

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2020 • VOL. 59:2

Saint Meinrad takes precautions amid COVID-19



Reunion events finalized

Cover: Fr. Christian Raab, OSB, leads seminarians on a pilgrimage to Monte Cassino Shrine to pray for those affected by the coronavirus on March 13, 2020. Seminarians made a similar pilgrimage in 1871 when smallpox threatened the community.



Saint Meinrad



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SPRING 2020 • VOL. 59:2

FEATURES

- 2-3Monastery News
- 4New Books
- 5Monks' Personals
- 6-7Martin Marty
- 8Celibacy Formation

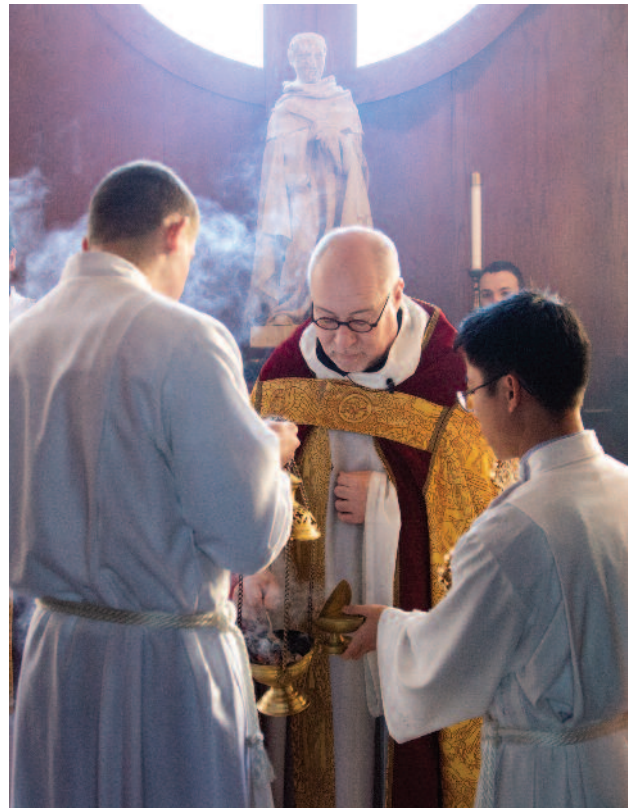
ALUMNI

- 9Alumni Reunion 2020
- 10-11Distinguished Alumnus
- 12Student Profile
- 14-15Alumni Eternal and News
- 16Alumni Board Slate

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Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, lights the incense before seminary Mass in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

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

Saint Meinrad takes precautions amid COVID-19 pandemic

The Saint Meinrad campus is quieter than it usually is this time of the year. As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread and affect people around the country and world, Saint Meinrad is taking precautions.

On March 17, 2020, Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, president-rector of the Seminary and School of Theology, announced that the seminarians would return to their dioceses and religious communities, and classes would be completed online for the rest of the spring semester.

Students who cannot return home at this time, such as international students, will remain on campus in a cloistered area as long as necessary.

“This is a difficult decision, especially as it affects the quality of formation that we

are able to offer our seminarians,” explains Fr. Denis. “We here at Saint Meinrad remain united to our dioceses and religious communities in prayerful support during this difficult time.”

On the same day, Archabbot Kurt Stasiak, OSB, announced that the Archabbey Church is closed for public prayer until further notice. This decision follows the directives of Archbishop Charles Thompson, leader of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, in which the Archabbey is located. In his statement, Thompson noted that public celebrations of the Mass in Indiana were suspended until further notice.

“The monastic community will remain faithful to our commitment to daily prayer,” said Archabbot Kurt. “While we

regret having to close our place of prayer to the public, we assure all of our continued prayers for their health and well-being.”

Saint Meinrad has canceled all public events, retreats and tours until further notice. The Archabbey Guest House, Gift Shop and Scholar Shop are also closed.

“If there is a positive outcome to this crisis, let us hope that it will be in the vast outpouring of charity and love on the part of many in our community,” says Fr. Denis. “I have stressed with our seminarians that, as they leave Saint Meinrad, they go as ambassadors and servants of the Church. I know these men, and I know their quality.” ✝

Monastery News

Br. Michael Reyes professes temporary vows at Saint Meinrad



Br. Michael Reyes

Novice Dennis Reyes professed his temporary vows as a Benedictine monk in a ceremony on January 20, 2020, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

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 Dennis is now Br. Michael.

Br. Michael, 43, is a native of Manila, Philippines. He is studying for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

He earned a bachelor's degree in music from the University of the Philippines and

a master's degree in music composition and theory from the University of Nevada. He received a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from the University of Illinois in May 2019.

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

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

He also participated in the International Electroacoustic Music Festival hosted by the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome. Reyes was the only composer of Asian

descent and one of two composers based in the United States to receive that year's honor.

