



## Dennis Gill Ring

May 9, 1936 - February 10, 2016

Dateline Jasper, Indiana

Dennis Gill Ring, age 79, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away 11:33 p.m. on Wednesday (February 10, 2016) at Memorial Hospital in Jasper, Indiana.

Gill was born in Terre Haute, Indiana on May 9, 1936 to Nicholas and Ernestine (Wernz) Ring. He married Gail Needham on June 10, 1957 at Coraopolis, PA.

Gill retired as a professor of Philosophy at St. Meinrad Archabbey, where he taught for over 40 years.

He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper, IN.

He was an avid golfer, an artist, enjoyed good movies and books, and spending time with friends and family.

Surviving,

Wife of 58 years;

Gail Ring, Jasper, IN

Three Daughters;

Tracy Beane and husband Pat, Bloomington, IN

Molly Mitchell and husband Mike, Washington, IN

Kathy Brandt and husband Charlie, Carmel, IN

Two Sons;

Nick Ring and wife Christine, Travelers Rest, SC

John Ring and wife Nicole, Nobelsville, IN

Eighteen Grandchildren

Two Great Grandchildren

Preceding him in death was one brother, Patrick Ring.

Funeral services for Gill Ring will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday (February 16, 2016) at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper, IN.

Friends may call from 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Monday (February 15, 2016) at the Becher-Kluesner Downtown Chapel in Jasper, IN.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church or St. Meinrad Archabbey.

Online condolences may be made at [www.becherkluesner.com](http://www.becherkluesner.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

1020 Kundek Street  
Jasper, IN 47546

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **15**. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Becher & Kluesner Funeral Home - Downtown  
214 East 7th Street  
Jasper, IN 47546  
(812) 482-4141  
[email@becherkluesner.com](mailto:email@becherkluesner.com)

## Mass

FEB **16**. 9:30 AM (ET)

St Joseph Catholic Church  
1029 Kundek Street  
Jasper, IN 47546

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis Gill Ring*

January 01, 2023 at 10:54 AM



“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of Gill Ring's passing, not least because I never did sit down and write him the thank you letter that I always intended to write. I cannot possibly overstate the impact that Gill Ring had on me during my time at St. Meinrad, and continues to have on me today. I remember sitting in my first philosophy class with him, as a seminarian discerning my vocation and thinking, "If I'm not called to the priesthood, I want to teach philosophy, and I want to try to teach it like he does." He effortlessly walked the fine line between charity to an opponent and rigorous, unflinching critique of bad ideas. His gifted mind and astonishingly clear grasp of philosophers of every stripe was shown to best advantage by his charm, wit and remarkable rhetorical dexterity. A born teacher if ever there was one. I still have my notebooks from every one of his classes, and I took every class I was allowed to take with him. They are filled with his many witticisms like, "It takes someone awfully smart to come up with an idea that stupid," and, "Don't get too big for your britches, gentlemen. If Kant walked into the room, he'd be the smartest guy here. But he's still wrong!" He is the reason I became a theology teacher and a philosophy instructor. I think he would find that to be about the highest compliment a former student could pay him. We hear all the time about "coaching trees", athletics coaches that learned their craft under one of the legendary coaches. I am more than proud to say that I am a branch of the Gill Ring "teaching tree", and I only hope that he is proud to acknowledge me as such. May God cleanse him of all his faults, and welcome him into eternal life, and may we all see him again there someday.*

Stephen Greene - April 01, 2016 at 05:15 PM

MH

*What a fabulous tribute. I've never met the man, but after reading that, I'm saddened that I never had the opportunity.*

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**Michael Haskell** - April 02, 2016 at 02:11 PM

NL

“ *I had the pleasure of growing up as a neighbor to Gill Ring and his extraordinary family. There are so many very special memories I will treasure. The kindness and hospitality the Ring family had extended through the years will always be remembered. Deepest sympathy to the Ring family during this difficult time. Nancy Wilmes Lee*

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**Nancy Wilmes Lee** - February 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM

