#### ROUQUETTE LIBRARY BLESSING SHEPHERDS IN NEW ERA FOR SEMINARY COLLEGE

On September 15th, Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., and Seminary College President-Rector Fr. Gregory Boquet, O.S.B., were joined by Archbishop Gregory Aymond for the blessing of the new Rouquette Library at the Seminary College. The first new building in more than 50 years on campus was made possible through the generosity of so many through the "I Will Give You Shepherds" campaign. To see more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.





#### SEMINARY COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY ON CAMPUS



New members of the Saint Joseph Seminary College faculty include: (Pictured left to right) Aimee Barrios, Ph.D., Director of the St. Anselm Center for Academic Excellence and Professor of English and Literature; Geoffrey Bain, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy, Literature, and History; Jennifer Heil, Ph.D., Professor of Literature; Rev. Samuel Fontana, Ph.L., Professor of Philosophy and Assistant Dean of Students; Kathleen Thompson, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy; Michael Lane, M.A., Professor of History; and Lieutenant Commander Jill Bessetti, M.S., M.A., Professor of Environmental Science.

Not pictured are: Joseph Bass, M.A., Professor of Theology and Director of Abbey Youth Fest; Br. Emmanuel Labrise, O.S.B., M.A., Professor of Theology; and Robert Schmidt, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology

# SAVE THE DATE

ABBEY YOUTH FEST - Saturday, March 23, For details, visit www.abbeyyouthfest.com

99TH ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMECOMING & ALUMNI DAY - Friday, April 26

#### MONK RUN & WALK - Saturday, April 27

The annual 1-mile / 5k trail run and walk is an exclusive opportunity to run on the privately owned grounds of the beautiful Saint Joseph Abbey, which are not open for recreational use.

2019 SAINT BEN'S GOLF OPEN - Thursday, May 16

#### OBLATES DAY OF RECOLLECTION - Saturday, July 13

#### DEO GRATIAS - Saturday, Oct. 5

For up-to-date information about these and other events at SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY AND SEMINARY COLLEGE please visit our website at:

### saintjosephabbey.com

Ø /saintjosephabbeyseminary/

/saintjosephabbey

- /saintjosephabbey/SJASC
- /saintjosephabbey/albums

CHE ABBEY VOICE volume 41: Winter 2019 SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY AND SEMINARY COLLEGE

# SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY + SEMINARY COLLEGE **Giving Opportunities**

our financial support is greatly appreci

Uonations can be made online at www.saintjosephabbey.com/donat Service and Seminary Colle Separtment of Institutional Advanceme 75376 River Road Saint Benedict, LA 70457 For information call: (985) 867-2264 √our gift of time and talent is also welcon lease consider joining our Volunteer Prog For more information please contact: Kathy Nastasi at (985) 867-2284 or knastasi@sjasc.e



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# ABBEY VOICE

#### VOLUME 41 • WINTER 2019

On March 11, we will mark the third anniversary of the devastating flood. Looking back over these last three years, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many ways we have experienced God's overwhelming grace and goodness through what was certainly a major trial. As I write this, I am reminded of a passage from the letter to the Hebrews recently read at Mass where the author associates trials with the discipline of God but then goes on to say, "At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it." In these years since the flood, we have certainly felt the merciful hand of God which brings blessings out of every trial.

Today we are in the final stages of our 38 million

#### ABBOT'S LETTER



Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.

dollar cleanup and recovery thanks to your generosity and our ability as an educational institution to qualify for FEMA funding. Two projects remain. First is Benet Hall which will serve not only as an auditorium, but as a Welcome Center. This renovation will meet our present and future needs as we welcome an increasing number of visitors. The Welcome Center will assist us in sharing the Benedictine Charism of hospitality of welcoming all as Christ. The other project is Savio Hall, which served as the seminary library for the past 40 years, which will be renovated into a much needed residence hall for seminarians.

This third anniversary of the flood is not only about the past, but more so it is about the future, a future filled with hope as we see the Abbey and its apostolates continue to grow and flourish. Again, this semester we have a near-record number in the seminary, and our Abbey Christian Life Center is back in full operation following a two-year closing from the flood.

