



VOLUME 89

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

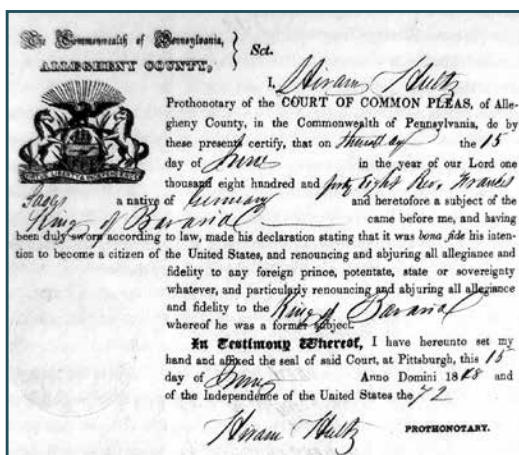
JULY 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

I find it hard to think of this month without remembering America's Independence Day. The Fourth of July seems like it marks the high summer. In the United States, it's a time for patriotic music, bar-b-cues with family and friends, a swim in the pool and great fireworks at the end of the day. Celebrating our independence and the gifts we have been given by our freedom becomes all the more relevant as we witness how the people of Ukraine are being subjected to invasion of their country.

Fr. Seelos became a citizen of the United States on October 6, 1852. He never returned to his native land. As an American citizen, he exercised his ministry in his adopted country in various parishes staffed by the Redemptorists and preached missions throughout many states. He even made a journey to Washington, D.C. to call upon President Lincoln at the White House to express his concern of the seminarians under his charge being drafted into the Army during the Civil War.



*Fr. Seelos' Declaration of Intent for U.S. Citizenship, c. 1848*

We often hear about the plight of immigrants who wish to come into the land of the brave and the home of the free because of the oppression they experience in their native lands. This, too, should make us appreciate all the more the gift those of us who live in these United States have been given.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

*Director, National Shrine of Blessed*

*Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

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

## FREEDOM PRAYER

Almighty God,

Bless our nation  
and make it true  
to the ideas of freedom  
and justice  
and brotherhood  
for all who make it great.



Guard us from war,  
from fire and wind,  
from compromise, fear, confusion.

Be close to our nation's leaders;  
give them vision and courage,  
as they ponder decisions affecting peace  
and the future of the world.

Make me more deeply aware  
of my heritage;  
realizing not only my rights  
but also my duties  
and responsibilities as a citizen.

Make this great land  
and all its people  
know clearly Your will,  
that they may fulfill  
the destiny ordained for us  
in the salvation of the nations,  
and the restoring of all things in Christ.

Amen

*Courtesy of Catholic.org*

# Understanding Sacramentals

Among the items in our gift shop, we have available a number of sacramentals. Catholic sacramentals include relics, crucifixes, rosaries, scapulars, religious medals, holy water, blessed oil, blessed salt, statutes, etc. Some of these items are brought to a priest to bless them after purchase; some items are blessed before purchase. For the items that are blessed already, including holy water, oil and salt, there is no charge for the sacramental, but there is a cost for the containers that hold them, and charges for mailing, if required.

Sacramentals are used in a great many circumstances of life. **Always, the use of a sacramental must include a prayer for the need felt by the individual.** The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes that “every baptized person is called to be a ‘blessing,’ and to bless”. It is for this reason that many of our pilgrims take home with them holy water, blessed oils

and blessed salt, as well as other articles of devotion—they want to bless their own loved ones or themselves who are experiencing a special need in life.

“Every blessing praises God and prays for his gifts.” As such,

*The use of a sacramental must never slip into the realm of superstition, charms, or magic as though the sacramental itself had some kind of power apart from prayer and devotion.*

Sacramentals help us enter more fully into a faith-filled action that calls upon God to bless the situation we are experiencing and to be present in a special way.

## SACRAMENTALS IN THE GIFT SHOP

Visit [SEELOS.org](http://SEELOS.org) to view all sacramentals available.



## ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

*The estimated cost of a much-needed renovation is \$4 million.*



In 1866, Blessed Seelos was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans. His final resting place is 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 have

taken its toll and the church has sustained serious damage. Plaster has fallen from 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” is directing 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](http://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.