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

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

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. ✝

Novice Simon Holden joins monastery



Novice Simon Holden

In a brief ceremony, Novice Simon Holden was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 19, 2020. He begins a year of monastic formation,

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

Novice Simon, 23, 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 the son of Katrin and Roger Holden of Frankfort, KY, and attended Western Hills High School in Frankfort. Most recently, his home parish was St. Leo Parish in Versailles, KY, where he was a volunteer in the parish's Alpha program.

As a novice, he takes a year off from formal studies and trades. The novitiate is a time of prayer and learning intended to help a novice discern his vocation as a monk. At the end of this year, a novice

may be permitted to profess temporary vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community of Saint Meinrad. ✝

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EVENTS ON THE HILL

May 1-3

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

May 15-17

Guest House Retreat: "Way Stations and Homecomings of Forgiveness" by Fr. Colman Grabert, OSB.

June 14

The Einsiedeln Society annual dinner.

June 16-18

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

June 19-25

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 26-28

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

July 10-12

Guest House Retreat: "A Step 11 Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics and Alanons" by Dave Maloney and team.

July 17-19

Guest House Retreat: "The 'Little Rule' of St. Benedict and the 'Little Way' of St. Thérèse" by Fr. Meinrad Brune, OSB.

July 20-24

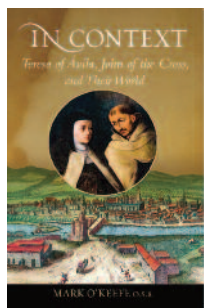
Guest House Retreat: "Bringing to Life the Word of God in Song" by Saint Meinrad liturgical musicians.

July 26

Celebration of monastic and priesthood jubilees.

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

Book exploring Carmelite spirituality published



Fr. Mark O'Keefe, OSB, published a book in February on the lives of Carmelite reformers St. Teresa of Ávila and St. John of the Cross. *In Context: Teresa of Ávila, John of the Cross, and Their World* explores the

social, cultural, intellectual, and religious themes that prevailed in 16th-century Spain, the time in which St. Teresa of Ávila and St. John of the Cross lived.

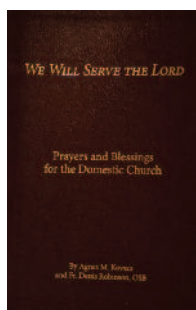
The book is not only a thematic overview, but also visits particular situations in the

lives of these saints: the events that shaped their writings, their lives, and the Carmelite reform they initiated.

Fr. Mark is professor of moral theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He also serves as chaplain-in-residence to the Discalced Carmelite nuns in Terre Haute, IN. He is the author of 11 books on Christian ethics, the priesthood and Carmelite spirituality.

The book is available through the publisher (<https://www.icspublications.org/>), on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), and at Saint Meinrad's bookstore, The Scholar Shop. ✝

New book aims to strengthen Church



We Will Serve the Lord, Prayers and Blessings for the Domestic Church was co-authored by Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, and Agnes M. Kovacs. It was released in January.

According to the authors, what is done in the home can lead to a deeper recognition of God's presence throughout the day. God is in the home, the neighborhood, the school and the workplace as much as in the church. The book of rituals and prayers aims to provide strength and renew a sense of connection to God.

As young adults drift away from the traditional practice of Catholicism, there is a need to reinvent the domestic church beyond the institutional understanding of Church. Cultural norms are changing and growing. As the institutional Church

reforms for a new generation, the domestic church must be strengthened and encouraged.

Fr. Denis has served as president-rector of the Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology since 2008. He is also associate professor of systematic theology in the school and a chaplain for Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN.

Kovacs serves as assistant director of Graduate Theology Programs and director of continuing formation at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

We Will Serve the Lord, Prayers and Blessings for the Domestic Church was created to support the work of the Young Adult Initiative, a program of the Seminary and School of Theology to help religious leaders reach young adults and work with them to create new ministries. ✝

IRA charitable gift may save you money on taxes

As part of the new tax structure put in place by Congress a few years ago, the standard deduction when filing federal income tax was significantly increased. This has caused some donors to search for other ways to make charitable impacts while still enjoying a tax benefit.

If you will not be making charitable gifts that exceed your standard deduction, you may gain a significant tax advantage by exploring a Qualified Charitable Distribution (Charitable Rollover) from your IRA.

Here's how it works. After the passage of the SECURE ACT in 2019, each year after you turn 72, you are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA. This can cause other income to be taxed at a higher level. However, the ability to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA once you turn 70½ did not change.

So, if you don't need all of the minimum distribution, or just want to make a positive impact on your taxes, once you reach age 70½ you can designate a portion of your IRA distribution (up to \$100,000 in most cases) to charity. When you do this, the charitable distribution is not taxed as income. This lowers your taxable income before your standard deduction.

