

# ON THE HILL

SPRING 2015 • VOL. 54:2

**Five novices join the monastery**

**Monastery repairs  
begin in May**

**Mader Learning Center  
offers academic support**

Cover: Br. Peduru Fonseka, OSB, received the ministry of lector along with 22 of his classmates on February 19.



*Saint Meinrad*



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*Snowfalls in February and March covered the Archabbey in quiet beauty. More photos of recent events are on Pages 9 and 12.*

## Monks' Personals

**Br. John Mark Falkenhain** presented a day-long workshop on interviewing candidates at the National Religious Vocations Conference Convocation in November. He also presented a workshop on celibacy formation for the Institute for Religious Formation at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL, in November.

**Archabbot Justin DuVall** attended the meeting of the Abbot President's Council at St. Joseph Abbey in Covington, LA, January 8-12.

**Fr. Anthony Vinson** attended a meeting of the investment committee of the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations on January 29.

**Archabbot Justin DuVall** and **Br. Martin Erspamer** visited Conception Abbey in Conception, MO, to discuss

their renovation plans and adaptations they implemented during their monastery renovation.

**Fr. John McMullen**, a monk from Blue Cloud Abbey, has formally completed the process of transferring his stability to Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

**Br. André DeDecker** started culinary school at Sullivan University in Louisville, KY.

**Br. William Sprauer** presented the 2015 Women's Retreat at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Dayton, OH, on February 20-22.

**Fr. Prior Kurt Stasiak** gave a conference to the priests of Sioux City, IA, on February 26. ✝

## Sign up for the e-newsletter

If you'd like to receive brief updates on what's happening at Saint Meinrad, you can sign up for a free e-newsletter. Every few weeks, you will receive a newsletter in your email's inbox.

To sign up, go to the "Newsletters" link on the front page of the website: [www.saintmeinrad.edu](http://www.saintmeinrad.edu). Or, send an email to [news@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:news@saintmeinrad.edu)



**Like us on Facebook**

# Monastery News

## Five novices join monastic community in January



▲ From left are Novices Thomas Fish, Jonathan Blaize, Peter Szidik, Jinu Thomas and Timothy Herrmann.

In a brief ceremony at the monastery entrance on January 19, five novices were clothed in the Benedictine habit at Saint Meinrad Archabbey. They now devote a year to monastic formation, including study of the *Rule of St. Benedict* and monastic history.

**Novice Jonathan Blaize**, 28, of Mount Carmel, IL, is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, with a bachelor's degree in English literature. He earned an associate degree at Wabash Valley College. He also studied at Ivy Tech Community College for drafting and design.

He formerly worked as a tool and die machinist and a design engineering technician at Hansen Corporation. He attended Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology for one year before entering the monastery.

**Novice Thomas Fish**, 24, of Poway, CA, graduated from Sonoma State University in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in anthropology.

He has been a youth ministry volunteer and an intern at St. Gabriel Parish in

Poway, and he worked in the shipping department of a moving company.

**Novice Timothy Herrmann**, 27, of Findlay, OH, is a graduate of the University of Dayton, earning a bachelor's degree in communication management in 2010.

He worked as an associate editor for the national office of Beta Theta Pi fraternity from 2010-11 and then at Saint Meinrad Archabbey as the director of alumni relations from 2011-14. He also served as a college intern for three summers in Saint Meinrad's "One Bread, One Cup" program.

**Novice Peter Szidik**, 25, of Grand Rapids, MI, is a 2011 graduate of the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

He worked for three years as a production manager in the byproducts and coal handling divisions at United States Steel in the St. Louis, MO, area. He also served as a college intern for two summers in Saint Meinrad's "One Bread, One Cup" program.

**Novice Jinu Thomas**, 24, is a native of India who moved to the United States in 2009. He studied engineering physics at the University of Illinois, earning a bachelor's degree in 2014.

As novices, they 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, stability, and fidelity to the monastic way of life. ✚

## Monastery repairs to begin in May

This spring, work will begin on a project to make extensive repairs to the 32-year-old monastery at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

The project will include several major components: replacement of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system; replacement of the plumbing system; renovation and additions to the infirmary; and expansion of the pantry.

A mechanical study of the monastery, completed in August 2012, revealed significant failure of the mechanical systems, but the monastic community was not in a financial position to undertake the repairs at that time. Since then, positive gains from Saint Meinrad's financial investments have made it possible to begin the project this year.

Work is expected to get under way in May. During the anticipated 14 months of the project, the monks will relocate to rooms normally used by students, in St. Anselm and Benet halls.

The monastery, built in 1980-82, is the home to about 90 Benedictine monks. ✚

# Mader Learning Center

## provides help for academic success

Seminarian Adam Royal of the Diocese of Knoxville struggled with writing until late in high school. Now, he is in his second year serving as a peer tutor in the Mader Learning Center.

“I have some idea of the frustration of knowing what you want to say, but not being able to communicate it to others,” says Royal. “Watching people move past that frustration and put their ideas to paper is a great experience.”

*The Mader Center is important because we are a part of that intellectual formation for the seminarians.*

The Mader Learning Center was established in 1986 with gift from Fr. Joseph Mader in memory of his parents. Located on the third floor of Newman Hall, it offers academic support services to faculty, seminarians and lay degree students of Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

Those services include English instruction, research and writing support, and help with study skills and time management. The center has computers and a resource library, as well as Rosetta Stone software in English, Spanish and French.