We are presently building a larger building to house Monk Soap and columbariums in our cemetery to house the remains of the faithful departed. Also, a sign of hope for the future are the six dedicated young men in formation at the Abbey and the others in discernment.

You, too, are signs of hope to us as your prayers, friendship and support enable us to carry on the rich tradition of Benedictine monasticism and the ministries we offer to the Church. You have a special place in our hearts and prayers.

+ Justim Brown O.S.B

# RECTOR'S LETTER



President-Rector Gregory Boquet, O.S.B. We are excited to be in the spring semester here at Saint Joseph Seminary College. 2019 promises to be a year of continued growth in our services to the students and in improvements to our facilities. The St. Anselm of Canterbury Center for Academic Excellence opened for the fall 2018 semester. The learning center supports teaching and learning and is comprised of the ESL department, the Writing Center, Study Hall and general tutoring services. Currently, it is housed on the second floor of Savio Hall. In this first semester of operation under the direction of Dr. Aimee Barrios, the center conducted 589 individual sessions aiding these students with their academic tasks.

The seminary continues to be appreciative and blessed with generous donors and benefactors that are a large part of helping St. Ben's move towards a successful

future of serving young men discerning their vocation. The seminary will begin to move forward with our Facilities Master Plan this year which includes dorm renovations, additional classroom and office space, and in the near future, a dedicated seminary chapel. As funds become available, implementation of this plan will be scheduled. The young men of St. Ben's are a patient and humble group who have come here with joy in their hearts knowing that they are discerning God's call. As proclaimed in Jeremiah 29:11, "for I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope," Saint Joseph Seminary College will continue to provide an environment that allows each of our seminarians to give full attention to this call and the plans that God has for each young man in our charge in the most conducive setting possible.

Every day the monastic community prays for our benefactors, and I once more want to thank you for all the support that is extended to us in helping to ensure we continue the tasks of preparing men for the priesthood.

#### ST. ANSELM CENTER DEBUTS ON CAMPUS



One of the major changes seminarians saw last fall when they eturned to campus was the new St. Anselm of Canterbury Center for Academic Excellence at the Seminary College. The new center, currently housed on the second floor of the old library in Savio Hall support's student learning at all academic levels.

Under the leadership of Director Aimee Barrios, Ph.D., the center s particularly integral to bridging the gap for men who may not have ne necessary skill sets needed to succeed at a higher education

Seminarian lavier Zavala receives instruction in the ESL program from Jude Lupinetti.

Services available to students include English as a Second Language instruction, a Writing Center, supplemental instruction in logic, Latin, philosophy and theology as well as individual tutoring. Students in the ESL program receive 20 to 25 hours a week of class time in English.

"We strive to make the center a welcoming and supportive environment for all students, and we are so grateful for the support we have received from both the administration and the students. It has been such an honor to work with and support the talented and motivated students at St. Ben's," said Dr. Barrios.



#### MISSION IMMERSION PROGRAM BRINGS SEMINARIANS TO ECUADOR



During the 2018 Christmas break, seminarians traveled to the village of Chontapunta in Ecuador s part of the Mission nmersion Program. The program sends seminarians o live and work with

mpoverished communities in Guatemala and Ecuador during their Thanksgiving, Christmas and Mardi Gras breaks. Traveling with the seminarians this year was Assistant Dean of Students Fr. Sam Fontana

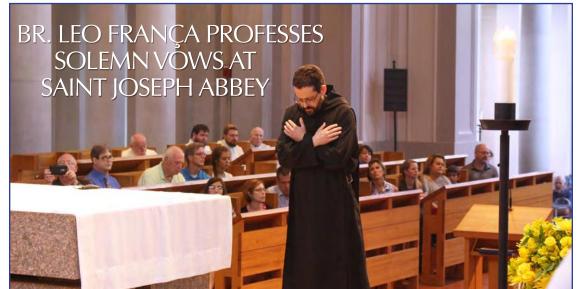
Fr. Sam and the seminarians were hosted by Jonathan and Teresa Kiehl, missionaries with Family Missions Company, who with their six children, have been living and ministering in Peru and Ecuador for a number of years. Their passion for the Gospel and love for their community were absolutely infectious. Seminarians spent much of the week visiting the smaller villages around Chontapunta, celebrating the Eucharist and sharing their faith.



