

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2023 • VOL. 62:2



Saint Meinrad

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Saint Meinrad Health Service Director Melissa deWolfe tells her 3-month-old Golden Retriever, Harper, to sit, on February 22, 2023, in the monastery courtyard. Harper visits with infirmary residents each week.

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

Monks' Personals

Fr. Jeremy King has been appointed in-house guest master for the monastery. He was the first monastery guest master in 1982 when the monastic community moved into the current monastery.

Br. John Mark Falkenhain presented a talk on addressing mental health issues at the joint meeting of abbots and prioresses held at St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, AL, in February.

Fr. Christian Raab gave the men's and women's retreats for Evansville's Holy Redeemer Parish on February 10-12 and March 10-12. He also led a series called "Mass in a Month" at St. Joseph Parish, Jasper, IN, as part of the Year of Eucharistic Renewal.

Br. John Glasenapp presented his research to the Seminar on Religion and Writing at Columbia University in February, while teaching music history at

St. Anselm College, NH. He also led a session on chant for music students at New York University in March. His article, "Nuns, Cistercian Chant and Observant Reform in the Southern Low Countries," appeared in the volume *Women and Monastic Reform in the Medieval West, c. 1000-1500* in April.

Br. James Jensen and **Fr. Simon Herrmann** attended the Testify event, a gathering hosted by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for parish and diocesan leaders who work with youth, young adults, and catechetical ministry, at St. Paul's Parish in Bloomington, IN, on March 1.

Fr. Adrian Burke preached a retreat for priests of the Archdiocese of Louisville at Gethsemani Abbey in March. He also preached parish missions at Holy Angels in Chagrin Falls, OH, and St. Gregory in Bardstown, KY.

Br. Stanley Rother Wagner gave a talk at Quincy University in Quincy, IL, titled "I Surrender: Christian Perfection and the Monastic Journey," on March 2. He also defended his master's thesis, "Their Rank in the Community: The Evolving Vocation of Benedictine Brothers at Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 1854 to the Present," at the University of Louisville on March 29.

Fr. Eugene Hensell presented a Lenten Scripture program for the Archdiocese of Nassau, Bahamas, on March 25-April 3.

Fr. Harry Hagan published "Have Mercy Son of David" with Oregon Catholic Press, with music by Steve Angrisano and Curtis Stephan. Fr. Harry's translation of *The Holy Rule of Our Holy Father Saint Benedict* is now available as a digital publication at Palni Press. ✚

Monastery News

Br. Michael Reyes professes solemn vows



Br. Michael Reyes

Br. Michael Reyes, OSB, professed solemn vows as a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in a ceremony on January 25, 2023, in the Archabbey Church.

Br. Michael, 46, a native of Manila, Philippines, is studying fulltime 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 earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music composition from the University of Illinois in 2019.

In 2021, he received honorable mention in two categories of the highly coveted The American Prize, a national competition in the performing arts.

Br. Michael received the honor in the vocal chamber music and instrumental chamber music categories (student divisions) for his compositions, "Montage," "Vigil for the Naked Skydiver," and "Bells of Saint Meinrad."

His work has received numerous awards in international competitions and concerts. He won the grand prize at the 6th Sond'Ar-te Electric Ensemble Composition Competition in 2016, 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 for his musical contributions in the international scene. His compositions find inspiration in a wide range of subjects, from Asian music to modern art, and incorporate elements of Philippine tradition.

He was 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.

Br. Michael also participated in the International Electroacoustic Music Festival hosted by the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome. He was the only composer of Asian descent and one of two composers based in the United States to receive that year's honor.

He 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 conducting research in their respective fields.

Before Br. Michael joined the monastery, his home parish was St. John's Catholic Newman Center in Champaign, IL.

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. ✚

Novice joins Benedictine community



Novice Travis Server

In a brief ceremony, Novice Travis Server was clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey on February 9, 2023. He now begins a year of monastic formation,

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

Novice Travis, 43, is a native of Louisville, KY. He was a member of

Prince of Peace Parish in Madison, IN, and attended Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis.

Before entering the monastery, he worked as a union ironworker for Indianapolis Local 22.

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. ✚



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Saint Meinrad Board of Overseers loses two members in 2022

Two long-time members of Saint Meinrad's Board of Overseers, Deacon Marc Kellams and Mrs. Mary Kay Wolford, died last year.



Deacon Marc had served on the board since 2012, most recently as the chair of the board. He and his wife, Chris, had three daughters and lived in Bargersville, IN.