“The Mader Center is important because we are a part of that intellectual formation for the seminarians,” explains Jeff Jenkins, director of the Mader Learning Center. “We offer that support that students might need to be successful in their classes.”

Tutoring is one of the primary services of the Mader Center. Students can sign up for weekly times with Jenkins, and

there are peer tutors who are available five nights a week.

“My experience with the peer tutors is that they’re sincere in their desire to help their fellow students,” explains Jenkins. “They are a visible part of the center because they see each other in classes.

They’re embedded in the student body and I think that’s really valuable.”

English instruction and writing are the two main services Saint Meinrad students utilize. Royal says reading papers and homilies is his favorite part of peer tutoring.

“I am often amazed at the creativity shown. So many of them have unique perspectives and images that they bring to their works,” he explains.

Jenkins says about 75 percent of the students who come to the Mader Center are international.

Seminarian George Jose is studying for the Diocese of Memphis, but he is originally from India. He says he struggles with English pronunciation and grammar. Jose meets one-on-one with Jenkins, and once a week he has a Skype appointment with an oral communications specialist, Clare Haden.

He says Haden helps him identify problems with his speaking and gives him exercises to help overcome those problems.

The Mader Learning Center offers the opportunity for personal development. Students can receive one-on-one attention that will make them academically successful.

“The peer tutors and I are very supportive, very non-judgmental and open, so you’re going to have a good experience when you come,” says Jenkins. “You’re going to hopefully go away each time you come for some kind of instruction or tutoring a little bit better than you first started.” ✚

◀ *Adam Royal, right, helps classmate Christopher Floersh with a paper in the Mader Learning Center. Royal has served as a peer tutor for two years.*



# Women of the Church

## conference planned for 2016



Responding to Pope Francis' call for "a more incisive presence" of women in the Church, Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and the Sisters of Saint Benedict of Ferdinand,

IN, are co-hosting "Women of the Church: Strength of the Past. Hope for Tomorrow. A Catholic Leadership Conference."

The conference will be held October 7-9, 2016, in Ferdinand.

The conference seeks to recognize and support the many ways that women participate in the mission of the Church. Although the conference is more than a year away, the planning committee is preparing a program of keynote speakers, breakout sessions, liturgies and cultural events.

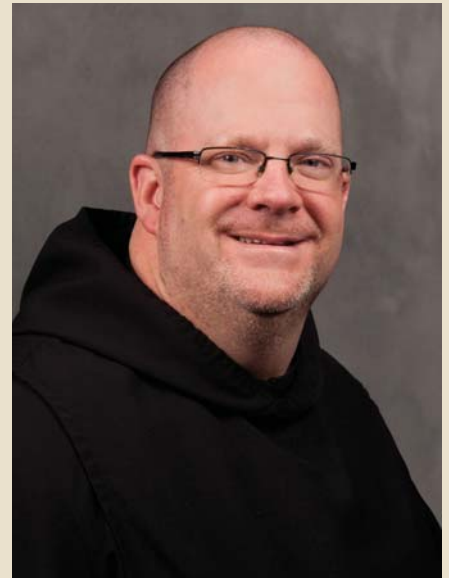
The conference will feature three nationally known keynote speakers: Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services; Kathleen Sprows Cummings, director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame; and Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP, professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame.

Archbishop Joseph Tobin of Indianapolis and Bishop Charles Thompson of Evansville will also participate in the program. Topics for the breakout sessions will include leadership formation, vocational discernment, spirituality, Catholic health care, youth ministry, the Benedictine charism, and cultivating leaders for a multicultural Church.

The conference is designed for both women and men in the Church, including professional lay ecclesial ministers, theologians, active parish leaders and volunteers, youth ministers and women religious.

For more details, visit the conference website, [www.womenofthechurch.org](http://www.womenofthechurch.org). ✚

## Fr. Brendan to lead Conception Seminary



Fr. Brendan Moss, OSB, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, has been named president-rector of Conception Seminary College. The seminary, located in Conception, MO, is operated by the Benedictine monks of Conception Abbey.

He will replace Fr. Samuel Russell, OSB, a monk of Conception Abbey who is retiring in July.

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Fr. Brendan joined the Saint Meinrad monastery in 1992 and professed solemn vows on August 15, 1996. He was ordained a priest on June 3, 2001.

Most recently, he has served as the director of enrollment and the director of Lay Degree Programs at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He is also an assistant professor of religious education.

He earned a doctor of ministry degree in preaching from Aquinas Institute. Other degrees include a bachelor's degree from Saint Meinrad College, and a Master of Arts and a Master of Divinity from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He also earned a certificate in supervision from the Seminary and School of Theology.

Established in 1886, Conception Seminary College is one of the largest of the 40 Roman Catholic college seminaries in the nation and one of only 15 with a complete four-year academic curriculum.



▲ Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, distributes ashes at Mass on February 18 to signal the beginning of the Lenten season. From left are Br. Luke Waugh, OSB, Br. Dominic Warnecke, OSB, and Br. Theodore Haggerty, OSB.

## [Meet the Student]

# Deacon Peter Bucalo

Residence: Louisville, KY  
Diocese: Archdiocese of Louisville

**Q.** *What attracted you to the priesthood?*

There was a twofold attraction for me. For the longest time, I was away from the Church and I lived a very self-centered life. After a serious illness, I began to take stock and eventually returned to the Church. As I grew in faith, I found great joy in serving others. I saw this way of life reflected in the good priests that I had come to know. So the idea of serving others, and the fine example of the priests who lived that idea, eventually opened my heart to the possibility that God might be calling me to do this.