RA

“ *Rev. Joseph Angotti and the people of St. Peter Parish in LaPorte, IN, will pray for the repose of his soul.*

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**Rev. Joseph Angotti** - February 20, 2016 at 04:49 PM

JD

“ Feb. 20, 2016

*I just hung up the phone after speaking with Gail, having discovered this saddest of news while seeking information on the internet.*

*Gill was a warm and welcoming colleague, and I got to know both him and Gail at various banquets at St Meinrad. He was, quite simply, "one-in-a-million."*

*What a loss to the world, and what an example to all men. I was blessed to know him, and may God grant us all the Grace to bear this loss, most especially the family he cherished.*

*Joan A. Dean  
Asst. Director of the Mader Center  
St. Meinrad Seminary & School of Theology  
2008-2011*

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**Joan Dean** - February 20, 2016 at 04:35 PM

FM

“ *Dr. Ring was a great teacher. I enjoyed his classes very much!  
RIP  
Fr. John Matejek  
Archdiocese of Atlanta*

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**Fr. John M. Matejek** - February 17, 2016 at 02:39 PM

VA

“ *Our deepest and sincere sympathy goes out to your family at the passing of your husband, father and grandfather.*

*Vincennes University Alumni and Foundation Staff*

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**VU Alumni** - February 17, 2016 at 10:26 AM

RE

“ Gill Ring will live long in and through all of us who had the honor of having him as a teacher. I'm deeply saddened by his passing. Like so many others, I owe him a debt of gratitude for influencing my own teaching, my own questioning. He enriched the life of the college community by his grace and generosity in his manner of challenging us, his profound depth of thought, his moments of reverie and reflection, his quick, kind, sincere smile, his humble dedication to the pursuit of the truth.

*Thank you, Mr. Ring, for your service and your spark. Amid your many ponderings here on earth, may you find ecstasy, fulfillment, and good company on the other side. Share a toast with Dr. Scheer, Fr. Noah, and the many other dear souls from the hill who have gone before.*

*Rock Emmert  
College Class of 1983  
Forest Park High School, Ferdinand, IN*

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**Rock Emmert** - February 16, 2016 at 09:12 PM

RF

“ I was a philosophy major at Saint Meinrad College and graduated in 1991. Today, I am a full-time speaker and retreat in the Catholic Church. In two weeks, I will be at the 40,000 person Los Angeles Religious Education Congress and I will be giving a workshop three times entitled "5 Things I Want Atheists to Know." These 5 things are rooted in the "Darwin, Marx, and Freud" class I had with Mr. Ring in my senior year. His reach is wide and will continue to be felt long after his death. He knew he was training the Church's leaders and he did so well.

*Peace,  
Robert Feduccia*

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**Robert Feduccia** - February 16, 2016 at 09:13 AM

TS

“ I was fortunate to have Mr. Ring after I came to seminary after graduating with an undergrad degree in the sciences. Honestly, it was a little jarring coming from that background and then have your professor talking about Ptolemaic astronomy and epicycles! While I don't think I'm ready to accept epicycles, I'm fortunate that Mr. Ring helped me think critically about the philosophical basis of all scientific thought, and made me more discerning about what is Good and True.

*His quiet and gracious demeanor was a testament to the virtues he preached daily. He has surely influenced hundreds of priests during his time on the Hill, but also numerous lawyers, doctors, and men in other fields who were fortunate to come to Saint Meinrad for a short time.*

*I give my condolences to you, his family, and know that both he and you all will be in my prayers.*

*Sincerely,*

*Trevor Schroeder  
Athens, OH*

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**Trevor Schroeder** - February 16, 2016 at 07:40 AM

DC

“ Many years ago, Gill Ring was confronted with a choice. He could either satisfy his own desires or surrender his will and his actions to God. Gill made that choice. He clung to Gail. He converted to Catholicism. He opened his mind to wisdom and his heart to truth. It wasn't easy and it certainly wasn't once and for all.