Deacon Marc Kellams

Deacon Marc retired from the Monroe Circuit Court bench in December 2018, after 40 years of judicial service. He then served as a senior judge, filling in for other judges when they needed to be away from their court.

In addition, he was ordained a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, in 2008. He was assigned to SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood and as the

corrections ministry coordinator for the Archdiocese. He was also an adjunct law professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

He received a BA degree in religious studies from Indiana University in 1975 and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 1978.

Deacon Marc was 73 when he died in a car accident on July 29, 2022.



Mary Kay Wolford, a member of the Board of Overseers for 22 years, was a retired educator who lived in New Albany, IN, with her husband, Carl.

Mary Kay Wolford

While working in the New Albany-Floyd County Schools, she served as a

teacher and as coordinator of the gifted and talented education program. She was also active in her community and her parish, Holy Family Catholic Church.

Her volunteer work included serving on the Board of Trustees of Spalding University, the board of directors of the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace Foundation, Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, and Harvest Homecoming of New Albany. She was a former member and past president of the Catholic Community Foundation of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and, with her husband, past co-chairs of the archdiocese's United Catholic Appeal.

Mary Kay received the Caritas Medal, the highest award presented by Spalding University to an alumnus. In 2016, Mary Kay and Carl were the recipients of the National Catholic Education Association's Elizabeth Ann Seton Award.

She died on December 5, 2022, at age 88 at Baptist Health Floyd hospital. ✝



Carl and Mary Kay Wolford are photographed outside their home in 2017.



Deacon Marc Kellams talks with Overseers Cile Blau and Bob Shine at a 2014 Around the World party.

Development Office adds new staff members

Saint Meinrad's Development Office has two new faces and a change in position.



Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB

Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, who has been the director of young adult engagement in the Development Office since August 2021, will now add director of donor relations to his title.

In his new role, he is responsible for promoting awareness of Saint Meinrad's mission to donors, corporations and foundations; researching potential new donors; and expanding the current donor base.

Fr. Simon, of Findlay, OH, joined the monastic community in January 2015 and professed his solemn vows in 2019. He was ordained a priest on June 27, 2021.

A graduate of the University of Dayton, he earned a bachelor's degree in communication management in 2010. He earned a Master of Arts in Catholic philosophical studies in 2017 and a Master of Divinity in 2021, both from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.



Matthew Watts

Mr. Matthew Watts, of Tell City, IN, is the new associate director of annual giving. He began his work in February 2023. Watts will oversee the Saint Meinrad Sunday Program,

coordinate the gift acknowledgement process, and plan and implement the annual phonathon/thankathon.

He earned an associate degree in business from the University of Southern Indiana in 2018 and had been working for Morgan Maintenance and Remodeling and at Victoria National Golf Club.



Camryn Stemle

In January, Ms. Camryn Stemle of Celestine, IN, began work as a communications associate, with her time divided between the Development Office and the Office for Hispanic and Latino Ministry. She is a graduate of

Hanover College with a bachelor's degree in art and design.

Previously, she worked as a marketing intern at Masterbrand Cabinets Inc., Rustic Road Designs LLC, and the Dubois County Community Foundation.

For Saint Meinrad, she will be involved in writing, design and social media projects. ✚



Saint Meinrad's Graduate Theology Program student-faculty ratio is 8:1, offering students an individualized education?

Did you know...

EVENTS ON THE HILL

May

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

May 13

Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.

May 19-21

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

June 9-11

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

June 16-18

Guest House Retreat: "A St. Paul Sampler" by Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB.

July 14-16

Guest House Retreat: "A Step 11 Retreat for Recovering Alcoholics and Alanons" by Marie K and Team.

June 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 8-10

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

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



FR. DAMIAN DIETLEIN

1932-2022

Fr. Damian ‘Damo’ Dietlein dies at Assumption Abbey. He taught Scripture at Saint Meinrad for 47 years.

A longtime faculty member at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, Fr. Damian (Leo) Dietlein, OSB, died at Assumption Abbey in Richardton, ND, on December 30, 2022. He was 90 years old and had been a monk for 70 years, a priest for 65 years.

Born on June 16, 1932, in rural North Dakota, Leo Edward attended high school at Assumption Abbey. He then followed his older brother Francis into the Benedictine community, receiving the habit and the name Damian on June 25, 1951.