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

I remember sitting in Church after Mass one day and a total stranger came up to me and said, “You’d make a good priest.” Talk about planting a seed! There were a few priests in my diocese with whom I eventually became closely acquainted. I was moved by their faithfulness and inspired by their lives of service. I started to have conversations with them about priesthood. Each one had a fascinating and unique story, and I began to understand that there was no such thing as a cookie-cutter priest. Though I felt profoundly unworthy, I took a leap of faith and became a seminarian in the fall of 2009.

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

Believe it or not, I had a 30-year career in radio broadcasting. For the last 22 years, I was a “wacky morning deejay” at a Louisville radio station. When I left that job to enter the seminary, a comedian

friend told me that celebrating Mass would be similar to hosting a morning radio show. He said I would still get to talk a lot and play four songs an hour.

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

St. Peter, of course. First of all, my parents named me after him. Secondly, I love how human he is. Saints can often seem to be almost mythical figures. Peter always seems so grounded in his humanity. He makes me realize that we are all works in progress. Every time he thinks to himself, “I’ve got this,” he is somehow reminded that he does not. He gives me hope that, no matter how much I screw up and start to sink in the water, the Lord is there to stretch out his hand and save me.

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

Well, as I’m writing this, I am reconsidering. For years, I have loved Psalm 42 (or 43): “Why are you cast down my soul, why groan within me? Hope in God, I will praise him still, my savior and my God.” But after reflecting on St. Peter, I’m drawn to, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” I hope it’s OK to have two favorites.

**Q.** *Hobbies?*

I used to love to build models when I was a kid. My dad also tried to nudge me toward stamp collecting. Eventually, though, I fell in love with classical music and opera, especially the great romantics. If Gustav Mahler, Richard Strauss or Giacomo Puccini is involved, it is probably safest not to get between the



theater door and myself. I also love movies, but I prefer to watch them at home.

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

Without a doubt, it has been the people. I am so grateful to the faculty and the formation staff. We should all give thanks to God for the fact that these men and women have devoted their lives to the formation of priests and the education of the laity. I am equally grateful for the great seminarians that I have been blessed to journey with, especially those in my class. They have been such an inspiration to me. I will carry their friendships with me for the rest of my life.

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

Academics have been my highest hurdle. I graduated from college in the mid-1980s and I have not been in a classroom since then. Furthermore, I earned a degree in general business, which is very different than earning a degree in theology. I was a fish out of water when I began, but little by little I am learning to swim. Call me Nemo.

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

Fr. Denis Robinson, our rector, once said, "Everything is formation." I think he meant that every experience that we have in life can somehow serve to prepare us for discipleship if we let it. It is very good advice, but sometimes we have to learn to forgive ourselves so that we can see the value of what we have been through.

**Q.** *Other comments?*

I wish my mother and father were still here to be a part of my ordination. They both died in 2007. My former vocation director suggested that they are probably more intimately involved in my formation now than they were when they were on earth. What a wonderful thought that is. St. Mom and St. Dad, please pray for me, and pray for us all. ✠



▲ Patricia Kirchdorfer, center, talks with Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, at the dedication of new residences on the third floor of St. Bede Hall on March 7.



▲ Students make an annual pilgrimage to the Monte Cassino Shrine in thanksgiving for Our Lady's intercession during a smallpox outbreak in 1871.

## EVENTS ON THE HILL

### May

*Rosary pilgrimage at Monte Cassino Shrine each Sunday.*

### May 9

*Graduation for Seminary and School of Theology.*

### May 15-17

*Guest House Retreat: "A Monastic Witness to Non-violence" by Fr. Adrian Burke, OSB.*

### May 24

*Celebration of monastic and priesthood jubilees.*

### May 26-28

*Guest House Retreat: "A Blessed Life: Living the Beatitudes" by Br. Zachary Wilberding, OSB.*

### May 29-31

*Guest House Retreat: "The Wisdom of Nazareth" by Fr. Noël Mueller, OSB.*

### June 8-12

*Guest House Retreat: "Reading the Word of God in the Liturgy" by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB.*

### June 14

*Einsiedeln Society Dinner.*

### June 19-21

*Guest House Retreat: "Where Sin Increased (Romans 5:20): The Seven Big Ones" by Fr. Vincent Tobin, OSB.*

### June 23-25

*Guest House Retreat: "Pray Your Way to Happiness" by Br. Maurus Zoeller, OSB.*

### July 3-5

*Guest House Retreat: "Monastic Practices" by Br. William Sprauer, OSB.*

For more information, contact Mary Jeanne Schumacher at (812) 357-6501 or visit our website [www.saintmeinrad.org](http://www.saintmeinrad.org)

# 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Alumni Reunion

## *Welcome back to The Hill!*

### Reunion program touches on parish trends, new media and wellness

Lively talks on timely topics. Animated conversation with former classmates. Shared prayer in familiar spaces.

That's what Saint Meinrad alumni can expect when they return to the Hill for the 87th annual reunion this summer. It will be held on campus August 3-5.

The main events will be held on Monday and Tuesday.

#### **Monday: Golf, Benedictine Wisdom & Wellness**

The traditional golf scramble will begin at 10 a.m. at Christmas Lake Golf Course in nearby Santa Claus. The \$32 green fee is paid at the course.

