



VOLUME 90

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

AUGUST 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

We enter a new month of the year – August. At the Seelos Shrine and Center, we welcome the month on the first day of August which is the **Feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori**, a man who Redemptorists, like myself and Blessed Seelos, hold dearly to our hearts.

Born in 1696 near Naples, Italy, Alphonsus Maria de Liguori is important to us at the Shrine because he founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (the Redemptorists) to serve those most in need of spiritual help. He adopted a style of ministry to “mission among the people” and knew how to reach ordinary people who had limited education and very real needs. It was because of these ideals that Blessed Seelos came to the United States as a Redemptorist missionary, rather than remain as a priest in Bavaria where life was more settled. He felt called to serve the thousands of German immigrants who were storming the shores of America, looking for a place to call home.

Did you know? Derived from the Latin language, the letters after a Redemptorist's name are written Congregatio Sanctissimi Redemptor, or C.Ss.R. The “C” stands for Congregation, the “Ss” for Most Holy, and the “R” for Redeemer.

Blessed Seelos was proud to put the letters of his religious family after his name. We at the Shrine celebrate the beginning of August in a special way for the feast day of St. Alphonsus. As we usher in this new month may it be a time of great spiritual advancement for each and every one of us.



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

ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI'S BEDTIME PRAYER

Jesus Christ, my God, I adore Thee and thank Thee for all the graces bestowed on me this day. I offer Thee my sleep and all the moments of this night, and I beg Thee to keep me from sin. Therefore, I place myself at Thy most sacred side and under the protecting mantle of Our Lady, my Mother. May the holy angels help me and keep me in peace, and may Thy blessing be upon me.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace in your loving arms.

Letting not the sun set on my wrath, may I now close my eyes in peace with my God and my fellow men.

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Amen.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Excerpt from catholicnewsagency.com

Every year on August 15th, Catholics celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God.

Venerable Pope Pius XII confirmed this belief about the Virgin Mary as the perennial teaching of the Church when he defined it formally as a dogma in 1950, proclaiming, “that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.”

Although the bodily assumption of Mary is not explicitly recorded in Scripture, Catholic tradition identifies her with the “woman clothed with the sun” who is described in the Book of Revelation. It calls that woman’s appearance “a great sign” which “appeared in heaven,” indicating that she is the mother of the Messiah and has “the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of

twelve stars.” Accordingly, Catholic iconography often depicts the Virgin Mary’s assumption in this manner.



“It was fitting,” St. John of Damascus wrote in a sermon on the assumption, “that she, who had kept her virginity intact in childbirth, should keep her own body free from all corruption even after death,” and “that she, who had carried the creator as a child at her breast, should dwell in the divine tabernacles.”

The Feast of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics, on which they are obliged to attend Mass or Divine Liturgy.

SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Shirley Colomb

What brought you to the Shrine?

“FAITH! I visited the Shrine as a child. When my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, I brought her to the Shrine for prayers and blessings. My husband and I also attended Healing Masses and on one occasion, we brought our dog, Sable, who was diagnosed with bladder cancer.

During the pandemic, the Shrine received numerous requests for prayers from people suffering from medical issues and those that had died. While I was recovering from knee surgery, I decided it was time to get back to volunteering. I saw a message in the newsletter looking for volunteers and the rest is history.”

What do you do at the Shrine?

“I answer the phone, work in the gift shop making and labeling items, data input, ringing up sales, and I talk with and escort visitors to the Shrine.”

What’s your favorite thing about the Shrine?

“I enjoy the camaraderie of the volunteers and staff. The visitors are another favorite – they share their stories and need encouragement and compassion. They are always grateful.”

What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you?

“I have volunteered from early on – school, college and throughout my career. I believe each of us has been given a gift that needs to be shared. Volunteering is about what I can learn and it helps me become a better person as well as improving my life-long skills. It helps me see the faith of our visitors and coworkers and the love that they share. I am pleased that I can be a small part of that.”

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Crocheters & Prayer Partners



Calling all crocheters, tatters and cro-tatters!
We need your skills to add decorative trim
around Seelos 3rd class relic cards. Work from
anywhere and mail us your completed cards.



Pray Partners are needed to pray with pilgrims visiting the Shrine
on Mondays thru Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm.

Email Heidi Groat at hgroat@seelos.org
or call (504) 525-2495 for more information.

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

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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
Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545

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
Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450
Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807

IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

David Fauchaux (504) 908-4120

MANDEVILLE

David Brumfield (985) 234-9355
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE

Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

OPELOUSAS

Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES

Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY

Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

KATY, TEXAS

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

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

HAMMOND, LA

I was brought to the emergency room after suffering with shortness of breath, fever, chills, and severe weakness. I was diagnosed with Legionaire's Pneumonia. The pulmonologist noted that the X-ray of my lungs looked like they belonged to someone who should be "six feet under." I continued to decline. I had no energy, was speaking incoherently, and had no appetite. My treatments included antibiotics, steroids and oxygen therapy. Two days later, I felt that I was truly approaching death. I called my parish priest to come and he administered the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion. I felt a strong sense of peace.

My family grew up in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. We attended Redemptorist elementary and high schools and have always been close to the Redemptorists. Fr. Seelos is someone we turn to in times of trouble. While I was in the hospital, my sister contacted the Seelos Center. A prayer partner visited me with a Redemptorist crucifix and blessed and prayed over me with the Relic cross. After this visit, my lungs began to clear and my body got stronger. After a week

of continued improvement, the doctor said I could go home.

Once home, I continued to pray to Fr. Seelos. I could hardly walk a block before becoming fatigued and short of breath. I had physical therapy and the therapist pushed me to walk. I gradually improved and was discharged from home health and physical therapy.

I have prayed to Fr. Seelos for many years and do believe he is there for me when I need him. I believe he remembers me as a teenager and part-time sacristan in St. Alphonsus parish. I was charged with opening St. Mary's church each morning. The church was completely dark and the lights were on the other side of the altar. I would open the door and fly across the sanctuary, running over Fr. Seelos' tomb, which was in the floor, and flip the lights on as quickly as I could. I believe he chuckles when I pray to him, remembering me as the kid who ran over his crypt. I think he has forgiven me.

I attribute my healing to our Divine Physician, along with the intercession of Blessed Seelos.

MANDEVILLE, LA

On April 2, 2021 I was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer that metastasized to the bone. A friend gave me a Blessed Seelos relic. I prayed every night. My aunt signed me up for the Seelos Center newsletters, and I saw that they were having a Healing Mass. I called several

family members to see if they would join me, which they did. Seven months after my diagnosis I had a second PET scan. It showed no cancer anywhere. This was achieved with prayers and natural remedies – no conventional treatments. Prayers are very powerful!



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.



A Prayer for Students & Teachers

Lord, thank you for the unique gifts of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Cover them with your enduring love. Give them confidence and grace and equip them with the ability to persevere through trials. Bless their teachers with wisdom, understanding, and a heart to serve as they embark on the journey together.

Amen!



HOT IN THE SHOP ~ IN-STORE & ONLINE



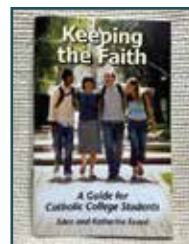
TEEN PRAYER GIFT SET – \$8

Includes the “Prayers for Teens” pamphlet, the “Choosing Well” pamphlet and the “Teen Creed” prayer card.



CHILDREN'S ROSARY GIFT SET – \$14

Includes “The Rosary for Children” book and a colorful rosary.



“KEEPING THE FAITH” PAMPHLET – \$4

This “Guide for Catholic College Students” is great for those preparing for or just arriving on campus.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA WOOD STATUE – \$110

21” tall antiqued statue of Mary dressed in white with gold details, adorned with a gold crown.



SEELOS DIVINE PROTECTION DOOR HANGER – \$19

Handmade by a Shrine volunteer, with 3 assorted holy medals and a Risen Christ crucifix.



SEELOS AUTO KIT – \$28

Includes a holy water spray bottle, auto rosary, key chain and visor clip all featuring images of Blessed Seelos.

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: _____