How do you make this happen? Simply contact your IRA administrator and they will lead you through the process.

This tool can be used to support your favorite charitable organizations, such as Saint Meinrad. For more information, contact Deacon Michael Shumway at mshumway@saintmeinrad.edu or 812-357-6501. ✝

New 'Voices' issue highlights alumni ministries

The new issue of *Voices from the Vineyard* is now available. Published on January 20, 2020, the online alumni magazine highlights stories of how Saint Meinrad alumni do ministry around the world.

"Sometimes, the most important ministry is happening just down the road, at local parishes," says Joe Oliveri, *Voices* editor and director of alumni relations. "I hope this issue inspires, challenges and advances the ministry being done by our alumni."

Featured in this issue is Fr. John Grace O'79, of Hampton, VA, who led a project to make his parish 100% solar powered. Dr. Sharon Schuhmann MTS'11, in Prospect, KY, talks about her journey with Saint Meinrad, motivating her to use her gift of preaching and sharing the Gospel.

The issue also looks at current methods in Catholic high school ministry and offers an update on the Young Adult Initiative, a grant-funded initiative at Saint Meinrad that seeks better ways to minister to Catholics ages 23-29.

Alumni are encouraged to reach out to the featured alumni to gain more insights about their ministries. If you know of any alumni with a story to be featured, contact Joe Oliveri at joliveri@saintmeinrad.edu. ✝

Monks' Personals

Fr. Mateo Zamora preached at the Mass for his 25-year high school reunion at Holy Angel University in Angeles City, Philippines, on December 28.

Fr. Thomas Gricoski wrote a book that was released in February. It is an academic philosophy book titled *Being Unfolded: Edith Stein on the Meaning of Being*, published by Catholic University of America Press.

Archabbot Kurt Stasiak and **Fr. Prior John McMullen** attended the annual Abbots and Priors Workshop at Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, CA, February 12-14.

Fr. Julian Peters presented a Lenten Day of Prayer for the priests of the Diocese of Belleville on March 3.

Fr. Guerric DeBona gave the keynote address for Faith Day 2020 in the Diocese of Evansville, titled "Imagine a World...Where Hope Abounds," at Holy Rosary Parish, Evansville, on March 7.

Fr. Denis Robinson presented a mission at Little Flower Parish in Mobile, AL, March 7-10.

Br. Simon Herrmann spoke on "Christian Witness" to St. Pius X's confirmation group in Indianapolis, IN, on March 8.

Fr. Justin DuVall and **Fr. Mark O'Keefe** were elected as the delegate and alternate to the General Chapter to be held at Westminster Abbey, British Columbia, in June. ✝

VOICES from the **Vineyard**

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

MARTIN MARTY:

Early leader guided Saint Meinrad to abbey status

Editor's note: In this year of Saint Meinrad's 150th anniversary of being raised to the rank of abbey, On the Hill will feature occasional stories of significant people or events in our history.



Martin Marty was one of the pioneer monks of Saint Meinrad who played a significant role in ensuring the survival of the new foundation.

Born in 1834 in Switzerland, he was educated first by the Jesuits and later by the Benedictines at Einsiedeln Abbey. Marty entered the monastery at Einsiedeln in 1854, just a few weeks after two Einsiedeln monks had established a foundation in Indiana called Saint Meinrad.

Above, one of the last portraits of Saint Meinrad's first abbot, Martin Marty. At right, Abbot Martin, who served nine years as abbot.

Two years later, he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest at the age of 22. The abbot assigned Fr. Martin to teach the upper classes of Einsiedeln's monastic school, work he did for nearly five years.

During these years, the foundation at Saint Meinrad was struggling. The new community was in debt, understaffed and in need of leadership. The United States was approaching a civil war, and the monks often found themselves spread thin as they attempted to staff parishes, begin a school and generally serve the needs of the Catholics in 1850s Indiana.

Einsiedeln's abbot, Henry Schmid, decided to send Fr. Martin to Indiana to assess the situation. He told Fr. Martin to get the priory on solid ground or liquidate its assets.

At only 26 years old, Fr. Martin and his confrere Fr. Fintan Mundwiler (who later became Saint Meinrad's second abbot) traveled to Indiana, arriving on September 28, 1860.

There was much to do, but historians credit Fr. Martin with putting Saint Meinrad on the path to success. He reopened the school, took on teaching duties, increased the productivity of the farming operation, and improved the community's financial situation.

In addition, he strengthened the spiritual practices in the community, insisting that the monks strictly observe the Divine Office and Mass. He also undertook some building projects, increasing the space for the college, and building a convent and school rooms for the Benedictine sisters who located in nearby Ferdinand.

By the late 1860s, there was talk of seeking independent abbey status for Saint Meinrad. Fr. Martin returned to





Einsiedeln in October 1869 to report on the improvements made in Indiana. The Einsiedeln monks agreed that Saint Meinrad should ask the Holy See to elevate the priory to an abbey, allowing it to be independent of its Swiss motherhouse.