Adept as he was with farm equipment, it was clear from the outset that Damian was a man with a mind. As soon as he was out of the novitiate, he was sent to St. John’s College, Collegetown, MN, where he

earned a double major in philosophy and English literature in 1954. He made simple vows in 1952 and solemn vows in 1955.

That same year he was sent off to Rome, where all classes were in Latin. In 1957, he received a Licentiate in sacred theology from Sant’Anselmo, and was ordained to the priesthood. From the Biblicum he received a licentiate in sacred scripture in 1961. Returning to Assumption Abbey, he taught Latin and Greek in the high school and junior college, and Scripture and dogma in the Abbey’s seminary. He was appointed prior (second in leadership) in 1967.

In July of 1968, he took up teaching at Saint Meinrad, specifically Scripture. He eventually became a professional member

of the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature, and the Catholic Biblical Association.

He never stopped being a farm boy, however, and returned to Richardton every summer to cut and bale hay on the Abbey farm. If he knew how to read books in Latin and Greek, he also knew how to repair a baler and swath hay.

In another assignment for Assumption in October 1975, he was doing promotional work for Brookside Winery – the Abbey’s source for altar wines – raising \$80,000 for St. Vincent’s Hospital in Birmingham, and for that he was presented the keys to the city, along with Gordon MacRae (popular actor of the 1950s and ’60s). Fr. Damian did not know who Gordon

Adept as he was with farm equipment, it was clear from the outset that Damian was a man with a mind. He earned a double major in philosophy and English literature from St. John’s College in 1954.

MacRae was. MacRae was considerably irked by this.

Fr. Damian served as co-convenor for the Catholic Biblical Association for several three-year terms, and through the CBA he became aware of feminist biblical interpretation. He became a member of the CBA Task Force on Feminist Biblical Hermeneutics in 1989. Proof of his interest can be seen in the nearly 300 feminist books he brought home to the Abbey library.

Through the CBA, he attended sessions all over the country. At Saint Meinrad, he was, time and again, elected faculty moderator and served on many committees. He was associate dean and served as an academic advisor, faculty advisor for student self-evaluation, spiritual advisor to students, and dean-liaison for visiting Benedictine students. He developed a course on women in the

Old Testament, another on women leadership roles in early Christianity, and mentored female students in the school.

To distinguish him from another Fr. Damian at Saint Meinrad, he was given the nickname “Damo,” which stuck with him throughout his teaching career.

In 1979, Abbot Lawrence Wagner asked Fr. Damian to return home to take charge of the Assumption Abbey’s Press, just when Damian – at the age of 48 – had gained tenure. When Fr. Daniel Buechlein, OSB, president-rector of Saint Meinrad Seminary, learned of this, he was flabbergasted.

He begged for Fr. Damian to continue. Abbot Lawrence granted him a year. And then another year. And another. In all, he taught 47 years at Saint Meinrad. He retired in 2015 at the age of 83. He was given emeritus status by President-Rector

Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, and the Board of Trustees.

Back home in Richardton, Fr. Damian became a pillar of the Abbey community, faithfully attending functions and offering well-wrought and intelligent sermons. In 2017 he became administrator of the Abbey when Abbot Brian Wangler died in office.

In September of 2022, a CT scan showed a mass in his chest. However, Fr. Damian refused chemotherapy and chose only palliative care.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on January 4, with burial in the Abbey cemetery.

Story was excerpted from the obituary at stephensonfuneralhome.com. †

Endowment will assist women students

A group of friends and former students of Fr. Damian Dietlein, OSB, has established the Father Damian Dietlein, OSB Memorial Scholarship Endowment to honor his legacy.

The endowment will fund scholarships for women students who have enrolled in a degree program of Saint Meinrad’s Graduate Theology Program and have demonstrated financial need.

To make a gift to the endowment, contact the Development Office at 800-682-0988 or visit this web page: donate.saintmeinrad.edu. Please indicate that your gift is intended for this endowment. †



Time to reconnect: Alumni Reunion will be July 31-August 2



If you're a Saint Meinrad alumnus, you'll find a schedule and registration form for the 95th Alumni Reunion in this issue of your newsletter. This year's event will be held July 31 – August 2 on the Saint Meinrad campus, with a lineup of events designed to inform, nurture and enlighten former students from all eras.

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

Reunion events officially kick off on Monday, July 31, with a presentation by Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, titled "Contributing to a Depolarized World: A Benedictine Project."

Br. John Mark, a monk of Saint Meinrad, is a licensed psychologist, a faculty member of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, and a fellow in human formation with Saint Luke Institute.