*Gill Ring taught us to search for truth, to seek God and to choose wisdom rather than fame or fortune. He showed us how to be critical without being mean. He witnessed what it means to be a man, a husband and father, a teacher who believes what he teaches and a disciple whose only master is Truth incarnate.*

*There is only one really honest way to pay tribute to Gill Ring: Make the same choice he did (over and over again).*

*Dan Conway*

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**Dan Conway** - February 16, 2016 at 07:02 AM

JB

“ So sad to hear of Gills death. What an AWESOME guy! He will be missed starting with his friends from Mt. Carmel days and many many other friends through the years. He was admired and loved by so many of us.

*Blessings and prayers for the family.*

*Jean Keen Brunson (grade school and high school friend)*

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**Jean Brunson** - February 16, 2016 at 06:56 AM

MA

“ God bless you and your family Mr. Ring. Thanks for helping us with our search for what is good and true.

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**matt** - February 15, 2016 at 11:29 PM

MD

“ We did not know him , but we know Nice very well !!! Our condolences to the whole family !!! May God comfort you through this time of need and guide you through his will !!! Hugs Nicole

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**marti & Jim Doering** - February 15, 2016 at 05:44 PM

FK

“ Professor Ring was one of a kind. I looked forward to his classes each day. His mind was a labyrinth, and what a joy and honor it was to walk around in it. He was a wonderful professor. He taught the majority of the living priests of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and we are better for it. His life was filled with adventures, and the greatest adventure of them all was meeting Christ. And he shared that with everyone. May he rest in peace!

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**Fr. Mike Keucher** - February 15, 2016 at 12:07 PM

TH

“ My deepest condolences to the Ring family. I appreciated the wisdom of professor Ring that I got to know during the classes that I had with him during my college years at St. Meinrad. I am saddened by his passing but I am sure that he is now with our Lord. I attended St. Meinrad College and School of Theology from 1971 to 1978. He was one of my favorite philosophy professors and in fact through his teaching I learned to better appreciate philosophy. Sincerely,  
Brother Thomas Haerle CMF

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**Thomas Haerle** - February 14, 2016 at 11:36 PM

TG

“ For a few years (1977-81), Gill and I were colleagues at St. Meinrad College. Gill was a powerful presence in the College community. My time there was rich in communal, educational and personal experience. Being a philosopher, Gill was a little skeptical about Sociology, the discipline I taught. Yet he always engaged my ideas, as he did others', with fierce clarity, deep respect and good humor. His profound commitment to faith, family and students shone through every conversation – whether casual or professional. Always probing for the truth and ever supportive of the best of what others had to say. He lived fully with deep purpose in each moment, and he taught directly out of his engagement with life. Requiescat in pace.

Terry Gillin

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Terry Gillin - February 14, 2016 at 03:15 PM

DD

“ *The Debono family is deeply saddened by Gill's death. The Debono and Ring Family were separated in distance, but never far away from each other. Our lives intertwined over the years, often in service to each other. Our families took a trip to Walt Disney World in the late 70's. We stayed a night or two in Sebring Florida. One morning Gill asked me to go out with him on this small lake in a row boat. I must have been 13 or 14 years old. As he rowed he spoke gently about a defining moment in his life: the death of his brother. Though I don't remember the fine details of that conversation, I remember how affected he was by the death of his brother and I am sure he eloquently described how he suffered and healed through that chapter in his life. It was pure providence that we had that conversation for I was to lose my brother less than 10 years later. Though he was an intellectual giant, he seemed most happy in the company of his family and most of all children. We mourn your loss with you and will always remember your beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.*

*David Debono*

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David J Debono - February 14, 2016 at 12:20 PM

AJ

“ *I'm sorry for the passing of Mr. Ring. He did a great help for all through his kindness and sincerity to the people's spiritual awareness. Please accept my deepest sympathy. Rest assured he studied one of the promises that Jesus Christ mentioned in John 5:28,29 and Acts 24:15 about the resurrection of our dead loved ones. We will soon see him again.*

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AJ - February 14, 2016 at 07:03 AM

FS

“ In my College Graduate year at St. Meinrad, I had the privilege of having Mr. Ring as a professor. The way he taught allowed one to shift the mind’s lens to the larger reality of thought and Christ. The process he used was something that has remained with me over the decades. I have enjoyed running into Mr. Ring on return visits to the Holy Hill.

