



VOLUME 88

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JUNE 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

The complicated process of the beatification of Blessed Seelos looked at every aspect of his life. The investigation and the testimonies were bound in four large volumes called "The position concerning the life, virtue and reputation for sanctity" of Francis Seelos.

Right at the beginning of the introduction of Seelos to the judges and consultants who would be looking at his case, the document describes a wonderful fellow. Those words still serve us today:

"Presented for your consideration and judgment in this Information is a summary of the life and virtues of Father Francis Xavier Seelos, professed member of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. The charm of his personality was most appealing; people were easily drawn to him because of his gentle and cheerful disposition. He was a most happy and joyful religious and priest. His pastoral ministry as a parish priest, student prefect, and missionary preacher was enhanced and aided by the fascination that he exerted on everyone who met him. He made it easy for those whom he served to see the beauty of holiness and to become aware of the realness of the unseen world. He brought God very near to the people who came under his influence."

Nothing better could be said about one who has given his life to God as a religious and a priest. Again and again in the biographies of Blessed Seelos, we read about the attractiveness of his personality to the People of God. He was holy but he also was approachable and was always aware that he was to serve those entrusted to his care. This is not very different from the path God has laid out for each of us: to be holy—faithful to God—and to do that by being content in the duties of our station in life. That is an example we can all take to heart.



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

Fr. Rich Boever, C.Ss.R.

SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Mona Dupleix

What brought you to the Shrine?

"After retiring from my nursing career, I hurt my back doing yard work. I prayed to Fr. Seelos to heal me without any medical intervention. I was healed and was looking to do volunteer work. It was meant to be!"

What do you do at the Shrine?

"I assist in the gift shop and help with the Healing Masses."

What's your favorite thing about the Shrine? "The peace I feel when I walk on the grounds. My favorite place is the courtyard."

What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you? "I love my time volunteering at the Shrine. I hear stories from visitors and it makes me realize how lucky I am. I drive back to Lafayette (3 hours away) and it is a great time to reflect."

Save St. Mary's!

2022-2024

In 1866, Blessed Francis Seelos was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans. He celebrated Mass, administered the other sacraments, and heroically ministered to the sick and dying during the yellow fever epidemic. His final resting place is in his shrine, located within the church.

Built in 1858-1860, St. Mary's is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the most beautiful Catholic churches in New Orleans. Over the years, age and climate—which is hot, humid, and vulnerable to hurricanes—have taken its toll on St. Mary's. The church has sustained serious damage to the interior plaster walls and ceiling. Pieces of plaster

have fallen from high up on the inside of the church near the ceiling, indicating issues with water intrusion. Past repairs have been made on a case-by-case basis but **if the problem is to be solved, the entire masonry exterior must be addressed in a comprehensive way.**

As stewards of this treasure and being deeply devoted to the legacy of Blessed Seelos, the priests and religious of the parish are raising the funds necessary to preserve this beautiful church. Their "Save St. Mary's 2022-2024 Committee" will organize and direct efforts to restore St. Mary's to its original beauty while fortifying its structure for generations of the faithful to come.

To donate online, please visit **StAlphonsusNO.com/SaveStMarys** or scan this QR code with your phone's camera:



To mail a donation, send a check to:

Restore St. Mary's
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Thank you for your consideration and dedication to Blessed Seelos, and to this unique Catholic landmark.

THE PLAN TO SAVE ST. MARY'S



PHASE 1 – EXTERIOR \$2,400,000

As with any restoration, the exterior of the building must be addressed first. The brick's defective mortar will be raked out and tuck pointed with appropriate breathable soft mortar that allows moisture to escape to the exterior, rather than being drawn inward by the air conditioning system. A breathable water repellent (approved by the Louisiana Historical District Commission) will then be applied to the bricks. The exterior wood windows and doors of the church will be repaired and repainted.

THE ESTIMATED COST OF THIS RENOVATION IS \$4 MILLION.