Also on Monday, Fr. Eugene Hensell, OSB, will give a day of recollection, titled "The Human Face of God: Mark's Portrait of Jesus." Fr. Eugene is a Saint Meinrad monk and an associate professor of Scripture at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. In addition to parish work, campus ministry and teaching, he has served as vice rector of Saint Meinrad College and then president-rector of both the College and the School of Theology.

Since 1997, Fr. Eugene has been engaged in conducting biblical retreats and workshops for priests, religious, and laity throughout the country and in several foreign countries.

Two members of the Saint Meinrad Health Service staff, Ann Rohleder and Jill Memmer, will conduct a wellness workshop Monday afternoon. Their interactive presentation will focus on ways to get and stay healthy.

That evening, the anniversary classes of 1965 (50 years), 1975 (40 years), 1990 (25 years), 2005 (10 years) and 2010 (5 years) will be honored at a banquet. Several other classes are celebrating anniversaries: O'60 (55 years), O'70 (45 years) and T'85 (30 years).

Following the banquet, a monastic music recital will be held in the Archabbey Church. Throughout the evening, alumni are welcome to gather with their classmates at various locations, including the UnStable and Alumni Commons.

#### **Tuesday: Drama, the Digital Age & Merging Parishes**

Three more presentations are scheduled for Tuesday, beginning with Fr. Gavin Barnes' talk on "Curtain Call: Theater at the Seminary," about his life and work in the theater department at Saint Meinrad.

Benedictine monk Fr. Gavin will look back at how theater was a vital component of the college experience during the 1960s through 1990s.

As a professor at Saint Meinrad College, Fr. Gavin taught speech and drama for 42 years. During that time, he also directed scores of plays, ranging from Shakespeare to Gilbert and Sullivan.

Fr. Gavin has a license in sacred theology from Sant' Anselmo in Rome and a master's degree in speech from Northwestern University.

Alumnus Fr. Eric Augenstein will offer some insights on "Discipleship in the Digital Age." Whether you're a daily Tweeter or don't know the difference between Instagram and Pandora, living in the digital age has an impact on our relationships and our daily lives.

Fr. Eric will discuss how new media and other technological advances can both help and hinder our growth as disciples – and what role and responsibility the Church can have in helping people navigate a new world of communication and media.

Ordained in 2004, Fr. Eric currently serves as vocation director for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Right before lunch, the Alumni Association will hold its annual meeting.

The afternoon session is on "Diocesan Reorganization: Some Theological Perspectives," by President-Rector Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB. The closing and merging of Catholic parishes is becoming more common in U.S. dioceses, and Fr. Denis will offer comments on this trend.

Fr. Denis has led the Seminary and School of Theology since 2008. He is also an assistant professor of systematic theology. He earned doctorates in sacred theology and philosophy from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, in 2007.

The annual Reunion Mass will be celebrated Tuesday afternoon in the Archabbey Church, with Archabbot Justin DuVall, OSB, as principal celebrant and homilist. This year marks his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as leader of the Saint Meinrad monastic community.

Archabbot Justin has a master's degree in library science from the University of Michigan. He has served as assistant librarian, prior of the monastery, and associate dean and provost-vice rector of the school.

A reception and banquet will be held in the evening. Departing members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors will be honored at that time.

#### **Register Early for Savings**

New this year is a \$10-per-day savings for those who register early for the Reunion. The deadline for early registration is July 10.

There are three ways to register:

- Fill out and return the registration form included in this newsletter.
- Register on the website: [alumni.saintmeinrad.edu](http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu).
- Call the Saint Meinrad Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988. ✝



# *Saint Meinrad* **DAY OF SERVICE**





Rev. Msgr. Christopher P. Vasko



Frederick L. Chandler



Fr. J. Randall Hubbard



Deacon Greg Clodi



Fr. Jerry Byrd



Deacon Richard Cooper



Dr. Mary Diane Valentine

Candidates for the board are elected as a slate for approval. Alumni can submit their approval or disapproval by email to [alumni@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:alumni@saintmeinrad.edu), by calling the Alumni Office at (800) 682-0988 or by voting on the alumni website at <http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu>. Voting ends July 25, 2015.

# Alumni Board Slate

## Seven alumni seeking approval

Seven alumni seek approval for their first term as members of the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association Board of Directors.

### PRE-1984

**Rev. Msgr. Christopher P. Vasko O'83 ('79-83)** serves as the judicial vicar of the Diocese of Toledo, OH. He is also the pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish and St. Patrick's Historic Parish.

He received his doctorate of canon law from The Catholic University of America in 1996 and is a member of the Canon Law Society of America. He was named a monsignor in 2010.

**Mr. Frederick L. Chandler O'72 ('64-68)** of Indianapolis, IN, is a retired counselor from Carmel High School. He is a lifetime member of the American Counseling Association and the Indiana Counseling Association, where he served terms as both president and executive director. He is also a member of the American and Indiana School Counselor Association and the American and Indiana Mental Health Counselor Association.

He has received a special recognition award from the Indiana Counseling Association and the Saint Meinrad Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Through his home parish in Indianapolis, St. Thomas Aquinas, Chandler became involved with a sister parish in Belle-Rivière, Haiti, where he has participated in missions to address schools, clean water and medical facilities.

