



VOLUME 67

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020

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

Dear Devotees of Fr. Seelos,

It's September! I can hardly think of September without thinking of school, though that has become much more complicated this year. By now, the kids would normally be in their classrooms or getting ready to start the school year. We also celebrate the final holiday of the summer, Labor Day, and a change in weather is probably not far behind.

Fr. Seelos was very much involved in teaching and, without air conditioning, was probably pleased that the heat of summer would soon be ending. He served as novice master of candidates who were discerning taking vows after a year set aside for prayer and study of religious life. He would later serve as prefect of students, giving instruction and direction to the men who had taken their vows in religious life and were completing their studies to prepare for ordination to the priesthood. He relished being available to these men during their time of formation and, judging from the glowing reports of his pupils, he was a wonderful role model and example.

As we approach autumn, we at the Seelos Center and Shrine still hope to have our regularly scheduled Seelos Healing Mass this October 4th, on the anniversary of the day Father Seelos journeyed to heaven. I'm sure our present circumstances with the virus will require special considerations with social distance and we may have to reserve the seating in St. Mary's Church for this special Mass. We will keep you up to date on this as the time draws nearer. Until then, enjoy the month of September! For us in New Orleans, it's great because it is a month with an "R" in it and that means good oysters. Blessings to one and all!



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

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

## JOIN US FOR WEEKLY SEELOS MASS



**All are welcome to our  
weekly Seelos Mass each  
Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in St.  
Mary's Assumption Church!**

We have special prayers at these Masses that we recite together to Blessed Seelos for his powerful intercession.

Safety precautions and social distancing will be enforced inside the church, Shrine and Welcome Center. Please see [seelos.org](http://seelos.org) for guidelines.



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

## Seelos: Part 6 – My first years in America

*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.*



I headed to America on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1843, to join the Redemptorist community and serve the German speaking Catholics in the United States. Three priests and three Brothers had come to the United States from the Order eleven years earlier, but a permanent settlement could not be found in the Midwest that could support a community of priests and religious brothers – they were all too small. Originally, the missionaries envisioned work among the Native peoples but eventually discovered that, as one man wrote, “for every Indian who was converted, ten Germans lost the faith.” The need to serve immigrants was immense and since they came from Germany, the priests and Brothers were equipped to serve them.

After seven years going from place to place, the community accepted work among the German immigrants in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. By the time I arrived in America, the number of confreres had

increased to ten priests and five Brothers with houses in five cities. 14 new members arrived with me in 1843 – six priests, five Brothers, one professed clerical student and two novices, including myself.

We anchored in New York harbor after a long journey across the Atlantic and then traveled to the parish of St. James in Baltimore. I began my novitiate on May 16, preparing for my profession of vows. After novitiate, I continued my theological studies there until my ordination to the priesthood on December 22, 1844. I didn't begin preaching, however, until April 1845 – one of the Fathers criticized my delivery rather harshly!



*St. James Parish, Baltimore*

During my time in Baltimore, I was told to study English. I was not pleased to study the new language, but I obeyed. Eventually, I was able to “get by” in English, but it took a long time before I found any comfort

in speaking it. We also were instructed to wear secular clothing on the street because of a terrible anti-Catholic prejudice found among some American people. Many long-time residents considered themselves “true Americans” because their families had been here longer than the newly-arrived immigrants, many of whom were Catholic.

I didn't like the bedbugs, the insects, all the different religious sects, the preoccupation of the nation with money, and the lack of religious symbols on the streets, but I expected this would be the case from the reports I had heard. I wrote to my family that if I had acted according to my own feelings, I would never have set foot in America. However, it is God who disposes, and I knew every day that being here was God's will for me. I was healthy and wanted for nothing. We had heat in the winter and water in the house and I felt accepted and supported in the community. This was important to me because in these early days of ministry, I felt very backward and seemed to make a thousand mistakes every day. I certainly did have an adjustment period in the new life I was experiencing in America.

*To be continued...*

## From the desk of Fr. Enderle: extending the mission of Blessed Seelos

Fulfilling, rewarding, precious... and I love it. Such is my ministry here at the Seelos Shrine and beyond.

I serve as Vice-postulator of the Blessed Francis Seelos Cause for Sainthood, so I am often surrounded by people of rich faith. They turn to our God for healing for themselves and for others, and in prayer they ask, as we say, “through the intercession” of Blessed Seelos.

