



VOLUME 84

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022

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

## Blessed Seelos: destined to become a Redemptorist

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) is an Order of priests and Brothers that numbers more than 5,500, serving people in more than 75 countries.

The Order was founded in Italy by missionary priest Alphonsus Liguori. In 1730, exhausted from his work, he went to Scala, high in Italy's mountains, to rest and recover. Eventually he left Scala, but the images of the poor and their hunger for the Word of God remained with him. After much prayer and consultation, he recognized that he must return. So, it was there on November 9, 1732 he founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. The congregation was approved by Pope Benedict XIV on February 25, 1749. The Redemptorists have worked in North America since 1832 and became the prevalent missionaries ministering to German Catholic immigrants in many U.S. cities and dioceses.

even going so far as to set up an altar at home and hold "services" with his friends. As a child and throughout his lifetime, Seelos was exceptionally kind to the poor, sharing his clothes, bits of food, and coins in his pockets. He was destined to become a Redemptorist.

Blessed Seelos entered the seminary in 1842 after completing his studies in philosophy. Soon after meeting the missionaries of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), he decided to enter the Congregation and to minister to German speaking immigrants in the United States. He was accepted by the Congregation on November 22, 1842 and arrived in New York on April 20, 1843. On December 22, 1844, he was ordained a priest.

The Redemptorists are best characterized by their closeness with the people—Blessed Seelos is a prime example of

in touching and changing the lives of those most in need of redeeming mercy, healing hope, and gracious blessings. Through parish mission preaching events, soup kitchens, senior services, retreats, marriage preparations, food banks, publications, youth outreach and a host of other ministries, the Redemptorists can be found delivering the Gospel message wherever it is needed.

*Article content courtesy of st-mikes.org and redemptoristsdenver.org.*

*Their mission has remained for more than 275 years:  
to serve the poor and most abandoned.*

Ever since childhood, when Blessed Seelos was affectionately known as "Xavier", he expressed a desire to become a priest,

this. They understand well that the work of redemption is not theirs alone, thus they invite everyone to walk with them



*Blessed Seelos proudly wore the Redemptorist cassock, missionary crucifix and 15-decade rosary pictured above. See the actual crucifix and rosary he carried at his Shrine in New Orleans.*

# Beyond Valentine: Three *Other* Saints to Celebrate in February

In February, St. Valentine usually gets all the attention. Here are three saints and healers who also celebrate feast days this month.

## ST. BLAISE

*Patron of Throat Ailments*



Every year on February 3, Catholic Churches around the world perform throat blessings in honor of St. Blaise. It is said that, among a host of other healings throughout his lifetime, Blaise removed a fish bone from the throat of a choking child while on his way to being tortured and martyred for refusing to renounce his faith.

### Throat Blessing of St. Blaise

*"Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. St. Blaise, pray for us."*

## ST. AGATHA

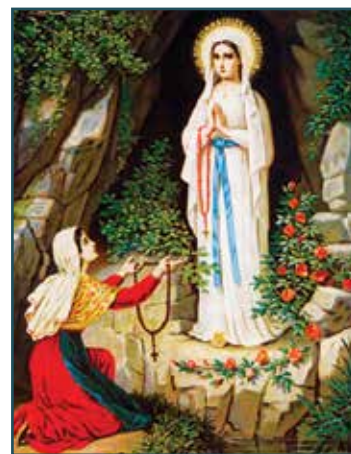
*Patroness of Breast Cancer*



Born around 231 in Italy, St. Agatha was a consecrated virgin who dedicated her life to God. Her physical beauty attracted unwanted attention from men. When she rejected the hand of one such man of high diplomatic ranking, he tried to force her into accepting his marriage proposal by imprisoning her in a brothel for months. Facing her situation with calm and strength only enraged the man more. He began torturing Agatha, including such horrors as rolling her naked over hot coals mixed with sharp shards, and cutting off her breasts. She endured it all with a sense of cheer. Agatha eventually succumbed and was martyred around the year 251. Her feast day is celebrated on February 5.

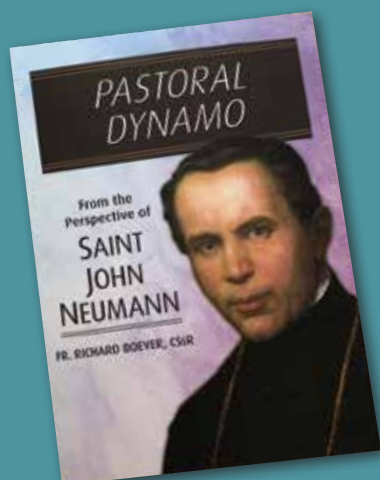
## THE VIRGIN MARY

*Our Lady of Lourdes*



The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes commemorates the 18 apparitions of the Virgin Mary to a 14-year-old French peasant, Bernadette Soubirous. Through her visions, occurring between February 11 and July 16, 1858 near the town of Lourdes, the Virgin led her to a nearby grotto and the miraculous spring that appeared there.