*Passing into eternity as the faithful hear, “Remember that you are dust...” brings so much of our faith to bear. My prayers are with all the family. Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him, Oh Lord.*

*Fr. Thomas Schliessmann  
Ordination Class of '89*

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**Fr. Tom Schliessmann** - February 13, 2016 at 09:49 AM

AG

*Gil was one of a kind, a teacher one never, ever could forget. He was animated, he challenged us, and he genuinely cared for the seminarians. I am happy and grateful to have known him. Blessings to the family and the St Meinrad community.*

*Fr. Amador Garza  
San Juan, TX*

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**Amador Garza** - February 13, 2016 at 01:30 PM

JP

“ *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

*Your advice and insight still echo within me after twenty three years. Thank you Gill Ring for challenging us all to think deeply and live humanely. Our sympathy, love and prayers go out to your family.*

*Joe Pfennig*

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**Joe Pfennig** - February 13, 2016 at 09:38 AM

RR

“ With sadness I write this, as I did not look up Gill to thank him for the profound effect he had on my life. I graduated from the College in 1976, so we both started there the same time. I have often told people that I received a B.S. there; but was most happy about my minor in philosophy, as Gill shaped my whole world-view.  
*Rich Rush, Evansville/Valparaiso, IN*

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**Richard Rush** - February 13, 2016 at 09:24 AM

DD

“ This is so terribly sad. I was Gill's colleague for 25 years. We spoke on several occasions about what I am about to do now. How does one speak to dying and loss? (and attempt in some way to get it right) This is what I can say now in deepest gratitude. You tried to think things through and you brought me along for the ride. That is something I deeply admire. I would not be who I am without our haggling. I carry with me your silly cows, your capacity to illuminate film, your calling me on MacIntyre & Rorty, your humor, your attention to irony, your sense of absurdity. You were a mensch. You got in my head and you stayed there. You got in my heart.

*David Denz  
Marian University*

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**DAVID DENZ** - February 13, 2016 at 08:51 AM

FH

“ My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to the Ring Family. Gill was a great professor and has always remained a warm memory of St. Meinrad College for me. I am sure many of my classmates over the long tenure of Mr. Ring's faithful service will be saddened by his loss but very grateful for the gifts he gave to all of us. I remember him as very thoughtful, kind, generous and very funny. He loved to laugh as he thought out loud!

*Fr. John Higginbotham, Holy Trinity Church, Tiverton, RI  
College, Class of 1982*

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**Fr. John Higginbotham** - February 13, 2016 at 05:14 AM

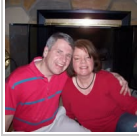
BB

“ Professor Ring was one of the very best teachers I had at St. Meinrad. News of his death truly saddens me. My condolences to his family.

*Fr. Brian Barrons M.M.  
Asia Regional Superior  
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers*

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**Brian Barrons** - February 13, 2016 at 01:08 AM



“ *It was with great sadness that I received the news that Professor Gill Ring passed away. I majored in Philosophy and graduated from St. Meinrad College in 1979. He taught most of my Philosophy classes and it was a great joy to listen to him teach. I cherish the wonderful memories at St. Meinrad and Mr. Gill Ring really shined among the faculty. God bless you, wonderful teacher and dear friend! You will be missed by your family and friends.*

*John Spencer  
Still learning about life and God!*

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**John Spencer** - February 12, 2016 at 11:15 PM

MD

“ *One of the greatest professors I ever encountered at St Meinrad. He challenged all of us to think in a new way and was a gift to my education. Thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.*

*God bless,  
Mark Dippre  
Class of 1988*

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**Mark Dippre** - February 12, 2016 at 06:28 PM

