



## ST. ANSELM CENTER DEBUTS ON CAMPUS



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

"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.

One of the major changes seminarians saw last fall when they returned 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 supports student learning at all academic levels.

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

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.



## MISSION IMMERSION PROGRAM BRINGS SEMINARIANS TO ECUADOR



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

impoverished 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 eye 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 harvest is indeed abundant, but the laborers are too few!," 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.

Photos by seminarian Albert Blount.

## ABBEY AND SEMINARY NEWS

### BR. LEO FRANÇA PROFESSES SOLEMN VOWS AT SAINT JOSEPH ABBEY



In the presence of Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., the monastic community, family and friends, Br. Leo França, 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 beginning 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 in 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/vocations-home](http://www.saintjosephabbey.com/vocations-home). To see more photos, visit [flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums) or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.

### CODY COTTON AND ALEX BOUCHER ENTER NOVITIATE



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 prayer and work.



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

## 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 mystique 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 self-sacrifice 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](https://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.

Following Mass in the Abbey Church on Sunday, Sept. 23rd, Abbot Justin Brown, O.S.B., and the monastic community were joined by friends and supporters of the Christian Life Center for a blessing and lunch. The Retreat Center re-opened last year following a massive post-flood renovation. To see more photos, visit [flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/saintjosephabbey/albums) or scan the QR code in this issue with your phone.



Fr. Brian Harrington, O.S.B.



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



Elise and Jason Angelette

## 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.



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	AUGUST "GUS" CHAPPETTA, SR.	JOHN JOSEPH "JOHNNY" MEYERS, III, M.D. '64
REV. TERRY EDWARD ALLEN	SALLY ANN VON BEHREN PISTORIUS COUVILLON	DR. NORMIE MARIAN MILLER, D.V.M.
SR. MARY CLARE AUCCOIN, MHS	CAROLYN "TAY" SARRAT D'AMOUR	HOLLINGER LOUIS MORTON, JR.
LUCAS HENRY BACINO	SHIRLEY BOOS FALER	LUCILLE "PENNY" NOBLES
JOHN ALLEN BERNARD '46	LORRAINE BROCKHAUS GUIDRY	JAMES "JIMMY" STEWART O'BRIEN '79
FRANCIS STANISLAUS BLANCHARD '33	DONALD JOHN JOUANDOT '47	MORRIS BERNARD PHILLIPS
LEON LAWRENCE BORNE, JR. '56	MSGR. J. CARSON LACAZE '51	MARY ANN EASTIN SCHWARTZ
MARY PEARL BREAUX	ELSIE "ARLENE" PATTON LANDRY	RICHARD LOUIS SONNIER, JR. '57
WARREN MATTHEW BRUE	THOMAS "TOMMY" LeBLANC	EDWIN F. STACY, JR.
BENNIE LOUIS BULLER	CARL LOUIS LEEFE '45	JOSEPH LOUIS STEPHENS
DR. ROBERT "BOB" CARBON '62	REV. PATRICK JOSEPH MASCARELLA '61	REV. HENRY C. VAVASSEUR '52
DEACON RICHARD CALKINS	MSGR. LOUIS J. MELANCON '56	