

ST. NORBERT ESL EXPRESS

St. Norbert College Center for Global Engagement ESL Institute

June 2021

ESL Alumni Highlight

Written By: Jana Dettlaff and Yohei Hasegawa
Photo Credit: Yohei Hasegawa

One of our former students, Yohei Hasegawa (in our ESL program with Japan's Nihon University cohort 2015-2016), had the honor to run in the Olympic Torch Relay in Mihama, Japan on May 29, 2021, ahead of the Tokyo Olympics.



Yohei wrote about his experience: "All the moments—running as a Torch relay runner, hearing the cheers of the citizens on the bus and interacting with other runners and event [staff]—that I have experienced during the Torch Relay were the best moments of my life. I have got the best memories that I can boast to the generation of grandchildren."

The Year of Jubilee

900 Years of the Norbertine Order

Written By: Jana Dettlaff and Fr. Daniel Janacek (Czech Republic)

Photo Credits: Fr. Daniel Janacek, Jana Dettlaff

Photo Captions: Opening Celebration of Jubilee Year at the Strahov Abbey, Czech Republic (Top); Spring Virtual Tour of St. Norbert College Campus during ESL Zoom Class (Bottom)

On the first Sunday of the Advent 2020, the Norbertines opened the Jubilee Year to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the order. One of our ESL students, joining our program online this Spring 2021 from the



Strahov Abbey in Prague, Czech Republic, is Abbot Daniel Janacek. It is Strahov that is the final resting place of St. Norbert himself and where the year-long celebration began. Some of the main points of the

opening ceremony included the installation of four new church bells at Strahov and opening of the relics of St. Norbert. Fr. Daniel notes that "The idea of General chapter was that we can start our anniversary all together. The Covid 19 made it impossible. Many confreres could see it live on Youtube channel. It was different than we thought, but it was really good. St. Norbert and bells of hope give us a positive sign to look forward on other highlights which will come in this jubilee year." It is this optimistic outlook that we all cherish especially during this difficult year of the worldwide pandemic.



Contact Us

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Engagement:

English as Second
Language Institute

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Mission

We are here to enable students to acquire the language and cultural skills necessary to read, write, speak, and understand American English for academic and professional purposes.

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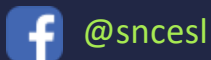
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Preparing for the Return to Normal

Written By: Jana Dettlaff and Fr. Metod Lajcak (Czech Republic)

Photo Credit: Jana Dettlaff

Photo Captions: ESL Zoom Class Welcoming a Guest Presenter, Ms. Lisa Burke (Top); ESL Online Students with their Mothers (Bottom)

As our ESL program is preparing for the return to in-person instruction, after almost 1.5 years of online-only mode of instruction delivery, we learn from the past year and look forward to the future joyfully, with much hope and optimism. Fr. Metod, our online student this Spring 2021 joining us from the Krtiny pilgrimage site in the Czech Republic, happily reflects on his experience in

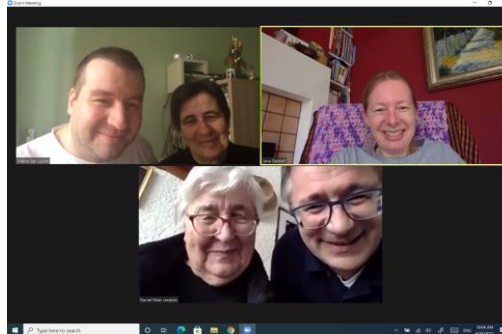
our program and shares a few tips with our future students on how to be successful in a new and challenging situation:

1. "The most important thing is to study what you really enjoy and are interested in."

2. "Study with friends and don't be afraid to meet new people and new situations. It's good to know that everyone in your class feels like family and that there is a good atmosphere."

3. "Do not stop in front of any obstacle. I experienced this in my own body when I spent several weeks in the hospital during the semester with COVID-19. However, even this illness did not stop my efforts to improve every day and achieve my goal."

Fr. Metod concludes, "I'm really happy to be a member of this great SNC family. I met many interesting guests in our classroom and I improved my language experiences. I am proud to have been a member of SNC."



Our guests (faculty and staff) have indeed been a highlight of students' experience and have presented on a variety of topics, including Mindfulness, Apples and Faith, History of Fashion, Traditional Foods in the U.S., Cybersecurity, Native American Art, Money Smart Behavior, etc.

We really have been one big family, supporting one another throughout the year, and, for the very first time in the history of our ESL program, welcoming our students' mothers in our class, right before Mother's Day 2021. Cheers to all our ESL students and their families! We have thoroughly enjoyed working with you and are looking forward to the next ESL session at St. Norbert College!