"The experience of the Church in Amazonian Ecuador was truly eve and heart-opening for the men; it was not the material poverty, but the great spiritual hunger that was most moving. Many people are only able to see a priest a few times a year. The narvest is indeed abundant, but the laborers are too ew!," Fr. Sam said.

The trips are made possible by a donation from the Knights of Columbus Louisiana State Council, who for many years have contributed to the program through an annual statewide raffle.

## ABBEY AND SEMINARY NEWS



In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., the monastic community, family and friends, Br. Leo Franca, O.S.B., professed solemn vows at a ceremony held in the Abbey Church on July 11th.

"Becoming a solemnly professed monk makes me feel, in a way, complete, but I also feel that this is just the peginning of a much deeper relationship with God - a relationship to which I very much look forward," Br. Leo said.

Br. Leo grew up in Brazil and he is the son of Hime and Elizabeth França. He received his Bachelor's Degree in physical therapy at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil.

"Becoming a monk has definitely changed me. My desire to please God and nourish the 'seed' that He planted n me has greatly increased. I do hope that, as I work on becoming more spiritually mature, I can always be a positive influence to my confrères at Saint Joseph Abbey and to everyone else," added Br. Leo.

To learn more about a monastic vocation at Saint Joseph Abbey, visit www.saintjosephabbey.com/vocationshome. To see more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.





Cody Cotton and Alex Boucher (pictured with beard), entered the novitiate September 14th during a private ceremony at the Abbey. Their next year will be marked by a separation from the world and an acclimation to one's new life here. Novices take classes in monastic history and spirituality and contribute to the life of the community in orayer and work.

Cody hails from Philadelphia, Miss., and Alex is from Baton Rouge, La. To see more photos, visit flickr.com/ photos/saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.

Photos by seminarian Albert Blount.

#### VOLUNTEER WORKS FOR HEAVENLY REWARD AT ABBEY



No matter where you see him, Jeff Horchoff, with his ebullient demeanor and Cheshire grin, always seems to be the center of attention. It's easy to picture Jeff in his previous life as a mailman in Mandeville for 27 years, where he could often be found chatting up residents at their front doors or in their driveways.

Horchoff, one of Saint Joseph Abbey's most visible and audible volunteers, has been working in the Abbey's casket making operation, Saint Joseph Woodworks, for more than 10 years. He also runs ABBEE Honey, the beekeeping operation here. You may recognize him as the "Bee Wrangler" from his many bee catching

YouTube videos, one of which has more than 8 million views.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Horchoff's father was in the Air Force and a talented cabinetmaker. Recognizing his own penchant for woodworking, Horchoff took some cabinet making courses at Delgado before moving to the Northshore to work with a local woodworker. He later joined the Post Office in 1982.

"It was a great job. It went along with my personality and being able to talk to everyone. Other postal employees started calling me Mr. Ed there (after the TV sitcom character Mister Ed, the Talking Horse); it stuck through my whole career," Horchoff said.

As a parishioner at St. Jane de Chantal in Abita Springs, Horchoff visited the Abbey once or twice over the years. He says there was a mystigue about the place and that it always seemed surreal. Also at St. Jane was Deacon Mark Coudrain, director of Saint Joseph Woodworks. Coudrain knew Horchoff was thinking about retiring and thought he would be a perfect fit for Woodworks. In the end, the joy of volunteering here is what drew him in.

Horchoff has also been keeping bees at his home since 1978. When one of the monks asked him to help launch a beekeeping operation at the Abbey, Horchoff was all in.

"The reason I continue with bees is the connection between the bee and the spiritual life. While working and keeping bees, that is when I see God's hand in them. I also see a connection to monastic life. Monks and bees both live in a community, they each have common goals and a service to others. Their lives are geared to the continuation or perpetuation of the colony or monastery," Horchoff said.