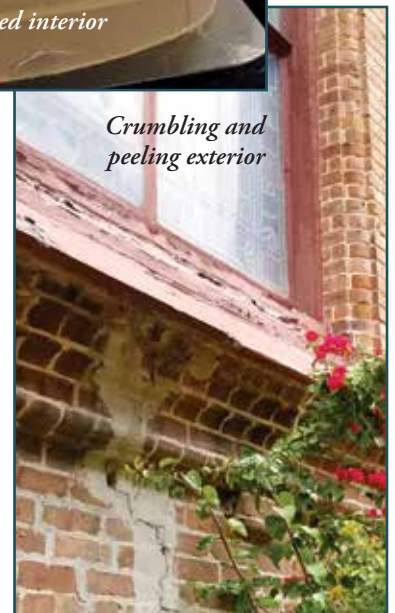


PHASE 2 – INTERIOR \$1,600,000

After an appropriate drying period, moisture tests will be conducted and the interior of the church will be addressed. Defective plaster will be removed and replaced with soft plaster appropriate to the historic structure. Once the plaster has cured for a month, the church will be repainted with its original colors, based on paint analysis previously done. The artwork of the sanctuary, which was refurbished following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, thankfully does not need any work.



Cracked interior



Crumbling and peeling exterior

Blessings for the Sick

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

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

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Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

METAIRIE, LA

Our son had extensive surgery for stage four carcinoid cancer 13 years ago. He was young, with a wife and two boys in grammar school. We attended a Seelos Healing Mass at St. Mary's soon after, where he was blessed and prayed over with the relic crucifix. Ever since, we have prayed daily to Fr. Seelos while holding one of his first-class relics. The awesome

wonder of God's mercy working through our son's surgeons and the power of prayer for the intercession of Fr. Seelos were manifested so clearly when our son and his Irish band played before the altar at St. Mary's at a recent concert. Miraculously, the remaining cancerous tumors in his body have not grown.

HINSDALE, MA

I requested prayers at the Seelos Shrine for my son who had to have a very risky aortic replacement surgery. I asked for

prayers for a successful surgery and my prayers were answered. I am so very APPRECIATIVE! God bless!

WALL TOWNSHIP, NJ

My adult son is a survivor of childhood cancer. He was experiencing very worrisome symptoms and needed diagnostic testing. I immediately went to Fr. Seelos for intercession, had candles lit at the shrine, and applied the holy oil

on my son. The scans, bloodwork, and biopsies were all negative, thanks be to God! What a great friend we have in Blessed Seelos and the entire staff at the shrine! Pray for his sainthood!

RAYNE, LA

In December 2019, at 50 years old, I was involved in an accident that left me a paraplegic at the T8 level. When I was in the hospital, a friend placed a Blessed Seelos pendant on me and I've worn it every day since. I prayed to him and to

God every night to allow me to walk again. In March of 2022, I walked again for the first time. I have no doubt that he had a hand in it. Thank you Blessed Father Seelos!!



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

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

HOT IN THE SHOP

Visit SEELOS.org to view all of the items available for sale in the Gift Shop.



FATHER'S DAY GIFT SET – \$18

This gift set for dads features reflections, prayers and advice in the "Father's Manual" booklet and the "Prayers for Fathers" booklet. Also help dad keep his place with a wooden Seelos bookmark. Gift bag included.



DAD'S ST. JOSEPH GIFT SET – \$8

Perfect for Father's Day, this gift set features the booklet "The Catholic Dad: Coaching Your Family", along with a laminated St. Joseph prayer card and St. Joseph holy medal. Gift bag included.



FRESHWATER PEARL & LEATHER BRACELET – \$20

Handcrafted in New Orleans by Shrine volunteer Leila Benazo, this bracelet features five freshwater pearls and a Seelos medal on two black leather cords.



ST. JOSEPH WITH CHILD STATUE – \$32

This 6½" tall full-color statue depicts St. Joseph dressed in flowing robes, holding a joyful child Jesus in his arms.



MINIATURE REDEMPTORIST CRUCIFIX REPLICA – \$23

This 4½" tall cross is a replica of the crucifix that all Redemptorists carry, and features a distinctive skull and crossbones at the base.



HANDMADE SEELOS RELIC WALL CROSS – \$59

Made in New Orleans by Shrine volunteer Bill Zimmermann, this unique 12" tall wooden cross features a Seelos medal and a second class relic – a small piece of the cloth that bound his bones.

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.



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.

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



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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.

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:

Name: _____

Address: _____