Fr. Martin supplied the necessary paperwork to Rome, and the document granting Saint Meinrad status as an independent abbey was signed by Pope Pius IX on September 30, 1870.

There was some confusion about the wording of the papal brief regarding the election of Saint Meinrad's first abbot. The Saint Meinrad monks assumed that they had authority to elect the abbot. With Bishop Maurice de St. Plais, of the Diocese

of Vincennes, presiding over the election, the 14 monks of the new abbey chose Fr. Martin Marty as its first abbot on January 23, 1871. But before the results could be sent to Rome, Saint Meinrad received notice that the Holy Father had chosen the first abbot – also Fr. Martin.

Abbot Martin served as the abbot until September 1879, at which time he was named a bishop and became the first vicar apostolic of the Dakota Territory.

Sources for this article were “Martin Marty: Founder, First Abbot and Missionary Bishop” by Joel Rippinger, OSB, in *To Prefer Nothing to Christ, Fr. Cyprian Davis, OSB, editor, 2004*; and *History of St. Meinrad Archabbey by Alfred Kleber, OSB, 1954.* †

Top photo: A Saint Meinrad Archives photo of “foot washing April 14, 1870.” Martin Marty is in the back row, second from left. Below, a prayer card of Bishop Martin Marty following his death in 1896.

Celibacy Formation

Monk's book offers model for seminaries, religious communities



Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB

Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, did not plan to write a book on celibacy formation. He didn't plan to teach classes on it or give talks about it.

But after 15 years of doing work in that area, he realized he had a book's worth of information. Last year, *How We Love: A Formation for the Celibate Life*, was published by Liturgical Press.

Br. John Mark is a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey and a clinical psychologist. Before entering the monastery in 2002, he had completed his master's and doctoral degrees at St. Louis University and had been working in pediatric psychology at a hospital.

As a research assistant in the 1990s, he was asked to do a review of the scholarly literature on clergy sex offenders for a newsletter. This led to a research topic for his doctoral dissertation. "The little bit of research that had been done on sex offenders at the time was comparing offenders to non-offenders or comparing clergy offenders to offenders out in the general population," he explains.

But because the groups being compared had so many differences within each group (it turns out that not all clergy sexual offenders are the same), the

existing research did not yield much helpful information. Instead, Br. John Mark decided to use a statistical approach called cluster analysis to identify subtypes of offenders within the clergy child sex abusers and that became the basis for his dissertation.

That research led Br. John Mark into work on psychosexual development and celibacy for clergy and religious. That might seem unrelated to child psychology, but there is a common thread, he says. When you work with kids, you focus on their development. "Someone who is 5 is different when they're 12, is different when they're 17," he explains. The objective is to help someone grow toward a particular goal.

It's the same idea for celibacy. "How do we help someone to develop into a healthy, celibate person?" he says.

Anecdotally, he learned that older priests and members of religious communities had received very limited if any formal formation for celibate living.

That was affirmed by the John Jay Report, a study of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests in the U.S. between 1950 and 2002. The report identified a number of contributing factors to the sex abuse

crisis in the Catholic Church, including the lack of celibacy formation in the seminary.

Not long after Br. John Mark joined the monastery, the leadership in the Seminary and School of Theology sought his help to strengthen its program for celibacy formation. The depth and breadth of the offerings increased. Learning about celibacy and related topics was incorporated into each year of priesthood study.

As Br. John Mark began to develop and use a model for celibacy formation, he noticed that most celibacy formation takes place within the seminary. For those who are non-ordained monks (brothers) and women religious, no published models were available.

About that time, Saint Meinrad and the Saint Luke Center in Louisville, KY, were discussing ways to collaborate. They decided to co-sponsor the first Conference on Human Formation on "Practical Models for Celibacy Formation" in 2015. (The third joint conference will be held next spring on "Mental Health Matters.")

About the same time, he also began a series of webinars on celibacy for the Saint Luke Center for formation directors at seminaries and religious communities. This led to invitations to speak on celibacy to religious communities, dioceses and others, both in the U.S. and internationally.

When he took a sabbatical in 2016, Br. John Mark decided to spend the time writing the book, basically laying out the model for celibacy formation he had been developing and teaching over the past several years.

"There's a real movement toward wanting to do it better," he says. Formation directors in dioceses and religious communities are searching for a good model of celibacy formation. "The only celibacy formation they know is

Continued on Page 11

Alumni Reunion

Reconnect with classmates, recharge your ministry



Events planned for the 92nd Alumni Reunion will include time for celebration and plenty of opportunities to learn, reflect and pray. The 2020 event will be held August 2-5 at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

The events include a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, various tours, prayer and socializing, a celebration of the UnStable, and the honoring of the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Saint Meinrad's late vice president of development, Michael A. Ziemianski.