Since joining Saint Meinrad in 2002, Br. John Mark has served his community as vocation director, assistant formation director and choirmaster. He spent several years conducting psychological evaluations for candidates for priesthood, diaconate and religious life. He also is the author of the book, *How We Love: A*

Formation for the Celibate Life, published by the Liturgical Press.

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

On Monday afternoon, Ms. Cassie Schutzer will present a workshop on "Known and Loved: A Relational Approach to Young Adult Ministry." She is the director of Saint Meinrad's grant-funded Young Adult Initiative, which partners with 10 parishes as they focus on improving their ministry with young adults.

After the presentation, reunion guests are welcome to take a tour of the Saint Meinrad grounds or the Abbey Caskets workshop. The tours will also be offered on Tuesday after lunch.

Members of the graduation classes of 1973 (50th), 1983 (40th), 1998 (25th), 2013 (10th), and 2018 (5th) – in addition to the 60th anniversary of the 1963 high school class – will be honored at the banquet on Monday evening. Socials will follow at the UnStable and Alumni Commons.

On Tuesday morning, Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, will present the first of two Day of Recollection talks on "Living with the Unfolding of Mystery." The second half of his talk will be held Tuesday afternoon.

Fr. Julian, a monk of Saint Meinrad, is the director of the Institute for Priests and Presbyterates. He also serves as clergy liaison for the Permanent Deacon Formation Program and, until recently, was the School's director of liturgy. He also serves as a commuting chaplain for the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, IN.

The reunion Mass will be celebrated in the Archabbey Church on Tuesday afternoon. Archbishop Emeritus J. Peter Sartain will preside and preach at the Mass.

Archbishop Sartain retired in 2019 after leading the Archdiocese of Seattle for nine years. Before that, he served as bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, IL, for four years and as bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock for six years.

A native of Memphis, TN, James Peter Sartain studied at Saint Meinrad College (Class of 1974) and earned a bachelor's degree in English. He then studied in Rome, receiving a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in 1977 and a licentiate in sacred theology with a specialization in sacramental theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum San Anselmo in 1979. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 15, 1978.

At the banquet on Tuesday evening, Archbishop Sartain will be honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Read more about the honor on page 10.

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



**Like us on
Facebook**

Share stories and pictures from past reunions or let your classmates know you are attending.

Saint Meinrad

DAY OF SERVICE



Over 350 alumni, oblates, friends of Saint Meinrad, seminarians and monks participated in service projects in 13 cities for the Saint Meinrad Day of Service.

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

Distinguished Alumnus

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain reflects on life of ministry in four dioceses

Archbishop J. Peter Sartain will receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award on August 1 during the Alumni Reunion. He retired in 2019 after leading the Archdiocese of Seattle for nine years. Before that, he served as bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, IL, for four years and as bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock for six years.

James Peter Sartain was born in Memphis, TN, and was ordained to the priesthood on July 15, 1978. He studied at Saint Meinrad College (1971-74), earning a bachelor's degree in English. He then earned his next two degrees in Rome: a bachelor's degree in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in 1977 and a licentiate in sacred theology with a specialization in sacramental theology from the Pontifical Athenaeum San Anselmo in 1979.

In the Diocese of Memphis, he served at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at St. Louis Parish. He also served as chancellor and vicar general for Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, as well as the vocations director.

In 2000, he was named the bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, where fostering vocations and ministering to the state's growing Hispanic population were among his priorities. According to the Little Rock diocesan website, Bishop Sartain took an immersion course in Spanish in 2001 and emphasized the need for the diocese's priests and seminarians to learn the language.

"He dedicated new parishes organized by Hispanic immigrants in Danville and Glenwood, led an eight-day diocesan pilgrimage to Mexico in 2004, ordained a Mexican-born priest and deacon, and joined the nation's bishops in calling for immigration reform with an emphasis on human dignity," according to the website.



Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, photo by Maria Laughlin.

In 2006, he was named the new bishop of the Joliet Diocese. During his four years there, Bishop Sartain helped solidify the diocese's finances and began a thorough study of its parochial schools. As a result, a strategic plan was created to guide the development of Catholic education for the future.

After only four years in Joliet, Bishop Sartain was named the new archbishop of Seattle. He served there until his retirement, due to health issues, in 2019.

Following are Archbishop Sartain's responses to some questions about his life and ministry.