BC

*Mr. Ring was a truly inspirational and challenging teacher. A great role model of a man. He taught so many of us at St. Meinrad how to think for ourselves.*

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**Bill Cook** - February 12, 2016 at 06:40 PM

JW

“ *May our Lord comfort the family of Gill and all of those who loved and respected Gill as a colleague and student. The world is a much better place because he walked among us; his wife and children are more loving and caring because of the love and care that he showed to them; St. Meinrad School of Theology is a better academic institution because of Gill's love of learning and the care he demonstrated to his students, and the Church is a much better place because he was a member of our faith community. And maybe even heaven is a bit better because Gill now lives among the saints. May he rest in peace.*

*James J. Walter  
Former colleague of Gill's at St. Meinrad*

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**James J. Walter** - February 12, 2016 at 04:49 PM

BS

“ *My condolences to the Ring family. Mr. Ring was my philosophy professor at St. Meinrad College. He was a man of great faith and conviction. I will offer Mass for him and pray that the Lord will grant his family strength and consolation.*

*Bishop Joseph Siegel  
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet  
St. Meinrad Class of 1984*

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**Bishop Joseph Siegel** - February 12, 2016 at 04:00 PM



“ *A wonderful professor, taught me something I'll never forget.  
"California is where people who can't cut it in the mid-west have to go".*

*RIP*

*John Carl*

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**John Carl** - February 12, 2016 at 02:30 PM

JB

“ *A man who dragged me kicking and screaming from blind belief into the thinking world. Changed the way I see the world. I'm a better man today for knowing Mr. Ring!*

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**James Box** - February 12, 2016 at 02:08 PM



“ *One of the best teachers I ever had. He taught philosophy in a way that was easy to understand...a sign of a brilliant mind! I'll never forget his example of the "drowning cow" in metaphysics...when is a cow no longer a cow? Complete with artwork! My prayers for a wonderful man and his family!*

*Fr. John Toepfer OFM Cap.*

*St. Meinrad School of Theology Class of '86*

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**John Toepfer** - February 12, 2016 at 12:53 PM

TG

“ He really tried to get through to me, (it wasn't time.) Still a Hoot!

*Grateful for his gifts, his passion, and for his contributions to the spreading the Gospel through the many students he touched.*

*Tony Green, SMC '75*



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**Tony Green** - February 12, 2016 at 11:47 AM

PP

“ Words cannot express what I'm feeling at read of Gill's passing. I won't bother repeating all the wonderful things that everyone is saying about Gill on this memory page because they're all true. Gill was one of those people in life you meet that impact your life and change it for the better on sooo many different levels. I was lucky to have him as a professor in college and, later in life, as a friend. The last time we met was four years ago for lunch in Jasper. It was a good meal with good discussion, debate, and wine. He will be missed. God bless you, Gill. May you finally find your answers. RIP, my friend.

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**Paul Poirrier** - February 12, 2016 at 11:38 AM



“ Gill Ring taught me not to think "like a peasant" and like a rational human being. I have fond memories of classes with him and he is instrumental in my becoming who I am both personally and professionally. Last time I saw Gill was on the main steps of the seminary, when my province was having their assembly at St. Meinrad, I'm glad I got to thank him in person for what he did for me. Prayers to the family and for everyone who Gill touched in his life. Generations of priests, religious and laity owe so much to him. Truly a class act!

*Friar Deacon Nicholas Wolfla College class of 1985*

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**Nick Wolfla** - February 12, 2016 at 11:26 AM



“ Mr. Ring was truly a GENTLEMAN and I am deeply saddened by his passing. I will never forget the welcome I received from him and his rich humor and inspiring faith in God. May Our Lord give you his family peace, comfort, and joy because of God's mercy and love.

*Fr. Joe Weidenbenner, Pastor  
Graduate of St. Meinrad 2007  
St. Augustine Catholic Church  
Kelso, MO.*

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**fr joe weidenbenner** - February 12, 2016 at 11:21 AM

MG

“ I had the pleasure of having Gill for two of my three Philosophy classes at St. Meinrad. I am constantly amazed at how much I absorbed from his wealth of knowledge on the subject of life. To say he had an impact on my frame of reference minimizes how greatly being in his classes changed my way of thinking and being.

