocations to Priesthood, Religious Life or Diaconate – Series.

**Mr. Jim Mumford, C'92 ('90-92)**, of Grovetown, GA, has been named vice president of operations for women's and children's services with AdventHealth Women's and Children's Hospitals in Orlando, FL.

**Mr. Bernard Brandon Scott, O'67 ('61-64)**, of Tulsa, OK, is a co-author of *After Jesus Before Christianity*, published by The Westar Institute. He is the chair of Westar's newly established Christianity Seminar.

**Fr. Aaron Wessman, T'12 ('08-12)**, of Glenmary Home Missioners, has authored a book, *The Church's Mission in a Polarized World*. He also was one of the speakers in an April 27 webinar, "Healing a Polarized World," sponsored by Focolare Media. ✝

## Alumni Retreat

*Save the date!*

**January 5-7, 2024**

Alumni retreat led by  
Fr. Thomas Gricoski, OSB.  
Check the fall issue of *On The Hill*  
newsletter for more details.

## Alumni Board officers elected

The Saint Meinrad Board of Directors of the Alumni Association elected the president and vice president of the board at its April 17 meeting.

Fr. Matthew Gerlach will serve as president of the board, and Angie Greulich will serve as vice president. Terms are for two years.



Fr. Matthew Gerlach

**Fr. Matthew Gerlach** 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 and, since the year of his ordination, has been coordinator of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith for the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma.

**Mrs. Angie Greulich** 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.



Mrs. Angie Greulich

She earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Abilene Christian University in 2004 and a master's degree in theological studies from Saint Meinrad in 2013. She also earned

her status as a Certified Fund Raising Executive in 2022.

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

The Alumni Association serves alumni of Saint Meinrad's Seminary and School of Theology, College, High School and St. Placid Hall programs. Currently, there are more than 6,600 alumni. ✝



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# Saint Meinrad Alumni Board restructure will allow for more flexibility

The Board of Directors of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association has restructured the makeup of the board. The change is intended to cultivate a board that has diverse experiences and represents the alumni community to serve the best interests of the Alumni Association. The action was taken at the April 17 meeting.

The number of board members will remain at 18, with each member serving a three-year term. The new configuration will include three alumni who attended Saint Meinrad 0-20 years ago and three alumni who attended more than 20 years ago. Each time period would be represented by a priest, a permanent deacon, and an alumnus of the Graduate Theology Program.

In addition to those six, the board will include:

- 12 at-large members
- Two seminarians, one each from the 2nd and 3rd Theology classes (*ex-officio, attending the April and October meetings*)
- A Saint Meinrad monk to represent the monastic community (*ex-officio*)

- The director of alumni relations (*ex-officio*)
- The administrative assistant for alumni relations (*ex-officio*)
- The vice president for development (*ex-officio*)

Previously, the Alumni Board was comprised of alumni representing these time periods:

- 0-15 years since graduation: 2 priests, 2 deacons, 2 lay alumni
- 16-30 years since graduation: 2 priests, 2 deacons, 2 lay alumni
- 30+ years since graduation: 2 priests, 2 deacons, 2 lay alumni

The change to the new structure will be gradual, as current members complete their terms on the Alumni Board and new alumni join.

“Our Alumni Board has always been an integral and indispensable part of the Alumni Association,” explains Alumni Director Tim Florian. “The restructured board gives us more freedom and flexibility to bring on alumni who are qualified, willing, able, and eager to serve.”

“We anticipate this will result in a stronger board with a better balance of men and women who represent the demographics of the Alumni Association,” he says.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Alumni Board, use the form at: [alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/nominate](http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/nominate). ✚

## Save the Date!

**August 14, 2023**

Nashville Alumni & Friends Dinner

**August 24, 2023**

Louisville Alumni & Friends Dinner

**September 7, 2023**

Indianapolis Alumni & Friends Dinner

**September 14, 2023**

Evansville Alumni & Friends Dinner

**October 19, 2023**

Jasper (Local) Alumni & Friends Dinner