Q. What was your reaction when you learned you were chosen for the Distinguished Alumnus Award?

The news came out of the blue through a phone call from Tim Florian, director of alumni relations. I was surprised, moved, and deeply grateful. I have always been

proud to say that I am an alumnus of Saint Meinrad, and I owe a great debt to the school and monastic community. I have often told people that Saint Meinrad is "where I grew up," because the formation I received there was exactly what I needed at that time in my life.

As a young man discerning a priestly vocation, I received well-rounded, down-to-earth, spiritual and human formation, which gave me a foundation on which I still rely today. The academic formation I received was equal to or a cut above what friends from home received in large religious and secular universities.

The men who were my fellow students at the College were outstanding, and they were an equally important part of my formation. Many of those friendships are strong even today, almost 50 years after graduation. To be honored by a school from which I received so much is humbling, to say the least.

Q. *Can you share some memories of your time at Saint Meinrad? Were there any classes, professors or activities that stood out for you?*

The monk who had the strongest impact on me was Fr. Gregory Chamberlin. He was dean of students at the time, but he was also the priest resident on 3rd floor Benet Hall – in fact, he lived next door to me and my roommates. He supported us, challenged us, looked after us, joked with us – and let us give him a very hard time!

Someone who had an equally strong influence on me was Coach Ron Altstadt. I never had him in class, nor did he ever coach me in a sport, but we became fast friends. His plain-spoken commentary on life in the college, or *my* life in particular, and his sharp wit, were all aspects of his inimitable style of influence – and it worked perfectly.

Ron was a vital – I would say *necessary* – part of the Saint Meinrad community for 30 years. We stayed in close touch until his death in 2020. I'll always be grateful for his friendship, example, support – and his laugh.

As for professors, I immediately think of Fr. Timothy (later Archabbot) Sweeney and Gill Ring, who gave me a solid foundation in philosophy as well as lasting personal example. I can't help but think of Fr. Joachim Walsh as well, our Latin professor. He was famous for the line, "Whom do you trust?" It was a lifeline he threw after he asked a question we couldn't answer, a chance to ask a classmate we trusted to answer on our behalf. To this day, I can hear his voice as he elongated the word *Whhooomm!*

I have an especially fond memory of Fr. Thomas Ostdick. One afternoon my first year at Saint Meinrad, I returned from a CACD project to find a note on my desk asking that I stop by Fr. Thomas' office. In his gentle, respectful way, he informed me that my father had died in Memphis that morning. He answered my questions about how my mom and sisters were doing, offered help in any way, and encouraged me to go to the college chapel. Fr. Thomas gave me strength and comfort on a very tough day.



Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, third from left, poses at his home in 2022 with some priests from the Diocese of Little Rock. From left are Fr. Patrick Friend, Fr. Mauricio Carrasco, Sartain, Msgr. Scott Friend, Fr. Joseph Friend and Fr. Stephen Gadberry. All but Fr. Stephen studied at Saint Meinrad.

Fr. Gregory and 19 classmates drove to Memphis for Dad's funeral. Our young assistant pastor recruited them at the last minute to provide music for the funeral — and they did! Afterward, the whole crew came to our house to meet the family before driving back to Indiana. My family was impressed, and I was blown away. I had been at Saint Meinrad only six months! You never forget kindness like that.

Q. *What are some of the meaningful accomplishments or milestones that you experienced while bishop of Little Rock? Joliet? Seattle?*

That's a challenging question! Each diocese has its personality, its history, its spiritual and pastoral needs. The best way I can answer the question is by saying that I hope I listened well to the Holy Spirit and to the priests and faithful in each diocese, that I encouraged the priests, that I built on the good work of my predecessors, that I joyfully proclaimed Christ and only Christ, that I brought healing where it was needed, that I strengthened the spiritual foundation of the local church, that I promoted and nourished priestly vocations, and that in each diocese I planted a seed of something beautiful that will blossom in God's time.

Q. *What have you been doing since your retirement in 2019?*

As I approached retirement, the Lord made it clear that He wanted me to spend this stage of life offering spiritual support to priests and bishops, and that's what I strive to do. I'm honored to offer spiritual direction to a number of priests and give retreats to bishops, priests, and religious 4-5 times each year. I couldn't ask for a more fulfilling ministry in retirement.