On Sunday evening, August 2, alumni are welcome to join the monastic community for Compline, with a social to follow. There will also be a showing of the movie *Knives Out* (2019) in St. Bede Theater.

Monday, August 3

A golf scramble at Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus will take place Monday morning, along with a reception for Graduate Theology Program alumni in the Alumni Commons.

Keynote speaker Steve Angrisano MA'19 ('16-19) will give morning and afternoon conferences in St. Bede Theater on Monday. Angrisano is a popular Catholic musician, worship leader and speaker. He travels the country and the world, performing at events such as World Youth Day and the National Catholic Youth Conference.

He has participated in "One Bread, One Cup" summer youth conferences at Saint Meinrad for the past several years and he graduated in May 2019 with a master's degree in theology.

Alumni and friends are invited to attend Angrisano's conferences. For those wishing to attend only the conferences and lunch, the cost is \$20. If you plan to bring a group, please contact the Alumni Office. Registration is required to attend this event.

The anniversary class banquet will be held Monday evening honoring the classes of 1970, 1980, 1995, 2010 and 2015. Also gathering for special anniversaries will be the ordination classes of 1960 and 1975.

The UnStable will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Monday night following the banquet. All are welcome to gather and share half a century of memories.

Tuesday, August 4

On Tuesday, Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, will offer a morning conference during the Day of Recollection, titled "Cardinal Newman: A Saint for our Time." Fr. Denis is the president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and associate professor of systematic theology.

Two engaging breakout sessions are planned for the afternoon. Sr. Jeana Visel,

OSB, will lead a session on "Praying with Icons." She is director of the Graduate Theology Program at Saint Meinrad and the author of *Icons in the Western Church: Toward a More Sacramental Encounter* (Liturgical Press, 2016).

Dr. Kimberly Baker will lead a session titled, "Global Friendship: The Story of a Well in Togo," an exploration of her current ministry with a village in Togo, Africa. She is associate professor of Church history at Saint Meinrad.

On both Monday and Tuesday afternoons, tours will be given of the newly renovated Monte Cassino Shrine, Abbey Caskets workshop, and the grounds of Saint Meinrad.

Most Rev. Mark J. Spalding C'87 ('83-87), bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, TN, will preside and preach at the Reunion Mass on Tuesday afternoon.

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.

At the banquet Tuesday evening, Michael A. Ziemianski C'87 ('83-87), of the Archdiocese of Louisville, 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.

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

Distinguished Alumnus

Mike Ziemianski served Saint Meinrad, his community, his parish

When the Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus Award is given posthumously to Michael Ziemianski this August, it's almost guaranteed that the speaker introducing the award winner will use the word "service."

Ziemianski had a distinguished career at Saint Meinrad. A 1987 graduate of Saint Meinrad College, he worked at Mercy Academy in Louisville, KY, providing retreat experiences for students. By 1989, he was back at Saint Meinrad working in the Development Office.

Except for an 18-month stint as director of development at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, Mike was devoted to Saint Meinrad until his unexpected death in June 2019.

He served in nearly every fundraising role at Saint Meinrad – director of annual giving, director of capital support programs, director of development and, finally, vice president for development for the last 11 years.

"He certainly was a doer, a problem solver, who was not afraid to roll up his sleeves and do whatever was necessary to get a job done."

Dan Schipp, senior counsel at Johnson, Grossnickle & Associates in Greenwood, IN, and former vice president for development at Saint Meinrad, hired Mike to work for Saint Meinrad in 1989. "He certainly was a doer, a problem solver, who was not afraid to roll up his sleeves and do whatever was necessary to get a job done," he says.



Mike Ziemianski

He recalls that Mike often worked behind the scenes, especially at events that Saint Meinrad hosted. At the annual Alumni Reunion, Mike could be found hauling

supplies, helping to clean up, and making sure everyone was where they were supposed to be.

"Another characteristic of Mike is that he was extremely loyal," Schipp says. "No matter what your relationship was, you

always knew that Mike would be there for you."

Mike's many qualities showed up outside his work as well. In 1997, he began volunteering for the Kentucky Derby Festival – the two weeks of events that lead up to the famous horse race. "The greatest weeks in Louisville are around Derby time, and I thought I'd do my part

to make it happen," he told a reporter in 2001.

His volunteer work included selling Pegasus pins, helping with ESPN's B3 Games and X-Trials, and chauffeuring special guests. In 2003, he was named the Volunteer of the Year for the festival. He also was a member of the festival's board of directors, and he was to serve as chair of the 2020 festival.

Mike was also a generous volunteer for District V of CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. In 2007, he received the Distinguished Service Award for his dedicated service in CASE's District V. He had served for a number of years on the board of directors, including as district treasurer and board chair. Shortly after his death, CASE V renamed that award as the Mike Ziemianski Distinguished Service Award.