He was such a great man, and always took the time to say hello when I was down for visits after my graduation. He will live on forever to those of us fortunate enough to have been his students.

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**Maggie Geene** - February 12, 2016 at 10:30 AM

FP

“ Gill Ring was a wonderful teacher. Through the years, I lost touch with him. My prayers are with family

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**Fr Chester J Pabin** - February 12, 2016 at 10:22 AM

FV

“ Mr. Ring was a wonderful teacher. I loved his classes. His dedication to his students helped me in more ways than I can count.  
Fr Stephen A. Voyt, College Class of 1981

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**Fr Stephen Voyt** - February 12, 2016 at 10:08 AM

FB

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Ring's passing. I will always remember him fondly for all the interesting stories he told to us students and for his genuine care and concern for our formation as Catholic gentleman. May God give you comfort in this time of loss.

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**Fr. Chris Bazar** - February 12, 2016 at 09:23 AM



“ When I came to St. Meinrad in 1995 as a lay degree student, it was after a period of roughly seven years that I had considered myself an atheist. I was just beginning to make the journey back to the Church, but I had lots of questions and lots of reservations. I had a lot of amazing teachers there, but the best was Mr. Ring. It was his "Plato and Augustine" class that truly changed my life. I'm now a high school theology teacher, and I teach a senior class on Plato's Republic. Everything about that class is inspired by him, as was my own love of wisdom. I told myself for years that I would make my way back to Meinrad for a visit just to let him know how grateful I am, but I never found the time. Mr. Ring, I know your legacy lives on in the beautiful family with which God graced you, but it lives on in the hearts and minds of your former students as well. It was a privilege to know you and to learn from you. May God bless you and your family, and may you rest in peace.

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**Rick Martin** - February 12, 2016 at 09:20 AM

DC

“ I am so sorry for your loss, I am unable to truly understand the loss all of you are encountering at this time, please be assured of my prayers and thoughts at this difficult time for all of you.

*Dr. Gill Ring taught me so much about the appreciation of philosophy. He made the whole understanding of the topic of philosophy come alive. He taught me and many of the College and the School of Theology and attempt to apply the theories and understanding into our daily lives. I am eternally grateful for his challenging of us all. Well done Dr. Gill Ring, good and faithful servant. May eternal rest be granted on to him O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him and be with him forever.*

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**Deacon Greg Clodi** - February 12, 2016 at 09:09 AM



“ Gill was my philosophy professor at Saint Meinrad School of Theology. Unquestionably, although he would probably challenge me to question this, he was one of the best teachers I ever had. I appreciate the importance of philosophy in ways I never expected. I am forever grateful for the way he touched my life and Faith.

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**Michael Perigo** - February 11, 2016 at 06:56 PM

BB

“ Gail and family, may the Lord abide with you and give you peace.

*Many years ago I hosted a radio program in Denver for a national Catholic network. Gill was one of my first guests, and I interviewed him by phone on the topic of the Galileo controversy. For a little over a half hour Gill brought the light of truth and charity to the subject. It was so good! After the program aired, I received several phone calls and messages asking, "Who was that guy? He was amazing." Indeed, he was amazing. May he rest in the arms of his merciful Savior.*

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**Bill Beckman** - February 11, 2016 at 05:30 PM

JK

*Gill was a childhood friend of mine. Everyone loved Gill ( especially the girls). He was so fun to be around. Lots of memories but right now I am remembering our bicycle rides all over the countryside around Mt Carmel. The entire gang were so carefree. Gill always had that beautiful, smile for everyone. Thinking of his family at this time. I just know each of his five kids have so many fond memories and will cherish life so much because their dad was Gill Ring! He was so loved by everyone of his classmates.*

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**JO KEEN KESSLER** - February 13, 2016 at 09:35 AM