## 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

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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

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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

## SAINTLY CORNER



### ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA

St. Kateri is the first Native American to be recognized as a saint. Born in 1656 in a Mohawk village, she contracted smallpox as a child which killed her entire family and badly scarred her skin. Kateri was raised by her uncle, a Mohawk chief. She was known as a skilled worker, diligent and patient. However, she refused to marry. At age 19, Kateri converted to Catholicism, taking a vow of chastity, unprecedented for a Native American woman whose future depended on being married. She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, she stole away one night and began a 200-mile walking journey to a Christian Indian village near Montreal. Kateri was very devout and would put thorns on her sleeping mat. She often fasted and on at least one occasion, she burned herself. Her practices of self-mortification and denial put a strain on her health. Just five years after her conversion, she passed away at age 24, on April 17, 1680. Witnesses said that her emaciated face changed color and became like that of a healthy child. The lines of suffering and smallpox scars disappeared. Kateri is the patroness of ecology and the environment, people in exile, and Native Americans. Her feast day is July 14.

*Adapted from catholic.org and franciscanmedia.org*



### OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Mount Carmel has been a place of prayer since the 10th century before Christ. In the 12th century, the Order of the Brothers of the Blessed Virgin of Mt. Carmel were officially founded. The 13th century was a time of persecution for the Carmelites. In the midst of this trial, on July 16, 1251 the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Prior of the Carmelites, giving him the Brown Scapular. She said, "This is a privilege for you and the order: whoever dies wearing the Scapular will be saved." Since that time, the Brown Scapular has become a sign of living for Jesus, following the example of the Blessed Virgin. Along with being the patroness of the Carmelites, Our Lady is also the patron saint for Chile, for Bolivia, for protection from danger, and for deliverance from Purgatory. We celebrate her feast day on July 16.

*Adapted from ewtn.com*



### STS. JOACHIM & ANNE

Saints Joachim (pronounced "wal-keem") and Anne are thought to be the parents of the Virgin Mary. There are no mentions of them in the Bible. What we know comes from Catholic legend and the Gospel of James, an unsanctioned, apocryphal writing from the second century AD. The ancient manuscript says that Mary was promised to Joachim and Anne by an angel, was consecrated to God, and remained a virgin all her life. Joachim and Anne serve as role models for parents and represent that entire quiet series of generations who faithfully perform their duties and practice their faith, but remain obscure. Their feast day is July 26.

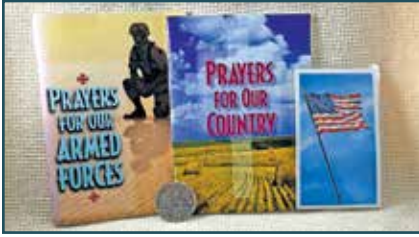
*Adapted from catholic.org and franciscanmedia.org*

## SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

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

## HOT IN THE SHOP

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



### NEW! "PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY" COLLECTION – \$12

This patriotic collection features the "Prayers for Our Armed Forces" booklet, "Prayers for Our Country" booklet, a laminated "Prayer for Religious Liberty" prayer card, and a prayer token with a representative each of the Armed Forces on the front and "Thank you for Serving Our Country: 'Character is not something we are born with, it is revealed at the most trying times'" on the back.



### ST. MICHAEL KEEPSAKE BOX – \$40

This 4 ½" x 5 ½" oval-shaped bronze box features a beautiful carved image of St. Michael the Archangel slaying a demon. The lid is accented with an ornate border and subtle color details.



### GUARDIAN ANGEL GIFT SET – \$8

This set includes a laminated card with an angel watching over two children and the "Guardian Angel" prayer, necklace with a medal of a guardian angel and child with the inscription "Pray for Us", and bracelet made of blue woven rope and heart-shaped Blessed Mother images.



### LARGE ORNATE HOLY WATER SPRAY BOTTLE – \$34

Made in New Orleans by artist Heidi Groat, this amber colored glass bottle features a decorative applique with an image of Seelos. Comes filled with 8 oz of holy water.



### "MY GOODNIGHT PRAYER" PLUSH LAMB BOOK – \$30

This uniquely cuddly 8" x 11" book features a nighttime prayer and color images perfect for babies and toddlers. Press the lamb's foot to hear the Goodnight Prayer.

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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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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_