A member of Cathedral of the Assumption Parish in Louisville, KY, Mike served for more than 20 years as an extraordinary

minister of Holy Communion. In addition, he was a member of the Bishop Flaget Society; served on the organizing committee for “Let’s Dance Louisville,” an annual fundraising event for the Feed My Neighbor program; and could be found tending bar when needed.

Schipp noted that Mike was a leader by example. “He generously gave of his time and his talent and his treasure,” he says. “Certainly, Saint Meinrad was the beneficiary of that, the Kentucky Derby Festival, his parish.... People saw in him someone who was willing to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk and really give of himself.”

The Distinguished Alumnus Award will be given on Tuesday evening, August 4, during the Alumni Reunion. ✚



Mike Ziemianski

“He generously gave of his time and his talent and his treasure. Certainly, Saint Meinrad was the beneficiary of that, the Kentucky Derby Festival, his parish.... People saw in him someone who was willing to not only talk the talk, but walk the walk and really give of himself.”

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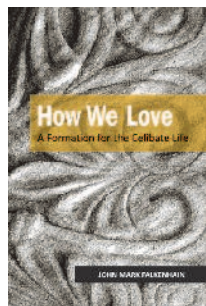
what they received,” he explains, and that was probably a generation or more ago.

The focus on better celibacy formation, along with better screening of those entering seminary and religious communities, is working, according to Br. John Mark.

The John Jay Report shows that the incidence of sexual abuse by clergy starts to decline significantly about 1985, he says. “The question is: is that just delayed reporting?” he asks. It doesn’t appear so. The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate continues to track allegations and results indicate that the incidence has continued to decline over the last three decades, he says.

“We’re doing better screening, we’re doing better formation, we also have

better policies in place and, in general, our culture and our laws are different,” he says. “I hope it’s a contribution that Saint Meinrad is making, through me, to the larger Church – and not just the seminary world, but religious communities as well.” ♦



In his book, author Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, looks at four themes of celibacy formation: motives for choosing a celibate life, theological dimensions of celibate living, sexual identity and integration, and skills for living the celibate life.

One decision Br. John Mark made when writing the book was not to adopt either a conservative or liberal interpretation of celibacy formation, but rather to draw from objective, research-based recommendations.

“I tried very hard to take a non-ideological approach with this book,” he says. “I’ve tried to study the science as well as I could – and the theology as well as I could – and then be very non-ideological in putting it together and saying, ‘This is what we know.’”

While most celibacy formation is aimed at priesthood students, Br. John Mark intentionally developed a model of formation that is useful for seminary settings as well as men’s and women’s religious formation programs. ✚

[Meet the Student]

Garrett Braun

Hometown: Newburgh, IN

Diocese: Diocese of Evansville and Archdiocese for the Military Services



Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

Spiritual leadership. In a particular way, Christ allows priests to continue and participate in his ministry. To me this means recognizing the profound dignity of others and striving to love them as God loves us.

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

The seeds of my vocation were planted throughout my life by family, teachers, and priests who may have never realized the effect they were having on me. These came to fruition in a particular way when I was challenged to be the lay director of the TEC retreat at the Air Force Academy.

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

Before seminary, I attended and graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. As a result, I was commissioned a second

lieutenant and now owe a minimum of five years of active-duty service in the Air Force. I am currently in a service deferment program that allows me to serve in the Air Force Reserves until I can fulfill my active-duty commitment as an ordained priest and military chaplain. This will start three years after my ordination.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

Right now, it's St. John Vianney and St. Thérèse of Lisieux. St. John Vianney inspires me by his radical witness of priestly self-gift, and St. Thérèse by her life of total abandonment to the love and mercy of God for everything.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

1 John 4:9-10: God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I love playing all kinds of sports, fishing, and reading, but my favorite hobby is cycling. There's nothing better than a challenging group ride on a beautiful summer day.

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

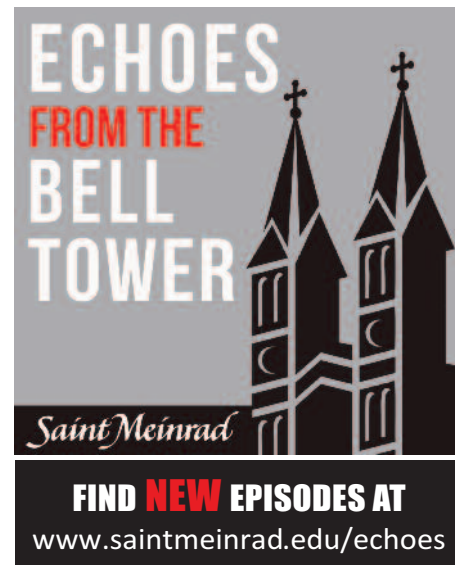
Living a life completely structured to growing in relationship with the Lord through prayer, study and brotherhood.

