

# Happy Feast Day Blessed Seelos!

VOLUME 68

## SEELOS CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2020

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



**We're Celebrating Blessed Francis  
Xavier Seelos' Feast Day!  
~ OCTOBER 5, 2020 ~**

### VIRTUAL SEELOS HEALING MASS



Due to pandemic restrictions limiting social gatherings, we will be holding our October Healing Mass virtually.

Please join us ONLINE for our Blessed Seelos Healing Mass and celebration of his feast day!

**Sunday, October 4, 2020  
1:00 PM CST**

**[facebook.com/SeelosShrine](https://facebook.com/SeelosShrine)**



★ To learn about how you can volunteer from home, please call (504) 525-2495. ★

## Seelos: Part 7 – My first assignment: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

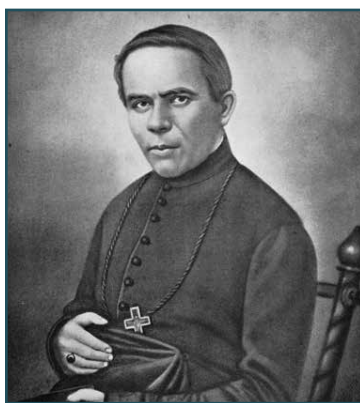
*This book, written by Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., is the story of Blessed Seelos' life told as though he were telling his own story. Look for additional installments in future issues of this newsletter.*



The City of Pittsburgh was filled with immigrants from Scotland, England, Ireland and Germany. They labored in the iron works and foundries or in the coal mines along the river. Though these workers were vital to the economy, they were not well accepted by many of the wealthier residence of the city.

We Redemptorists lived among the German immigrants in an area known as Bayardstown; the parish was referred to as “The Factory Church” because the place had been a cotton factory before we used it as our church. Eventually, the parish was named for St. Philomena and a grand building program was begun to prepare a worthy place of worship for the congregation.

When I arrived in Pittsburgh in 1845, the pastor of the parish and rector of the community was Fr. John Neumann (later canonized a saint). I was not slow to appreciate his goodness. He directed me



*St. John Neumann*

as a spiritual guide and confessor; he cared for all my needs of body and soul and loved me as his own son. I knew him a bit from my days at St. James in Baltimore, but in Pittsburgh I came to know him more because we shared the same room

with only a curtain separating our places of rest. I often heard him praying late into the night. He was wonderful to live with.



*St. Philomena Church*

Even though we constantly endured financial struggles, on October 4, 1846, a new church was dedicated. The effort to build the beautiful St. Philomena's, along with countless pastoral activities, exhausted all of us but was especially noticeable with my dear confrere, John Neumann. One day a member of the community saw him spitting blood and referred the issue to our superior in Baltimore. To our dismay, but also knowing it was necessary, Fr. Neumann was transferred to Baltimore to rest. In reality, I don't think it was much of a rest because two months later he was appointed superior of all the Redemptorists in North America! Fr. Mueller succeeded Neumann as Pastor and I continued as assistant pastor.

The ministry of the community extended much further than just the parish in the city. We served the German immigrants as far as west as Steubenville, Ohio, and as far east as Wheeling, West Virginia. New duties were added to my responsibilities when, after only three years since I first professed my vows as a Redemptorist, I was appointed Novice Master by Fr. Neumann. I was very surprised. I was only 28 years old. On my annual retreat, I prayed that I could win over the hearts of the novices and make them open to devout conversations that would inflame their hearts.

My assignment as Novice Master lasted only 16 months. I had four clerical students

and three Brother candidates during my term of office. It was a short assignment because the new vice-provincial of the Redemptorists in North America felt the novices needed to be prepared for vows in the city of Baltimore where they would be closer to the authorities of the Congregation. That meant they had to move to St. Alphonsus Parish. My direction of novices, however, did not end there. Six Sisters of Mercy arrived in Pittsburgh from Ireland, the first of these marvelous women to serve in the United States. I prepared seven of their novices for their profession of vows.

*To be continued...*



### Healing Prayer to Our Father

Heavenly Father, I call on you right now in a special way. It is through your power that I was created. Every breath I take, every morning I wake, and every moment of every hour, I live under your power. Father, I ask you now to touch me with that same power. For, if you created me from nothing, you can certainly recreate me. Fill me with the healing power of your Spirit. Cast out anything that should not be in me. Mend what is broken. Root out any unproductive cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild any damaged areas. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection. Let the warmth of your healing love pass through my body to make new any unhealthy areas so that my body will function the way you created it to function. And Father, restore me to full health in mind and body so that I may serve you the rest of my life. I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix  
(Only family members may request)*



### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

#### EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

#### OCHSNER (KENNER)

Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732  
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

#### OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

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

#### UPTOWN / ORLEANS PARISH

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

#### WESTBANK

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

### LOUISIANA

#### 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

#### HOUMA / THIBODAUX

Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096  
Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056

#### IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

#### LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

#### LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

David Faucheaux (504) 908-4120

#### MANDEVILLE

David Brumfield (985) 234-9355  
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 276-4445  
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

#### 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

### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

#### KATY, TEXAS

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### NEW ORLEANS, LA

My son was born with a transposition of the greater vessels, a heart defect that had no correction. I was told to make funeral arrangements. A woman gave me a Blessed Seelos relic. We prayed and placed the relic next to him in his crib. My

son did survive the surgeries at birth, but was very sickly and needed a pacemaker. His body rejected the pacemaker and he reportedly died many times in the hospital but was always revived. He is now 39 years old with a family and job.

### PORT ALLEN, LA

The night before my husband was scheduled to have hip replacement surgery he was burned on his arm while cooking. The burn caused a severe redness and blistering. We were told that if he had any type of injury before the surgery that might cause infection, the surgery would have to be canceled. We

rubbed Father Seelos healing oil on his arm that night. We prayed for Blessed Seelos' intercession in our need and went to bed. The next morning the burn and blisters were gone! His surgery went very well. He is now home recovering and giving thanks every day! How awesome is our God and his saints!

### FRISCO, TX

I want to publicly thank Fr. Seelos for a prayer answered. This may not rise to the level of a miracle because a dire health diagnosis was never pronounced by the medical community, but to me a good result was God-sent nonetheless. My wife discovered a small growth on her breast and one always fears the worse.

However, the mammogram results and the confirmation of her doctor proved the growth was not cancerous. Perhaps this was not a miracle but for my wife and me, it was certainly a petition answered with Fr. Seelos' intercession.

### FAIRHOPE, AL

My son, Charlie, was diagnosed at birth with Pachygyria of the brain, confirmed by MRI results and a radiologist report. While Charlie was in the NICU, we obtained a relic of Blessed Seelos and prayed for his intercession. Several months after taking Charlie home, we noticed that

he was hitting developmental milestones that were unlikely, given his diagnosis. He underwent a second MRI and the results showed that he was miraculously healed. We firmly believe that Blessed Seelos interceded on our behalf. Our son is now 6 years old and perfectly healthy.



### Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

[www.seelos.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor](http://www.seelos.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor)

### SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see [seelos.org](http://seelos.org) for visiting guidelines.

## Prayer to the Patron Saint of Mothers ~ St. Gerard Majella



Oh good St. Gerard, powerful intercessor before God and wonder-worker of our day, I call on you and seek your help. You who on earth did always fulfill God's design, help me to do the Holy Will of God. Beseech the Master of Life, from Whom all paternity proceeded, to make me fruitful in offspring, that I may raise up children to God in this life and heirs to the Kingdom of His glory in the world to come. Amen.

## OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



### PINK PRAYER BOOK & RELIC SET – \$12

*Inspirational book by breast cancer patients & survivors and a pink hand-crocheted 3rd class Seelos relic.*



### BLESSED MOTHER MINIATURE – \$24

*New 4" x 4" miniature print on canvas by New Orleans artist Marina Reed.*



### PINK BIBLE BOOKMARK – \$19

*Made by New Orleans artist Heidi Groat with silk taffeta ribbon, Czech Republic beads & gold cross.*



### ST. AGATHA NOVENA PRAYER CANDLE – \$45

*Made by Heidi Groat with bronzed medals, Swarovski crystals & St. Agatha medal, patron saint of breast cancer.*



### L'INNOCENCE STATUE – \$55

*10" hand-painted figurine of the Blessed Mother holding the Christ child & a lamb representing peace.*



### 2<sup>ND</sup> CLASS RELIC PEARL ROSARY – \$60

*Blush-colored pearl beads, a 2nd class relic of Blessed Seelos & Our Mother of Perpetual Help medals.*

*Prices listed above include shipping / handling. Prices online and in the Welcome Center Gift Shop may vary.*

## SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



**LIGHT A CANDLE:** A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$2-\$3. Please visit [seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle](http://seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle).



**REQUEST A RELIC:** 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2 each.



**SHOP ONLINE:** Many items in the Gift Shop are available for purchase at [seelos.org/gift-shop](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTENTION

### Newsletter Renewal Information



We are in the process of updating our newsletter subscription list. If you have not yet done so, **to ensure that you continue to receive this newsletter in the mail for another year** please fill out the form to the left and mail it with a \$12 offering (to defray the cost of printing and mailing) in the enclosed envelope.

**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.*

SEELOS CENTER NEWS (USPS 4472) is published monthly by the Redemptorists at The National Shrine of Blessed F. X. Seelos.

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