



VOLUME 60

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2020

from the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Dear Friends of Fr. Seelos,

A day that comes to mind when I think of February is St. Valentine's Day, a time when we remember those we love. At the Seelos Shrine, the people we remember with gratitude are our volunteers. We are blessed to have 43 people who help us in many ways on a regular basis. You might think that with so many regulars, we have enough hands. But with all that needs to be done to further the mission of Blessed Seelos, we gladly accept those who feel called to help.

Our volunteers do many things. Some work in the gift shop, in the office answering phones, or making second and third class relics. Others crochet relics in their homes. Some volunteers are available in the Shrine to pray with our pilgrims and to guide tours. Others go to hospitals to visit the sick and pray with them for healing. Our volunteers come from across South Louisiana: New Orleans, Metairie, Kenner, Gretna, Galliano, Marrero, Jefferson, Harvey, River Ridge, Baton Rouge, Destrehan, Lafayette, Luling, Pontchatoula, Belle Chasse and beyond.



"There are many things that our volunteers do and they come from far and near."

I'd like to invite you to join our dedicated devotees of Blessed Seelos and February is the perfect opportunity. Every day, pilgrims come in search of prayers and peace. It is, indeed, a holy place and there is a special presence of God here along with the concern of Blessed Seelos for those in special need. Our volunteers make this wonderful gift available to so many people. I hope that you can help us in our efforts to provide this sacred place to all who come here.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Below are open positions needed to fulfill our daily operations. If you would like to volunteer for a position, please call (504) 525-2495.

GIFT SHOP

- Every Monday (1 person)
- Every Tuesday (2 people)
- Every other Wednesday (1 person)
- Every other Thursday (1 person)
- 1st Friday of the month (1 person)
- 2nd Saturday (1 person)
- 3rd Saturday (2 people)
- 4th Saturday (2 people)

OFFICE

- Every Monday (1 person)
- Every Tuesday (2 people)
- Every Wednesday (1 person)
- Every Friday (1 person)

★ To volunteer ★
call (504) 525-2495

RECENT EVENTS AT THE SHRINE

VOLUNTEER THANKS DINNER



JANUARY 2020 HEALING MASS



Praise for volunteers from the desk of Fr. Enderle

I have been at the Seelos Center about five months now, serving as the promoter of the Cause of Blessed Seelos. I continue to be keenly impressed by our Center's **regular and volunteer Staff**.

This delightful group numbers about 130 women and men. In the past they have been teachers, sales reps and bankers, homemakers and hairdressers, plumbers, carpenters and military personnel. Now with faith they all serve the Blessed Seelos Cause. They help with correspondence and phone calls, with blessings and as prayer partners. They conduct tours of the Seelos Museum. Some expertly show visitors around the beautiful German Baroque St. Mary's Church where Father Seelos preached and presided, and where his Shrine and Reliquary are located.

My admiration grows as I observe the love

they have for Father Seelos. They are a community of service and welcome to so many of you who come from near and far to visit and pray at the Seelos Shrine here in New Orleans.

Every Thursday at 11:30 a.m., this community gathers in our Seelos Center Chapel for Mass, where you and your prayers are remembered. At the Prayers of the Faithful we recall the special intentions which you send us. One of my special joys is to preside at these Masses when this Community of Service prays for intentions you have sent us.

Together, we long for the day when, in Our Lord's own time, we can enjoy the exquisite joy of celebrating "Our Blessed Seelos" among the declared saints of the Church. Meanwhile, please, in turn, pray for us in our endeavor.

*Love is patient and kind
it does not envy or boast
and it's never proud,
love is not rude or selfish,
or keep track of wrongs.
Love does not delight in bad
things but it rejoices in the truth.
Love always protects,
trusts, hopes and perseveres.
Love never fails.*



St. Valentine prayer card available in the Seelos Center Gift Shop

Blessings for the Sick

Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix



Requests for a blessing are available in the following areas. Only a family member may make the request.