Q. *In what ways did Saint Meinrad prepare you for your work in the Church?*

Everything I received at Saint Meinrad – spiritual, human, and apostolic formation; academics; friendships; challenges to grow; greater self-confidence; a broadened understanding of the Church; clarity about my vocation – prepared me for priestly and episcopal ministry in the Church. I can't think of anything in my life that was not formed or strengthened in some way by Saint Meinrad. Whenever I reflect on those years at Saint Meinrad, I'm filled with gratitude and joy. ✠

[Meet the Student]

Danny Herman

Diocese: Diocese of Knoxville, TN

Hometown: Mountain City, TN

Q. *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

It is not *what* attracted me to the priesthood but *who* attracted me to it. When I was young, I was attracted by the joy I would always see on my parish priest's face. This was especially prevalent when he was with his people and administering the sacraments. To top it off, he was also a Franciscan, so he lived a life of extreme poverty. I was in complete awe of how he could be so happy with so few belongings.

As I grew up, I encountered many more men and women with a similar look of joy as they served their fellow man, but no one seemed to have what Fr. Tom Vos, OFM, possessed. He truly set the standard for what I considered holy simplicity and joy. I wish I had known that it wasn't his natural character that attracted me, but the grace he reflected from his priesthood.

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

My positive interactions with priests in my hometown and college were definitely factors in my decision to begin studying for the priesthood. However, I didn't start thinking of priesthood until I attended the University of Notre Dame's summer youth program, "Vision," when I was 17. That's where I had an incredible and life-changing experience while interacting with other Catholic youth.

I grew up in a predominantly Protestant area of Tennessee and was never shown the beauty that the Church had to offer. At the very least, the beauty was never made visible in a way I could understand. This program at Notre Dame showed me new

ways of praying, how to pray the rosary, how to approach the sacraments, and how the lives of the saints changed the world. It took a faith that I already considered quite strong and turned it into one that relied upon the *communio* of the whole Church and not just what I believed.

On the last night of the program, there was a massive penance service in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Everyone had the opportunity to go to confession. It had been a few years since my last confession, so I was naturally nervous and thought I would hear a stern lecture from my confessor.

But something incredible happened while I was receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In my confessor's eyes, I saw the same fatherly look that Fr. Tom had shown me when I was a child. This young priest reaffirmed my identity as a child of God and welcomed me back into the state of grace. There was no lecture, no chastisement and no condemnation. There was only grace. That moment kickstarted the stirring in my heart to consider the priesthood. I began to think of how being a mediator for God's grace in such a unique way would be a meaningful way to live. Unfortunately, it would take seven years before I made a move to actively discern this calling.



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

Before entering seminary, I was a U.S. naval officer stationed at NAS Whiting Field to complete my naval aviation training. I was three months away from earning my wings of gold when God reminded me of the stirring He had placed in my heart at Notre Dame. It was difficult to leave after so much work and effort, but I knew I couldn't ignore this calling any longer. Thankfully, I had a commanding officer who was a man of faith who helped me obtain an honorable discharge and begin seminary with the least lag time possible.

Q. *Favorite saint and why?*

Recently I've been gravitating toward St. Damien de Veuster (St. Damien of Molokai). His story of abandoning himself to his ministry with the leper colony of Molokai challenges me daily, especially as my ordination date approaches. He was a precursor to the ministry that St. Teresa of Calcutta practiced, and he was never afraid of what the world thought of him. So long as he was ministering to his people and the benefit of their spiritual and corporeal needs, he was fulfilling his calling. That kind of heroic love for the people of God is what I hope to cultivate.

Q. *Favorite Scripture verse and why?*

Luke 12:27: Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. The first three words, "Consider the lilies," has become a phrase to center myself in God's promise to humanity. When things get hectic, when everything seems to be going wrong and I feel like the world is crushing me, this verse reminds me of my identity. It reminds me that I am a beloved son of God, and this title never needs to be earned.

Q. *Hobbies?*

I enjoy exercising and learning about how the human body can perform incredible feats of strength, endurance and stamina. Whether it's strength training, endurance sports, or a mix of the two, I love trying new things and tinkering with biomechanics, nutrition and other longevity methods.

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

The most rewarding aspect of seminary life has been the amount of formation I have received thus far. I know I was already formed to a reputable level of professionalism by my family and my time in the Navy. Still, seminary formation has a specific goal in mind, and that is to form Christian gentlemen. Whether that gentleman stays through to the end and reaches ordination or he decides to leave and discern another call, he still possesses the foundation to become a man of God centered on doing God's will.