Today, nearly six million people a year make the pilgrimage to Lourdes to drink and bathe in the healing waters of the spring. To date, 70 unexplained healings have been deemed miraculous by the Vatican. Our Lady of Lourdes' feast day is celebrated on February 11.



## Pastoral Dynamo: From the Perspective of Saint John Neumann



A NEW book by Fr. Rich! \$15 in the Gift Shop

Imagined in the first person and accompanied by excerpts from letters written by Saint John Neumann, Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., tells the story of a poor immigrant who reaches worlds beyond his Bohemian birthplace.

**Call (504) 525-2495 or order your copy online!**



## Blessings for the Sick

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

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

#### EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

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#### OPELOUSAS

Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

#### PONCHATOULA / HAMMOND

Gaspar 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

### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

#### KATY, TEXAS

Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321  
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### LITTLE ROCK, AR

My mom was suffering from shingles for two weeks. I used Fr. Seelos' holy oil and placed it where it hurt her the most, touched it with the card that holds a piece of his burial cloth, prayed from one of the cards, and asked Fr. Seelos for

intercession. I left the house to run a few errands. When I returned 5 hours later, my mom said she felt great soon after I left—she was no longer bedridden! Praise Jesus and thank you, Blessed Seelos, for your intercession!

### BOUTTE, LA

My sister had a difficult delivery and my nephew was born with several medical issues. He spent several days in the NICU. The nurses and doctors were doing what they could for him but he was not expected to survive. I made a trip to the Seelos Shrine. I spent the day praying to Fr. Seelos asking for healing

for my nephew. The morning after my visit to the Shrine, I received word that there had been some improvement. Each day since my visit with Fr. Seelos, more good news on his recovery and healing. I believe through the intercession of Fr. Seelos my nephew is getting better and stronger each day. Thank you Fr. Seelos!

### NEW ORLEANS, LA

My best friend was diagnosed with a rare lung disease. He was in an induced coma, on a ventilator. His wife told me he was not expected to survive. Not being very religious but having heard of Blessed Seelos, I told her I would go to the Shrine and pray for him. It was my first time there. A volunteer/prayer partner helped me pray for my friend. I felt good after my visit to the Shrine and texted my friend's wife to tell her about it. Five days later, my friend was stable but he was still fighting for his life. I returned to the Shrine to pray for my friend. One of the volunteers offered to let me pray with the Seelos relic cross. It's hard for me to

describe, but I felt like I was reaching out and making a connection. I felt very peaceful. When I got home, my wife commented that I seemed "different." Several days after my second visit with Fr. Seelos, my friend's condition began to stabilize. He was taken off the ventilator and began steadily improving. I have visited Fr. Seelos' Shrine several times since my friend's health issues began. I offer thanks and prayers for continued intervention and God's blessing for my friend. I am grateful and I thank God and Blessed Seelos for watching over my friend. Amen!



### 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)

*Happy St. Valentine's Day! ~ February 14*

### SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.

## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ FEEL THE LOVE

Visit [SEELOS.org](http://SEELOS.org) to view all of the items available for sale in the Gift Shop.



### HEART SCRIPTURE TOKEN – \$3.75

Carry some solid advice in your pocket!  
This 1" pewter token features a cross inside a heart on one side and the phrase "Trust in the LORD with all your HEART" (Proverbs 3:5) on the other side.



### OLD WORLD HEART GLASS ORNAMENT – \$12

It's not just for Christmas trees! This 2½" bright red blown glass ornament in the shape of a heart is perfect for hanging wherever it can sparkle in the light.



### "SPECIAL WOMAN" TRINKET TRAY – \$16

This 4" glass tray features the phrase "Special Woman YOU ARE LOVED" in metallic gold lettering. Comes wrapped and ready to give!



### "ALWAYS IN MY HEART" TRINKET TRAY – \$19.50

This 6" x 4" ceramic tray features floral watercolors of artist Carol Robinson and the phrase "You are always in my heart" in metallic gold lettering. Comes wrapped and ready to give!



### ST. VALENTINE LAMINATED PRAYER CARD – \$3

Pray to the patron saint of love with this beautiful laminated prayer card featuring gold metallic details.



### ADJUSTABLE OVAL MIRACULOUS MEDAL RING – \$7.50

This gold-toned ring features a Miraculous Medal encased in blue enamel. Its adjustable size makes it the perfect fit for any finger.

Quantities are limited. 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 \$3-\$4. 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 \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



**SHOP ONLINE:** Items in the Gift Shop are available at [SEELOS.org/gift-shop](http://SEELOS.org/gift-shop).

**VISIT [SEELOS.ORG](http://SEELOS.ORG) OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER**



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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please ☐ remove ☐ change my name and address as follows:

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