Recently a grandmother called me. Her grandson, only eight years old, had been diagnosed with severe brain cancer. With

due caution for coronavirus, we arranged that I would meet to pray with her, her grandson, and the young boy's parents on the family's front porch, shaded by the ancient oaks of New Orleans.

The prayer and blessing took place as planned. I brought with me Fr. Seelos' Redemptorist Mission Cross which was so much a part of his missionary travels more than a century ago. This cross is our revered treasure. Who could ever count the thousands whom he blessed with that very cross! And in the last year of his life he blessed people with this very

cross who suffered from yellow fever, succumbing to it himself in 1867.

So here I was, so to speak, retracing his footsteps. What a moment it was for the parents and grandmother of this boy, and for me, when the youngster asked me, “Can I hold the cross of Father Seelos?”

Tears followed. For in that moment grandparent, parents and I shared an extension of the mission of Blessed Seelos on a porch in New Orleans, under the aged oak trees which may well have seen Father Seelos in person back in 1867.

## 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

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#### ALEXANDRIA

Deacon Bill / Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

#### BALDWIN / FRANKLIN

Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

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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

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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

### BELLE CHASSE, LA

In April I was diagnosed with MDS, a fatal blood and bone marrow cancer with zero hope for survival. The doctor advised my daughters to get my affairs in order, as I only had a few months left to live and the treatment I was undergoing was only meant to give me those few months. I began to carry a medal touched to the relic of Fr. Seelos, keeping it next to my

rosary which I have kept in my pocket for the past 35 years. Two months later, we were all – including my doctor – astonished to find I was in remission!

I thank God, Blessed Seelos and everyone who prayed for me. There is no doubt of the power and magnificence of prayer and faith.

### GREENFIELD, WI

Ever since attending a retreat where I was introduced to Blessed Seelos, I have been praying to him. In October of 2014, I took his relic with me to the hospital when I underwent surgery for breast

cancer. It was a long and complicated surgery. I truly felt the presence and blessings of Blessed Seelos. It's six years later and I am happy and blessed to say I am cancer free.

### LULING, LA

In 2016, I was working at a hospital as a dietitian manager. The job started to intensify and the travel to and from work while managing our children and household was becoming a challenge. One evening, my husband asked me if I was ready for another baby. I knew deep down that there was no way that I could have another child in my present situation. A bit later, a job opened for the food service company I work for. It was a work-at-home job that did not include travel. It was perfect, so I applied.

a relic cross of Blessed Seelos and offered to pray over any who wished for Seelos' intercession. We were prayed over! Soon after the retreat, I found out that I got the job. During the last week of working at the hospital, I also found out that I was pregnant. Leah Marie was born July 1, 2017. After Leah, our son Mark Jacob was born. We were so pleased to be able to expand our family and for me having a great job.

The following weekend, my husband and I attended a retreat for married couples. One of the other participants had brought

While praying the rosary one evening, I spotted my third class relic of Blessed Seelos. I thanked him for the favors received and asked him to join us in praying the rosary.



### 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 for a New School Year

Lord, I give this school year to you.

I pray that our children will learn exactly what is right for them to learn.

Help them to master new skills and increase in their love of learning. Prepare them for what you have destined for their futures. Protect them from harm and sickness.

I pray that they will have good attitudes and a willingness to work hard.

I pray that they will show respect to their teachers and classmates.

Please give families peace during this school year. Thank you for loving them, protecting them, and caring for them.

Amen.

## JUST FOR KIDS! ~ IN-STORE & ONLINE



### MY FIRST ROSARY – \$20

Colorful rosary of large wooden beads perfect for little hands to grasp. Comes in a gift box and includes a booklet on how to pray the rosary.



### SEELOS NIGHTLIGHT – \$28

Handmade exclusively for the Seelos Shrine, choose from 3 styles.



### WOODEN ROSARY CRAFT KIT – \$12

Children can make their own rosary with this colorful craft kit. Not for children under 3.



### “CATHOLIC PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN” – \$23

Introduce Catholic prayers to children of all ages. Signed copy.



### NOAH'S ARK PLUSH SET – \$33

Interactive plush tote and four plush animals with rattle sounds

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## A Friendly Reminder

Newsletter Renewal Offering



If you would like to continue to receive "Seelos Center News" and have not submitted your yearly renewal, please visit [seelos.org/donate](http://seelos.org/donate) or fill out the form to the left and mail it with a \$12 offering in the enclosed envelope. Your contribution is tax deductible and helps defray the cost of printing and mailing.

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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