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

I'd say the most challenging part of seminary has been community life. It has been a tremendous blessing to meet and know such great guys trying to discern God's will in their life. But when you

spend as much time together as we do, you're bound to experience conflicts or clashes of personalities. However, this presents us with the challenge of being patient with each other and seeing ourselves in the other more often than we may be used to.

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

"No one will care how much you know unless they know how much you care." What separates a Catholic seminary from any other seminary or college is that we are not obtaining knowledge and skills for our own sake but for the sake of those we minister to. So this advice has helped me to form my studies, my interactions with my brothers, and my pastoral assignments around the care of God's people. I aim to demonstrate the love and concern I've received from the many other priests who did the same for me. ✠

Noteworthy:

Newsworthy items about Saint Meinrad people and events

Saint Meinrad hosted 85 participants from area churches and law enforcement agencies for a **safety and security** workshop on February 7. Topics included: protecting people and property; preventing accidents, injuries and neglect; safeguarding against loss from crime and theft of funds; and protecting staff and members from abuse, liability, false claims and lawsuits. The training was sponsored by the Ohio Crime Prevention Association and coordinated by Director of Safety and Security Darren Sroufe.

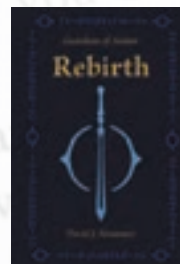
Melissa deWolfe, Saint Meinrad's director of Health Services, has welcomed a new addition to her health care team. Harper is a **golden retriever puppy** who visits the monastery infirmary weekly to provide some cheer and comfort to residents.

According to Melissa, Harper is smart and already knows some commands. When the pup gets older, Melissa plans to have her trained as a therapy dog. "The infirmary monks really love her! They just light up when I bring her in," she says. "My main goal has been to brighten their days with visits from her. So far, it's been going great for both!" (*See our cover featuring Harper and Melissa!*)



Cletus Hubert Jr., a member of Saint Meinrad's housekeeping staff and an Archabbey co-worker for 41 years, died at his work on September 29, apparently of a massive **heart attack**. Cletus, 59 and single, knew everyone at Saint Meinrad and always had a ready smile. He is survived by two brothers and a sister. The funeral Mass

was held in the Archabbey Church – possibly the first time a coworker's funeral was celebrated there.



Guardians of Aranor: Rebirth is the title of a **fantasy novel** written by David Neumaier, a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Tulsa. It

is available on Amazon.

On this year's **Feast of St. Benedict** on March 21, Archabbot Kurt invited members of two other religious communities to join the Saint Meinrad monks for Mass and lunch. The seminarians studying for the Carmelite Monks of Wyoming and the Glenmary Home Missioners were special guests. ✠

ALUMNI NEWS

Fr. Mark G. Boyer, O'76 ('72-76), of Springfield, MO, has published a new book, *Four Catholic Pioneers in Missouri: Lamarque, Kenrick, Fox, and Hogan: Irish Missionaries and Their Supporter*. The book tells how the lives of these three men and one woman crossed paths in the 1800s in the village of Old Mines, MO. Fr. Boyer is a retired priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO.

Fr. Christoph Eisentraut, CMM, T'87 ('83-84), was re-elected provincial superior of the Mariannahill Missionaries in Germany for a second term. He has done missionary work in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He also serves as defender of the marriage bond at the diocesan court of Linz.

Mr. Walter Glover, GTP'06 ('00-05), of Columbus, IN, has published a new book,

Walking Amid Spanish Lights – From Montañas to Camino, about his journey across Spain on the El Camino. It is available on Amazon.

Fr. Daniel Mahan, C'84 ('80-84), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, has been named director of the recently formed Institute on the Catechism at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Through the institute, catechetical publishers and developers of catechetical content will work directly with the USCCB subcommittee in new ways to pass on the faith using digital tools while aiming to reach a more diverse church.

Fr. Jacob (Harry) Restrick, OP, O'69 ('61-65), of Hawthorne, NY, has published his fifth novel in the saga of

Sister Mary Baruch. He began the series while serving as chaplain to a community of cloistered Dominican nuns. The newest title is *Sister Mary Baruch: The Later Years*.

Fr. Ernesto Reynoso, T'07 ('02-07), a priest of the Diocese of Phoenix, is co-host of the EWTN program, "Dos Padres Bien Padres."

Mr. Robert Sidner, O'69 ('62-65), of San Diego, CA, has retired after 29 years at the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, the last 16 years as executive director and CEO. Most recently, he oversaw a \$55 million restoration of the museum, which celebrates and conserves folk art, craft and design from around the world. ✚

ALUMNI ETERNAL

Fr. John A. "Jack" Caldwell, O'70 ('62-64), a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, died on January 16, 2023.