EAST JEFFERSON

Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)

Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

Mark / Monica Surprenant (504) 895-5371
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

UPTOWN / INNERCITY

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK

Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213
Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515
Tori Winters (504) 237-2962

ABBEVILLE / ERATH / LAFAYETTE

Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

ALEXANDRIA

Deacon Bill / Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

BALDWIN / FRANKLIN

Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

BATON ROUGE

Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON

April Mayo (985) 892-1828
Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

DENHAM SPRINGS

Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

HOUMA / THIBODAUX

Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096

IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

MANDEVILLE

David Brumfield (985) 234-9355
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 276-4445

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE

Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

OPELOUSAS

Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PONCHATOULA / HAMMOND

Gasper Corpora (225) 294-5938

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES

Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY

Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

SLIDELL

Billy Bachemin (985) 288-7006

ST. BERNARD / ARABI

Patricia Nootte (504) 460-2340

KATY, TEXAS

Lauren Johnson (218) 851-1321
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

CHURCH POINT, LA

Dax and his "super" lungs blew up two pool floats in less than 10 minutes without straining a bit! That is faster than my car air pump. He was a full term baby, but started life on a ventilator because of the condition of his lungs at birth. We were told at one point to hope for the best but expect the worst. Well, no task is too small for Blessed Seelos. We have him to thank for our boy and his super lungs today!

The best part of the story is that a nurse in the NICU let the other nurses know that they better not remove the Blessed Seelos relic from Dax's diaper. Even though she wasn't Catholic, she noticed how his vitals were completely normal until someone would remove it. Didn't take long to make her a believer in the power of prayer and of Blessed Seelos!

UNKNOWN

I was diagnosed in March of 2015 with stage 4 ovarian cancer. I had surgery and chemo, and finished in October of that year. I then required abdominal surgery, so the oncologist asked the surgeon to biopsy several areas. The surgeon reported that there was nothing to biopsy. I was totally clear of any cancer. Ovarian cancer

doesn't have a "cure" and even more so at Stage 3 or 4.

Never once did I go a day without Blessed Seelos' relic, nor ever missed a day of gratitude for him, our Blessed Mother and our Lord.

KENNER, LA

When my son was three he started to have seizures. An EEG was done and doctors said that he had a form of epilepsy known as Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. He was put on seven seizure medicines but the seizures kept getting worse. My son would have 100 seizures a day, and even at night would have them. We took him to the Seelos Center twice, where he was blessed. When he later got an ear

infection the ENT doctor put him on steroids for a week to clear it up. While on steroids he stopped having seizures! The doctor said my son had a miracle. Although rare, some children with Lennox respond to steroids. We truly believe he was healed by Blessed Seelos, by our prayers day and night, and by our faith and hope in God.



Share Your Testimonial! Click, Mail or Visit

Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.

www.seelos.org - 919 Josephine St., New Orleans, LA 70130

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm & Saturday 10am-3:30pm



Lenten Prayer for Ash Wednesday

“God of goodness and mercy, hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.

May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace.

Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to you each day. Amen.”

DO YOU PLAN TO FAST THIS LENTEN SEASON?

When pondering what to give up this year, consider Pope Francis’ suggestions to observe Lent:

- Fast from **hurting words** and say kind words.
- Fast from **sadness** and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from **anger** and be filled with patience.
- Fast from **pessimism** and be filled with hope.
- Fast from **worries** and have trust in God.
- Fast from **complaints** and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from **pressures** and be prayerful.
- Fast from **bitterness** and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from **selfishness** and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from **grudges** and be reconciled.
- Fast from **words** and be silent so you can listen.



“ *Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.* ”

– Ecclesiastes 3:20



We're on Facebook! facebook.com/SeelosShrine

Stay up-to-date on Shrine events, Blessed Seelos' canonization status, volunteer and service hours opportunities, Gift Shop sales and more!

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



LIGHT A CANDLE: A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$3.



REQUEST A RELIC: 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each.



SHOP ONLINE: Many items in the Gift Shop are now available for purchase at www.seelos.org/gift-shop. Visit today!

VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER

DONATION & CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

I would like to support the Seelos cause by donating \$_____ to be used for:

- The ministry and maintenance of the Shrine
- My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$12)
- Other items: _____

Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____

A Friendly Reminder

Newsletter Renewal Donation



If you would like to continue to receive "Seelos Center News" and have not submitted your yearly renewal, please fill out the form to the left and mail it with a \$12 donation in the enclosed envelope. Your contribution is tax deductible and helps to defray the cost of printing.

If you would like to remove or change an address, please fill out and mail the form to the left or call (504) 525-2495.

Please allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.

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The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. is a member of the National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate