



VOLUME 87

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MAY 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

Many people, including me, think that May is the most beautiful month of the year. I guess it is not too surprising that the month be dedicated to the most beautiful person in the history of our Christian faith—Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, too.

Blessed Seelos had a special devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, and the devotion of the faithful has been shown in ceremonies such as May Crowning and Marian hymns like this one that dedicate the month of May to Mary:

*Bring flowers of the fairest,  
Bring flowers of the rarest,  
From garden and woodland and hillside and vale;  
Our full hearts are swelling,  
Our glad voices telling  
The praise of the loveliest Rose of the vale.  
O Mary! we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.*



May you enjoy the month and benefit from the prayers and intercession of our Mother and of our beloved Blessed Seelos.



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

*Fr. Rich Boever, C.Ss.R.*



# Prayer for the Consecration of Russia & Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



On March, 25, 2022, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, praying especially for peace and an end to war. Let us unite our prayers with theirs.

Most glorious Mother,  
Queen of Heaven and Earth,  
To you do we turn in our time of need.

Your Heart is most pure,  
Your virtues overflow in superabundance,  
You are the Immaculate Conception,  
You are our Mother and Queen.

In the face of grave evil,  
In this time of war,  
In this time of devastation and chaos,  
We entrust all to you.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Please pray for us,  
Cover us with your mantle of protection,  
Free us from violence,  
Free us from war.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Call us to repentance,  
Open the eyes of sinners,  
Pour down your Son's mercy,  
Pour down His abundant grace.

We consecrate to your Immaculate Heart this day,  
Ourselves and our loved ones,  
Our families and churches,  
Our communities and countries.

Most Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
In union with the Holy Father in Rome,  
With the bishops throughout the world,  
With all the faithful at prayer,  
We consecrate Russia and Ukraine to you.

Receive them into your Immaculate Heart,  
Bring healing and peace,  
Strength and wisdom,  
Love and compassion,  
Mercy and forgiveness,  
Reconciliation to all.

Through the powerful mediation of your Immaculate Heart,  
Bind Satan and all demons,  
Thwart their evil plots.

St. Michael the Archangel,  
All angels and saints,  
Pray for Ukraine,  
Pray for Russia,  
Pray for peace in the world,  
Pray for peace in every heart.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

Jesus, I trust in You.  
Jesus, I trust in You.  
Jesus, I trust in You!

Amen.



*Statue of the Virgin Mary  
in the reliquary room at  
the Seelos Shrine*

## 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  
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### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

#### KATY, TEXAS

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### IOTA, LA

June 11, 2014 is a day that I will remember as the scariest moment of my life. My son Jack was 18 months old. On June 10, Jack developed what we thought was a stomach bug. He was unable to hold anything down. When I arrived home from work on June 11, my wife Sheila told me that Jack had not wet his diaper all day and he was walking unsteadily, so I took him to an urgent care clinic. After examining Jack, the doctor also felt that he had a stomach bug and gave him some medicine. Later that evening, Jack started seizing. I frantically dialed 911 and waited for an ambulance.

As we arrived at the ER, Jack was surrounded by a doctor and nurses. The hospital priest came to the ER and prayed over him. Later, he was admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). Several doctors ran tests and diagnosed Atypical Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (aHUS), a rare, chronic disease that causes red blood cells to form clots in the bloodstream, creating blockages and damaging the kidneys. There is also a more common form of HUS, but still rare, and usually occurs with an E. coli infection. Only one drug is available to treat aHUS. It is \$30,000 per dose and has to be shipped from New York. The doctors informed us that with a diagnosis of aHUS, Jack would have to receive this treatment every 2 weeks for the rest of his life. All of this was so overwhelming. I left the PICU briefly to stop by the hospital chapel. I went to a pew and knelt down. As I was praying, I felt this incredible draw to a statue of the Blessed Mother on the wall. It was as if she was staring at me. I walked over and sat down in the pew next to her. At that moment, I felt an incredible sense of peace, like nothing I had experienced before. I felt that everything would be ok.

A few days later, my phone rang. It was our parish priest, Fr. Eric. I filled him in and also told him about my experience with Mary. He said, "If there is anyone who understands what you are going through, it is the Blessed Mother." How true. Since Fr. Eric was sick at the time, he asked one of our parish deacons to come to the hospital. All three deacons came to visit and pray with us, one after the other. Deacon Claude introduced us to Blessed Seelos. He left us with a relic of Fr. Seelos, which we affixed to Jack's bed.

Until this point, Jack had been pretty unresponsive and when he did wake up, he was cranky. Earlier that day, he finally had a dirty diaper. They took a sample to the lab for testing. Within a few minutes of the last deacon leaving, Jack woke up and wasn't cranky! He was babbling, laughing, and playing with his toy trucks. As my father-in-law and I were enjoying this moment, our nurse came in. She looked as though she had some exciting news. She told us that Jack's stool sample had tested positive for E. coli, a good indication that Jack had "typical" HUS instead of aHUS. All of this occurred within minutes of our introduction to Fr. Seelos. I have no doubt that we had witnessed a miracle that day. After he was discharged, he continued to get better each week. One year later, he showed no evidence that any of this ever occurred.

We truly believe this was a miracle. I believe that God challenges us through events like this. Maybe He was using Jack as a way to increase our faith and the faith of those who hear this story. My hope is that this story will help those who are lacking find their faith. I know that it has strengthened ours.

## SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

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



## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ ALL ABOUT MOM

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



### “MOM” PLAQUE – \$21

*This freestanding wooden plaque, shaped in one of the most popular and widely-used words in the English language, features beautifully painted flowers and metal butterfly appliques.*



### “SOFTLY SPOKEN” BRACELETS GIFT SET – \$16

*This dainty silver colored bracelet set features a heart charm and pink crystals on a card that says “Mom, thank you for being my heart’s first home.” Gift bag included.*



### TASSEL CUFF BRACELET – \$16

*This elegant gold colored cuff bracelet features a cross charm and two small tassels, and comes attached to a card that says it all – “Love you Mom”. It looks great alone or can be stacked with other bracelets.*



### “GIVING HEART” PILLOW – \$41

*This weighted heart-shaped pillow holds hearts and thoughts, delivering a soft, stress-relieving comfortable hug. Available in pink, lavender, taupe and cream.*



### “CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: THANKS MOM” BOOK – \$18

*Children of all ages share their words of gratitude and appreciation in this collection of stories for moms.*

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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