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

Realizing that a vocation to the priesthood is a profound gift of God's grace and not something I can earn or deserve based on my own efforts.

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

"The most important part of prayer is showing up." In a conference on prayer, Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB, explained to my class that if we simply remain faithful to spending time in prayer, then God will do the work. ✚





Photos, beginning at top, left to right: Fr. Tim DeCrane participates in a discussion about marriage prep and ministry during the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates Associate Pastor program on February 12.

Deacon Peter Grodi provides music during the seminary community's 50th-anniversary celebration of the UnStable on March 10.

Second Theology seminarian Brent Thayer of the Diocese of Nashville was commissioned as a second lieutenant by Garrett Braum in the Heritage Gallery on March 10.

Dr. C. Vanessa White presents the inaugural Fr. Cyprian Davis Lecture on "Journeying with the Saints: Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood" in St. Bede Theater on February 11.

Archbishop Charles Thompson, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, prays during the ministry installation on February 13 in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. Sixteen priesthood students received the ministry of acolyte and 21 received the ministry of lector.

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Mr. Franklin W. Berg O'58 ('46-48), of Warsaw, IN, died on January 25, 2020.

Fr. Colin J. Boor O'50 ('39-46), a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, KS, died on January 16, 2020.

Mr. Alfred E. Carson O'54 ('44-52), of Indianapolis, IN, died on February 6, 2020.

Mr. Ralph E. Cortas O'60 ('54-60), of Elkhart, IN, died on December 20, 2019.

Fr. Walter W. Foley O'78 ('73-76), a priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA, died on January 11, 2020.

Mr. William M. Gibson O'57 ('51-57), of Mendocina, CA, died on November 1, 2019.

Dr. Bernard Hartman O'60 ('50-52), of Santa Ana, CA, died on February 9, 2019.

Mr. Thomas E. Head O'53 ('49-51), of Louisville, KY, died on December 31, 2019.

Fr. Lawrence Kew O'66 ('60-62), a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, died on December 16, 2019.

Fr. Gerald J. Kirkhoff O'69 ('61-65), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 30, 2019.

Mr. Thomas A. Mauro O'67 ('61-63), of Grand Rapids, MI, died on July 21, 2017.

Mr. Dan L. Mundy O'74 ('62), of Jasper, IN, died on December 26, 2019.

Mr. Dennis J. Niebrugge O'78 ('70-72), of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 19, 2019.

Mr. George E. O'Bryan O'52 ('48-52), of Louisville, KY, died on December 30, 2019.

Fr. Robert Olivier O'57 ('51-57), a priest of the Diocese of Jackson, MS, died on October 8, 2019.

Mr. Scott Rennels PD'22 ('18-19), of Jonesboro, AR, died on January 9, 2020.

Fr. Edward F. Rupp O'60 ('52-54), a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland, OH, died on March 29, 2019.

Mr. Thomas D. Schell O'68 ('62-67), of Louisville, KY, died on December 15, 2019.

Fr. Raymond C. Sheperd O'57 ('49-53), a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on December 21, 2019.

Dr. Albert P. Steiner Jr. O'64 ('52-62), of Indianapolis, IN, died on January 6, 2020.

Mr. Anthony J. Umbdenstock Jr. O'65 ('54-56) died on June 7, 2019, in Green Valley, AZ.

Mr. Robert L. Vogt O'56 ('52-56), of State College, PA, died on March 30, 2019.

Mr. John E. Wells O'58 ('52-55), of Rock Island, IL, died on July 2, 2019.

Mr. Paul F. Wiesler O'56 ('49-52), of Sandusky, OH, died on January 2, 2020.

Br. Stephen B. Wilke, CAA, C'87 ('83-84), of Tamarac, FL, died on December 31, 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 ✝



▲ *The sun begins to rise behind a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the monastery's Placidium on March 9.*

ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Glendon J. Bogdon O'61 ('55-56), a retired orthodontist of Franklin, WI, was named the 2019 recipient of the Community Outreach Award by the Wisconsin Dental Association. His community service included providing dental exams and fluoride treatments to schools and to the Madre Angela Dental Clinic, as well as volunteering for the Give Kids A Smile program.

Sr. Carol Jean Curtis, OSU, GTP ('17-19), a former disalced Carmelite Sister, transferred her vows to the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, KY, on November 15, 2019, following the closing of the Carmelite monastery in Louisville.

Mr. Charles Etienne O'61 ('49-53), on November 29, 2019, closed his Charlie's Auto Parts Store in Tell City, IN, after 52 years. He continues to operate a small beef farm in his retirement.