He serves as the treasurer of St. Thomas Aquinas Haiti Committee, co-coordinator of the school lunch program in Belle-Rivière, co-coordinator of eucharistic ministers at his parish and a stewardship commission representative on the parish council.

### 1984-1998

**Fr. J. Randall Hubbard T'90 ('78-83; '88-90; '97-98; '00)** is pastor of Epiphany Parish in the Archdiocese of Louisville,

KY. Previously, he was pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Parish.

He served on the board of the International Catholic Deaf Association from 1999-2009 and is currently the chaplain for the Louisville Catholic Deaf Society.

From Saint Meinrad, he earned a bachelor's degree in biology, a master's degree in theology and his Master of Divinity.

**Deacon Greg Clodi C'86 ('82-86)**, of Kankakee, IL, is a produce clerk in South Chicago Heights.

He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Saint Meinrad College in 1986.

He was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Joliet, IL, in 1999 and currently serves at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Kankakee, where he is chair of the Worship Committee and a member of the parish council.

He was appointed to the Alumni Board in 2015 to complete the term vacated by Msgr. James Ramer.

### 1999-PRESENT

**Fr. Jerry Byrd T'12 ('06-12)** is the pastoral administrator of St. Mary's, St. Joseph and St. Ann's parishes in North Vernon, IN. Previously, he served as associate pastor of St. Barnabas Parish and as chaplain for the University of Indianapolis.

His hobbies include designing and making liturgical vestments. He enjoys liturgical music and composed the music for his Mass of Thanksgiving.

Fr. Jerry has also served as a catechist for the Saint Meinrad "One Bread, One Cup" conferences.

**Deacon Richard Cooper LD ('05-08; '14-15); PD'12 ('08-12)** is the executive director of Harrison County Community Services in Corydon, IN. He holds a bachelor's degree in counseling

and guidance and was ordained a deacon in 2012.

He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and is a Benedictine Oblate of Saint Meinrad.

He serves on the advisory board for Harrison County Alternative School and serves on the Board of Directors for Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

**Dr. Mary Diane Valentine LD '13 (\*10-13)** serves as director of administration at All Saints Parish in St. Peters, MO.

She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, serves on the Heritage Committee at All Saints Parish, the direct cemetery walk program for the parish and the Stewardship Education Council for the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

She was elected to the city council of Bullhead City, AZ, named a Paul Harris Fellow, served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in Bullhead City, and chaired the Edison Electric Institute Utility Speakers Committee in Washington, DC. ✝

## Save the Date!

*August 23, 2015*

Louisville/New Albany Area  
Alumni & Friends Dinner

*September 10, 2015*

Evansville Area  
Alumni & Friends Dinner

*September 22, 2015*

Belleville, IL/St. Louis, MO Area  
Alumni & Friends Dinner

*October 8, 2015*

Jasper/Saint Meinrad Area  
Alumni & Friends Dinner

*November 10, 2015*

Indianapolis Area  
Alumni & Friends Dinner

## 2015 Phonathon is successful again

The Alumni and Friends Annual Phonathon took place during February and March. The seminary student body participated on seven evenings.

“The students give up a few hours of their time to be in the Phonathon and we are very grateful,” said John Huether, O’78 (\*71-74), associate director of annual giving, who organizes the event. “Since they make calls to locations from coast to coast, it’s a great opportunity for them to see firsthand and appreciate how broad the Saint Meinrad Alumni Association extends,” he said.

It also gives students an opportunity to tell alumni and friends some of the

happenings on the Hill from their own perspective and to minister to them when needed. “The seminarians have many great conversations which, in turn, helps alumni and friends who are at a distance feel more connected,” added Huether.

This year, students spoke with approximately 790 alumni and friends of Saint Meinrad and received gifts and pledges totaling \$35,556. Gifts to the Phonathon make possible classroom instruction, spiritual formation, ministry opportunities, library resources, and upkeep of the buildings and grounds. Alumni can make gifts to the 2014-15 Alumni Annual Giving Program until June 30. ✝



▲ Top: Fr. Biju Thomas practices his pronunciation during a World Priest Program class with Jeff Jenkins in January.

Bottom: Sr. Mary Joseph talks with seminarians Vic Luong and Tam Nguyen during an international student outing to the Carmelite Monastery in Terre Haute, IN.



*Photos, beginning at top left: Fr. Denis Robinson, OSB, (foreground) welcomes Archbishop Joseph Tobin at the beginning of the ministry installation on February 19.*

*Students parade into the Alumni Commons to celebrate Mardi Gras on February 17.*

*Novices Timothy Herrmann, from left, John Avery, Peter Szidik and Thomas Fish chat after sledding.*

*Fr. Jeremy King, OSB, stands in the choir stall during Mass on the Solemnity of St. Meinrad.*

*Third Theology seminarians Chris Boutin and Tyler Tenbarge receive cooking tips from Fr. Julian Peters, OSB, during January Interterm classes.*

## ALUMNI ETERNAL

**Mr. Robert J. Alberta O'70 ('58-65)**, of New Kensington, PA, died on December 27, 2014.

**Mr. Thomas A. Barron O'52 ('43-51)**, of Hernando, FL, died on December 1, 2014.

**Mr. James P. Bobay O'51 ('45-47)**, of Angola, IN, died on January 10, 2015.

**Fr. Anthony Bolger O'70 ('63-66)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Honolulu, HI, died on January 7, 2015.

