

## SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBEY

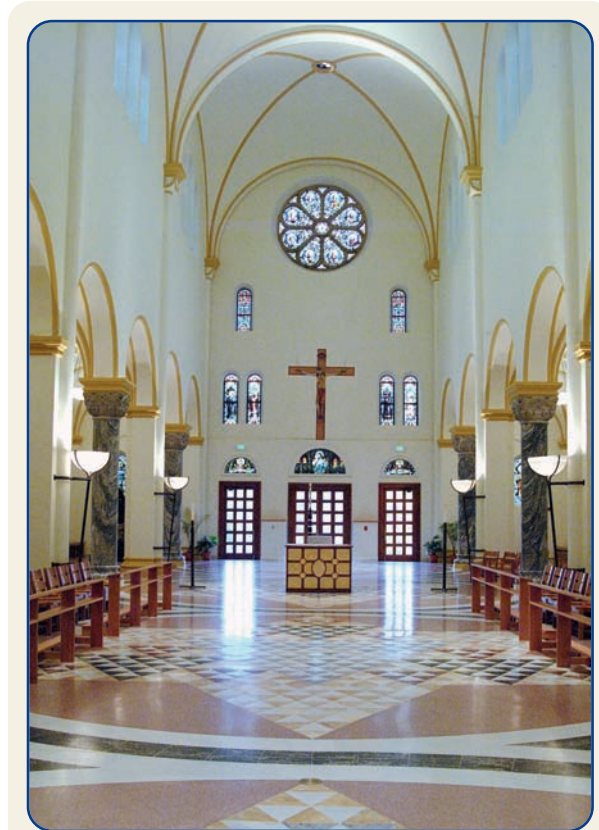
1853

In 1853 two Benedictine monks from the Abbey of Einsiedeln in the center of Switzerland arrived to make a foundation in southern Indiana. They came to establish a monastery and to serve the needs of the German-speaking settlers. Named Saint Meinrad in honor of a hermit-martyr killed in 861 by brigands, the monastery was established with four monks in 1854. In 1870 Saint Meinrad became an abbey with Martin Marty as the first abbot. When the abbey was asked in 1876 to evangelize the Native Americans in the Dakota Territory, he and other monks responded. Martin Marty became vicar apostolic and then a bishop in the missionary territory.

The major work of the monks, however, was the minor and major seminary (high school through theology), which they founded. After the Second Vatican Council, the seminary became a School of Theology, drawing students—seminarians and lay students, men and women—from all parts of the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia. The abbey has become a center for retreats, workshops and weekend classes. Pastoral ministry in the surrounding areas continues the evangelization of southern Indiana.

In 1954, in recognition of the many foundations emanating from Saint Meinrad, it was raised to the rank of an archabbey. The abbey played a major role in the Liturgical Movement in the United States. Both in 1942 and in 1944 the national Liturgical Week was held at Saint Meinrad at the invitation of Archabbot Ignatius Esser.

Prayer has always been at the heart of Saint Meinrad, with its celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours and of the Eucharist and its concern for the beauty and the music of liturgical worship. Through its century and a half, St. Benedict's motto of "Prayer and Work" has been and continues to be the story of Saint Meinrad—a reflection of the goodness of God and of his mercy and peace amid rolling hills of southern Indiana.



⊗ *The interior of Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church looking west. (Courtesy of Archives of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)*



⊗ *An Aerial View of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. (Courtesy of Archives of Saint Meinrad Archabbey)*