Fr. James Flynn O'55 ('51-55) was honored by Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Louisville, KY, at its Legacy Dinner and Celebration on February 8. He served as pastoral associate at the parish in the 1960s. Currently, he serves Latino communities in and around Louisville.

Mr. Charlie Hardesty MA'10 ('06-10; '13-16), a youth and young adult minister in the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, was a keynote speaker on February 29 at the Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Youth Conference.

Dr. Lanny Hollis T'86 ('76-80; '82-86) begins a new position in July as superintendent of schools for the Diocese of El Paso, TX. Currently, he is finishing his position as headmaster and president of St. John Paul II Catholic High School in Huntsville, AL.

SSgt. Ryan Klobassa MAPT'16 ('14-15); T'13 ('08-11), a staff sergeant in the USAF National Guard, has accepted a position in the Chaplain Corps as a chaplain assistant – religious affairs airman. He recently earned an AS degree from the Community College of the Air Force. He is completing training at Maxwell AFB in Alabama.

Mr. Greg Layton C'83 ('81-83) has served as the pastoral leader of SS. Peter

and Paul Parish in Hortonville, WI, since 2008. He was featured in the February 6, 2020, issue of *The Compass*, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay.

Ms. Kim Mandelkow MAPT'16 ('12-15), of Milwaukee, WI, is a pianist/member of the Bernadette Garza Duo, which performed at the St. Joseph Center in Milwaukee on February 8.

Fr. Eusebius (Douglas) Martis, OSB, T'89 ('83-85; '87), made his three-year profession of vows as a Benedictine monk of Marmion Abbey in Aurora, IL, on August 6, 2019.

Mr. Kenneth Morgan-Schleuning C'95 ('90-95), of Orlando, FL, has joined The Walt Disney Company as a public relations manager for some of the Disney properties.

Fr. Steven Pautler PD'08 (04-08) is pastor of St. Mary Parish in Centralia and

St. Lawrence Parish in Sandoval, both in the Diocese of Belleville, IL. He was ordained a priest in 2018 after serving as a permanent deacon for the diocese since 2008.

Fr. Richard Puetz O'45 ('39-44), a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, celebrated 75 years as a priest on February 2. He turns 101 on April 26.

Archbishop Charles Thompson T'87 ('83-87), of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, received the first Archbishop Buechlein Award. The award was given by Archdiocese of Louisville/Diocese of Owensboro Section of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre on November 2, 2019.

Mr. Gilbert Verkamp O'65 ('53-55), of Jasper, IN, will be inducted into the Junior Achievement of Dubois County Business Hall of Fame on May 7. He is the chairman and CEO of MasterBrand Cabinets Inc. ✚

Alumni and Friends Phonathon raises over \$50,000

In February and early March, students participating in the annual Alumni and Friends Phonathon manned the phones for a few hours of calling on seven evenings.

The result was another successful phonathon. Students spoke with more than 370 alumni and 208 friends of Saint Meinrad and received gifts and pledges totaling \$50,355. Each evening, they talked with either alumni or friends from across the country.

"I am grateful to the alumni and friends who generously supported Saint Meinrad through this year's phonathon. Our student callers were blessed to have many meaningful and 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. The seminarians were able to share many prayer requests with the monastery in addition to raising a record-breaking total 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 2019-2020 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu. ✚



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Alumni Board Slate: Two new members seeking to serve

Six alumni are seeking approval as members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors. Two of which are seeking their first term on the board. 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 August 4.

PRE-1983



Deacon Mark H. Desmond

Deacon Mark H. Desmond O'77 ('73-76) retired in 2016 as vice president of mission integration for Mercy Health (formerly Catholic Health Partners), having served in several capacities. His prior

work also includes 23 years with United Way in three communities, culminating as president and CEO for the Nashville United Way.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Detroit in 1973 and master's degree in pastoral ministry from Saint Meinrad School of Theology in 1985. In 2004, he was ordained as a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Nashville, where he remains incardinated.

He and his wife Pamela have two children and two grandchildren. They live in Wildwood, MO, where they attend St. Alban Roe Parish.

1984-1998



Mr. Todd B. Gungoll

Mr. Todd B. Gungoll C'97 ('93-97) is principal of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Grade School in Oklahoma City, OK. His previous work includes manager of instructional support in the College of Education at Oklahoma State University

and Latin teacher at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

He earned a bachelor's degree in classical studies from Saint Meinrad College in 1997 and a master's degree in educational leadership, school administration from Oklahoma State University in 2006. He currently is a doctoral student in Catholic leadership through Saint Louis University.

He and his wife Melisa have two children and live in Oklahoma City, where they are parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

Four current board members, Dr. Jared Bryson (vice president), Christopher Carr (president), Kevin McNamara and Carrie Williamson, have agreed to seek a second term on the board. Monsignor Frederick Easton and Joe Pfennig have chosen not to return to the board for a second term. ✝



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