**Fr. Kevin W. Cassidy O'60 ('54-60)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Madison, WI, died on February 24, 2015, in Sun City, AZ.

**Mr. William F. Clark O'48 ('37-43)**, of Indianapolis, IN, died on February 27, 2013.

**Mr. Thomas P. Creagh Jr. O'67 ('61-67; '69)**, of Sarasota, FL, died on February 15, 2008.

**Mr. Patrick D. Cronk C'83 ('81-82)**, of Cheboygan, MI, died in January of 2015.

**Mr. Mark Donovan C'85 ('81-84)**, of Cortez, FL, died on January 20, 2015.

**Mr. James C. Geis O'56 ('44-46)**, of Connersville, IN, died on January 15, 2015.

**Fr. Carl J. Glahn O'52 ('40-45)**, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, died on January 16, 2015.

**Mr. Michael L. Koebel O'79 ('71-73)**, of Bradenton, FL, died on January 11, 2015.

**Mr. Robert M. Kolbus O'62 ('50-51)**, of Greenwood, IN, died on January 1, 2015.

**Mr. Charles H. Kranz O'61 ('55-58)**, of Mundelein, IL, died on September 29, 2014.

**Mr. James H. Larner O'56 ('44-47)**, of Annapolis, MD, died on January 20, 2015.

**Sr. Sally Lessnau, DC, SS ('80)**, of Evansville, IN, died on November 12, 2014.

**Fr. Jerome G. Niedermier O'52 ('46-48)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on January 6, 2015.

**Fr. Angelo J. Nobile O'53 ('49-50)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Knoxville, TN, died on December 24, 2014, at Deerfield Beach, FL.

**Mr. James R. Peterson O'63 ('51-55)**, of North Richland Hills, TX, died on March 12, 2012.

**Mr. Ronald E. Salemi O'80 ('72-76)**, of Chicago, IL, died on April 18, 2012.

**Fr. Michael E. Schelling, O'74 ('68-74)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, died on December 19, 2014.

**Mr. Elmer L. Schepers O'60 ('48-50)**, of Whitesville, KY, died on November 26, 2014.

**Mr. Michael J. Scott C'86 ('82-83)**, of Lexington, KY, died on November 26, 2014.

**Fr. Robert L. Traub O'39 ('35-39)**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, IN, died on December 13, 2014.

**Sr. Sandra C. Vadun, IHM, SS ('71)**, of Adrian, MI, died on November 20, 2007. †

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Fr. Joseph John M. Alexander O'73 ('70-74)**, of Lafayette, LA, is the author of *The First Inaugural Address of President Abraham Lincoln: A Rhetorical Analysis in The Art of Persuasion*. It was published in November 2014 by Red Lead Books. He is a retired educator.

**Deacon Rich Bagby PDP '08 ('04-08)**, of Germantown, IL, was named Volunteer of the Year at Centralia (IL) Correctional Center. He has volunteered as a prison chaplain there since he was ordained a deacon in 2008.

**Fr. Mark G. Boyer O'76 ('72-76)**, a priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, has published several new books: *Weekday Saints, Caroling through Advent and Christmas: Daily Reflections with Familiar Hymns* and *A Spirituality of Aging*.

**Retired Judge Andy Devine O'48 ('40-44)** is chair of the advisory board for a new initiative at Lourdes University of Sylvania, OH, called the Lourdes University Parent Center, which will focus on training professionals to work with parents.

**Mr. David T. Donahue O'80 ('72-76)** gave a talk in Saigon in February on changes in visa law regarding the United States and Vietnam. He is the senior advisor of the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

**Deacon Steve Durkee O'75 ('63-65)**, of Erlanger, KY, is the clinical director of substance use disorder services at Children's Home of Northern Kentucky.

**Fr. Vincent Flusche T'90 ('83-90)** is a resident chaplain in the Clinical Pastoral

Education program at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston, TX.

**Fr. Jeffrey Gatlin T2000 ('98-00)**, pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament and SS. Simon and Jude parishes, blessed the new Most Blessed Sacrament Senior Apartments in Louisville, KY, on September 23. The 30 apartments were created by refurbishing the parish's former school.

**Mr. Christopher Gutiérrez PDP'17 ('13-15)**, of Sebree, KY, has been named the director of Hispanic ministries for the Diocese of Owensboro.

**Fr. Matthew Habiger, OSB, O'68 ('67-68)**, of Atchison, KS, gave a talk on life issues at St. Boniface Parish in Lafayette, IN, on November 1. A past president of Human Life International, he has spoken out on life issues in 55 countries.

**Fr. Lewis Hejna O'81 ('78-81)**, of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO, has been named rector of St. Agnes Cathedral in Springfield.

**Mr. Thomas Lamb O'65 ('53-57)**, of Indianapolis, IN, has written a new book, *Do Not Worry, Do Not Be Anxious, Do Not Be Afraid: A Self-Help Manual for People Who Worry a Lot and Suffer Anxiety and Fear*, available from amazon.com.

**Mrs. Mary Jo Holmes SS'79 ('71-80)**, of Ferdinand, IN, is a weekly volunteer for the Sisters of St. Benedict at the Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, where she cuts and styles hair.

**Deacon Marc Kellams PDP'08 ('04-08)**, circuit court judge in Monroe County, IN, and a deacon of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, spoke at a dinner following the Red Mass for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on "The Balance of Faith and Profession."