Fr. Raymond J. Conard, O'56 ('51-55), a priest of the Diocese of Green Bay, WI, died on November 27, 2017.

Mr. Thomas J. Cooney, O'71 ('59-60), of Livonia, MI, died on January 15, 2023.

Fr. Kevin P. O'Doherty, CMM, O'62 ('56-62), a member of the Mariannahill Mission Society, died on January 2, 2023.

Mr. James E. Eder, O'67 ('56-59), of Chicago, IL, died on February 6, 2023.

Mr. Frank J. Erdosy, O'68 ('56-58), of Richmond, IN, died on December 17, 2022.

Sr. Loretta Ann Ewing, CSJ, SS'72, died on December 12, 2022, in Kalamazoo, MI. She was a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Mr. John E. Hazelton, O'80 ('73-74), of Oklahoma City, OK, died on January 16, 2023.

Sr. Teresita Heenan, DC, SS ('74, '84), of Evansville, IN, died on January 1, 2023. She was a member of the Daughters of Charity.

Abbot Gerard P. Lair, O'59 ('51-53), retired abbot of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, NJ, died on March 6, 2021.

Mr. Paul M. Lazur, O'65 ('54-57), of Green Valley, AZ, died on October 31, 2022.

Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Lehman III, O'80 ('72-76), a priest of the Diocese of Richmond, VA, died on December 13, 2022.

Mr. Anthony E. Lewis, PD'17 ('13-17), of Fortville, IN, died on June 23, 2021.

Fr. Alan R. McIntosh, O'61 ('48-62), of Newburgh, IN, died on January 26, 2023.

Fr. Timothy "Bernard" Mock, CMM, O'52 ('48-49), a member of the Mariannahill Mission Society, died on September 12, 2022. (*corrected version*)

Fr. Richard Parks, CP, O'70 ('66-68), a priest with the Passionist Community in Louisville, KY, died on February 14, 2023.

Mr. Eugene L. Pettijean, O'67 ('55-56), of Haubstadt, IN, died on November 18, 2022.

Fr. Harold W. Rightor II, T'02 ('00-02), a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, died on December 9, 2022.

Mr. Leonard O. "Bud" Spalding, O'64 ('52-55), of Evansville, IN, died on July 13, 2022.

Mr. Ronald O. Spear, C'72 ('64-66), of Virginia Beach, VA, died on November 27, 2022.

Mr. James E. Weaver, O'73 ('61-66), of Zionsville, IN, died on December 14, 2022.

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 ✚



Photos, from top, left to right: Anne-Marie Marivoet, a participant in the Winter Chant Conference, leads a small group practice on January 12, 2023, in the St. Theodore Guerin Chapel.

The annual Mass with Ministries was held in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on February 16, 2023. Br. Elias Bar-Shimon, from left, Br. John Black, and Br. Paul Marie Castieau of the Carmelite Monks of Wyoming receive the ministry of lector along with 19 classmates.

The Third Theology class poses for a portrait during the pilgrimage to the Holy Land on December 13, 2022.

Br. Michael Reyes made his solemn profession as a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey on January 25, 2023, in the Archabbey Church.

Aaron Herrenbruck, from left, Keith Hart, Bradley Gehlhausen, and Charlie Delano were installed as acolytes during the annual Mass with Ministries in St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel on February 16, 2023.



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Alumni Phonathon raises over \$32,000

From March 7-9, seminarians participating in the annual Alumni Phonathon manned the phones for a few hours of calling.

The result was another successful phonathon. Students spoke with more than 500 people and received gifts and pledges totaling more than \$32,000. In addition, alumni made 61 pledges of unspecified amounts.

Throughout the three days, the students talked with alumni from across the

country. The seminarians left phone messages with those they couldn't reach and on days following each phonathon, a good number of alumni returned calls to Saint Meinrad to make a gift.

"Though this was a unique year where seminarians called from their rooms or other locations because of the St. Anselm Hall renovation, students rose to the occasion to make this year's phonathon a success," said Fr. Simon Herrmann, OSB, director of donor relations.

Gifts to the phonathon help fund classroom instruction, financial aid, spiritual formation programs, ministry opportunities, library resources, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds.

Alumni can make gifts to the 2022-23 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. To give online, visit donate.saintmeinrad.edu. ✝

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