This connection to a spiritual life has a personal meaning to Horchoff. Already an Abbey oblate, Horchoff is making plans to become a Claustral Oblate of the Abbey. Under these unique circumstances, Horchoff will enter the monastic community and live the life of a Benedictine monk, but not profess vows.

"If you pray with the monks long enough as I have, something happens to you. I already had been teaching catechism and RCIA, so I had background in the faith. Through prayer there's a deeper meaning to the knowledge I have gained through teaching. I discovered a sense of peace and tranquility here at the Abbey, something I also felt before when I was married. My plan is to eventually call Saint Joseph Abbey home," Horchoff stated.

For now, Horchoff continues to cut up (literally and figuratively) in Saint Joseph Woodworks and stay busy with his hives. He's also developing a new breed of bee at the Abbey, which will take about seven years. Only two years in, Horchoff plans to develop a line of bees that are able to survive on their own and get their own food source.

"To be able to volunteer, circumstances really need to be in place. I think it is difficult for people who have lives and responsibilities to set apart time to just give for the sake of giving. What you find in that selfsacrifice of time, there's no price tag. It's invaluable. For me, I'm no longer working for my earthly reward, just my heavenly reward," Horchoff said.

To support ABBEE Honey, please visit www.youtube.com/jeffhorchoff. Viewing Mr. Ed's videos helps generate income that supports the program.

#### ABBOT JUSTIN BLESSES RETREAT CENTER DURING INTIMATE CEREMONY



Fr. Jude Israel, O.S.B. and Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B.



L to R: Ron Yager, Jane Nalty and Deacon Mark Coudrain

#### COLUMBARIUMS COMING TO THE ABBEY THIS YEAR

Saint Joseph Abbey is pleased to announce that columbariums, or cremation niches, will be constructed on the cemetery property later this year. For more information, contact the Cemetery Office at (985) 867-2253.

The Retreat Center re-opened last year following a massive post-flood renovation. To see more photos, visit flickr.com/photos/ saintjosephabbey/albums or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.

Following Mass in the Abbey Church on

O.S.B., and the monastic community were

Christian Life Center for a blessing and lunch.

Sunday, Sept. 23rd, Abbot Justin Brown,

joined by friends and supporters of the

Br. Brian Harrington, O.S.B.



Elise and Jason Angelette



Artist rendering courtesy of MSH Architects

#### NECROLOGY

Please Help Us Pray For Family and Friends Who Have Passed on into Eternal Life

PATRICIA "PAT" PIRANIO ADAMS Rev. Terry Edward Allen SR. MARY CLARE AUCOIN, MHS LUCAS HENRY BACINO John Allen Bernard '46 Francis Stanislaus Blanchard '33 LEON LAWRENCE BORNE, JR. '56 Mary Pearl Breaux WARREN MATTHEW BRUE Bennie Louis Buller Dr. Robert "Bob" Carbon '62 Deacon Richard Calkins

AUGUST "GUS" CHAPPETTA, SR. SALLY ANN VON BEHREN PISTORIUS COUVILION CAROLYN "TAY" SARRAT D'AMOUR Shirley Boos Faler LORRAINE BROCKHAUS GUIDRY Donald John Jouandot '47 MSGR. J. CARSON LACAZE '51 Elsie "Arlene" Patton Landry THOMAS "TOMMY" LEBLANC Carl Louis Leefe '45 Rev. Patrick Joseph Mascarella '61 MSGR. LOUIS I. MELANCON '56

JOHN JOSEPH "JOHNNY" MEYERS, III, M.D. '64 DR. NORMIE MARIAN MILLER, D.V.M. HOLLINGER LOUIS MORTON, JR. LUCILLE "PENNY" NOBLES JAMES "JIMMY" STEWART O'BRIEN '79 Morris Bernard Phillips MARY ANN EASTIN SCHWARTZ RICHARD LOUIS SONNIER, JR. '57 EDWIN F. STACY, JR. Joseph Louis Stephens REV. HENRY C. VAVASSEUR '52