**Sr. Mary Beth Klingel, SP, SAB ('05-06)** celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee as a member of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods in 2014. She is a member of the General Council for the Sisters of Providence.

**Mr. Ryan F. Klobassa T'13 ('08-11; '14-15)** and Michelle L. Holter were married on September 12, 2014, in Sioux Falls, SD. He works for the Good Samaritan Society, serves in the Air Force National Guard and manages a farming operation.

**Fr. Henry Kuykendall O'65 ('53-55)**, of the Diocese of Evansville, IN, received the 2014 Latino Leadership Award from the Hospitality and Outreach Latino Americans organization for his involvement in Latino ministry for more than a decade.

**Sr. Lorraine Lauter, OSU, LD'97 ('90-96)**, executive director of the nonprofit Water With Blessings, reports that the organization received the Clarence E. Moore Award for Excellence in Voluntary Service Organization, given annually by the Pan American Health Organization. The award includes \$5,000, which Water With Blessings will use to sponsor 80 new mothers in its program.

**Dr. Thomas Marshall O'69 ('61-63)**, of Columbus, IN, has retired from Southern Indiana Orthopedics.

**Fr. Macario Martinez, OSB, T'14 ('07-14)**, of Conception Abbey, Conception, MO, has been appointed director of admissions and student activities at Conception Seminary College, and assistant in the Language, Culture and Church Program.

**Mr. Dave Maloney O'67 ('59-62)**, of Port Charlotte, FL, has written *Love and Service*, a meditation book for those recovering from alcoholism. It is available from amazon.com.

**Fr. Joshua McCarty T'09 ('04-09)**, a priest of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, had two videos aired on EWTN during January, "Shawn's Eyes" and "No Greater Love." His production company, Lolek Productions, has been creating films since 2011.

**Fr. Michael McDevitt O'71 ('67-71)**, of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, MO, is now director of the Springfield Catholic School System.

**Ms. Holly McGuire LD ('11-15)**, theology and art teacher at Trinity High School in Louisville, KY, and some of her students are involved in a project that provides engraved headstones for the graves of indigent people.

**Mr. Pedro Mendez T'14 ('11-14)**, of Evansville, IN, is the coordinator of Hispanic ministry faith formation for the Office of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Evansville.

**Mr. Jerome Moeller SPH'54 ('50-54)**, of the Knights of Columbus Evansville (IN) Council 565, was honored as the Timothy P. Galvin K.S.G. Outstanding Layperson during the 2014 state convention in Indianapolis.

**Mr. Linus Mundy O'73 ('61-66; '89)**, of Jasper, IN, is the editor of a new book, *Comfort My People: A Pastoral Care Prayerbook for Ministry to the Sick, Suffering, Dying, and Bereaved*, available from Abbey Press' One Caring Place.

**Fr. Jeffrey Nicolas T'93 ('86-93)**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, KY, partnered with a dance school instructor to compete in an event reminiscent of "Dancing with the Stars," on June 28 to raise funds for a daily lunch program for those who are hungry or homeless.

**Fr. John G. Oesterle O'67 ('59-67; '80)** organized the Fall Speakers' Series of the Association of Pittsburgh Priests in 2014. He is chaplain at UPMC Mercy Hospital in Uptown, PA.

**Mr. Joel Padgett LD'13 ('12-13)**, of Evansville, IN, has joined the Office of Hispanic Ministry and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Evansville as the coordinator for immigration legal services.

**Mr. Daniel Perryman LD ('10-14)**, of Decatur, IL, was profiled as president and CEO of HSHS St. Mary's Hospital in the *Business Journal of Midcentral Illinois* in January.

**Fr. Aaron Pfaff C'89 ('85-86)** was among 10 dancers performing in the "Dancing with the Shelby County Stars" event on November 8 that raised \$100,000 to benefit two local nonprofit organizations. He is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, IN, and sacramental minister of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County.

**Mr. Donn Raabe O'71 ('60-67)** and his wife, Carol, recently relocated to Phoenix, AZ. For the past nine years, he was involved with L'Arche Chicago, where he served as president of the board.

**Fr. Jeff Read T'12 ('08-12)**, associate pastor of Precious Blood Parish in Jasper, IN, and St. Mary Parish, Ireland, IN, spoke about the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the Evansville Coraggio group at its May meeting.

**Mr. Andrew Reinhart T'12 ('08-10)**, parish manager of Toledo Rosary Cathedral and a co-founder of the Theology of the Body Advocates of Northwest Ohio, was featured in the September 5, 2014, issue of the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Chronicle*.

## ALUMNI NEWS *cont.*

**Deacon Earl Ruppel O'66 ('55-58; '01-05)** was installed as chaplain of the Vincennes (IN) Knights of Columbus Council 712.

**Msgr. Carl E. Scherrer O'73 ('69-73)** won first place in the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Msgr. John Fournie Clergy Tennis Tournament in Shiloh, IL. Other alumni participants were **Fr. Andrew Knopik O'83 ('75-79)**, third place; **Msgr. James Buerster O'79 ('75-79)** and **Fr. Leo Hayes O'61 ('55-61; '71)**.

**Fr. Karl Schilken O'80 ('76-80)** is moderator of the curia and vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth, TX.

**Sr. Barbara C. Schmitz, OSB, SS ('87)**, of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, IN, is the outreach family advocate for Family Scholar House – South Central Indiana, a program that helps single-parent students attain a college degree.

**Msgr. Joseph Semancik O'53 ('47-53)** spoke on the life of Bishop Andrew G. Grutka at the Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar at Calumet College of St. Joseph in Whiting, IN, in September.

**Mr. Ken Sicard O'78 ('70-71)**, of Ferdinand, IN, graduated from the first class of the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Voluntary Protection Program Excellence in Safety Certificate Program.

**Dr. Darren Sroufe C'90 ('86-90; '97-01)**, of Boonville, IN, was named a Health Care Hero by the *Evansville Courier & Press* for his work as police chaplain for the Evansville Police Department and for spearheading the HOPE (Helping Other People Everyday) team, which assists those coping with the aftermath of a suicide.

**Mr. Robert Sutliff T'89 ('85-86; '88)** is serving as pastoral associate at two parishes, Church of the Ascension in Halethorpe and St. Augustine in Elkridge, both in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

**Mrs. Ann Tully LD'03 ('96-03)**, of Indianapolis, IN, is serving as the coordinator of the tribunal for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She continues her work as judge instructor/assessor.

**Fr. Rickey Valleroy SS'91 ('88-91)**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Farmington, MO, was featured in the December-January issue of *Catholic St. Louis* magazine. The story focused on how the parish lives out its motto of "Where Hospitality and Love Meet."

**Fr. Joseph Vamos O'66 ('57-66)**, a priest of the Diocese of Gary, IN, has retired from 40 years as a police chaplain, most recently for the Merrillville Police Department.

**Ms. Christine Vincent LD'11 ('08-11)**, of Auburn, CA, has been named to the new position of coordinator for humanity and life ministries for the Diocese of San Jose, CA.

**Fr. Herb Weber O'74 ('69-74)**, of the Diocese of Toledo, OH, was featured in a *Sentinel-Tribune* newspaper story about his 40 years of ministry and his work to establish a new parish in Perrysburg.

**Mr. Pete Werner O'69 ('57-68; '69)** was honored on August 4 for his 45 years of service as a teacher at St. Benedict Cathedral School in Evansville, IN.

**Fr. Robert L. Williams O'68 ('62-68; '71)**, a priest of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award on November 21, at an open house celebration in Anderson, IN.

**Fr. James Wilmoth O'65 ('61-65)** received the Career Achievement Award from Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, at the Celebrating Catholic School Values dinner on November 5. He is administrator of St. Roch Parish and chaplain of Roncalli High School, both in Indianapolis.

**Fr. Darvin Winters C'95 ('91-95)**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, IN, began a three-year assignment as a fulltime chaplain for the U.S. Air Force, where he is stationed at the Grand Forks, ND, base. ✚

## Alumni receive Archdiocese's first Intercultural Awards

**Fr. Michael O'Mara T'88 ('81-88)** and **Fr. Kenneth Taylor O'77 ('69-73)**, were honored at the first Intercultural Awards Dinner, held in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on November 15.



Fr. O'Mara served as pastor of St. Mary Parish in downtown Indianapolis from 1999-2013, a parish with a large Hispanic population.

He served as president of the Hispanic Education Center for three years. He also served as Archbishop Daniel Buechlein's liaison to the Archdiocese of Guadalajara,

Mexico, overseeing an exchange of priests and seminarians between the archdioceses. He has been an advocate for immigration reform.

Fr. O'Mara is pastor of St. Gabriel Parish and assists with sacramental ministry at Marian University.



Fr. Taylor was honored for his work of leading the archdiocese's office of multicultural ministry from 1996 to 2013.

During his tenure, the archdiocese hosted the National Black Congress in Indianapolis in 2012 and sent Fr. Taylor to represent the archdiocese at Encuentro 2000, an event in Los Angeles sponsored by the U.S. bishops to the celebrate the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Church.

Fr. Taylor is pastor of Holy Angels and St. Rita parishes in Indianapolis and the current president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.



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# Five locations benefit from Day of Service



▲ *Tom Weintraut, from left, Steve Rasmussen and Bill McGuire work together to build a shelf during the Saint Meinrad Day of Service in Indianapolis.*

Saint Meinrad Alumni Director Christian Mocek organized the Day of Service. “Speaking for myself, I certainly was filled with joy at the end of the day. I met wonderful people who loved Saint Meinrad, worked with them in service to the people of God, and prayed with them to start and end the day.”

The volunteers included alumni, oblates, friends, students, monks and co-workers, according to Mocek. “Their impact was significant,” he said. “Although the work was sometimes dirty, messy and unexpected, they served with smiles on their faces.”

Photos from the Day of Service are on page 9. More photos are online at: <http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com/Alumni/Day-of-Service-2015/>. ✚

The second annual Saint Meinrad Day of Service was held on March 14 at five locations: St. Meinrad, Evansville and Indianapolis, IN; Louisville, KY; and Wilmington, DE. About 130 volunteers were involved in the events.

Projects included cutting and delivering firewood, a project of CACD Project Warm on the Saint Meinrad campus;

cleaning and painting at St. Benedict’s Cathedral in Evansville; painting a classroom, assembling equipment and building shelves to assist Hearts and Hands of Indiana, located in Indianapolis; preparing and serving lunch at St. Vincent de Paul’s Open Hands Kitchen in Louisville; and planting flowers for a project by St. Elizabeth’s School in Wilmington.

## Smugmug

*For more photos of Saint Meinrad events, visit:*

<http://saint-meinrad.smugmug.com>