



VOLUME 91

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

For many, Labor Day at the beginning of September marks the end of summer vacation. It served this purpose more obviously when school didn't open until after the holiday. Nonetheless, it feels like the days of vacation, the time at the pool, hikes and picnics will no longer be a daily occurrence. The major league baseball season is getting close to its end and we await the start of football season. So, even though Labor Day doesn't rank among some of the big holidays we celebrate, it is a significant one. It won't be long now till it turns cold outside.

There aren't many big feast days in the church calendar this month, but there is one of my favorites—the Exultation of the Holy Cross on September 14th. This celebrates that the cross, an instrument of torture for Jesus, has now become for us a symbol of great victory. On the day after the feast of the Holy Cross, we celebrate the feast of the Sorrowful Mother. You may recall that Father Seelos was thrilled with the statue of the Sorrowful Mother in St. Mary's Church and even asked to be buried under that statue when he died. (Remember that in Blessed Seelos' day, priests were buried in the floor of the church.)

For some Seelos devotees, this September is a particularly special time. We will be going on pilgrimage to Bavaria, Fr. Seelos' homeland. We will see the house in which he was born, the parish church where he and his family spent so much time, and the building that served as his grade school in Füssen. We'll also see his high school in Augsburg and his university in Munich. It will be a special time for our pilgrims. I'm sure there will also be time to squeeze in a stein of German beer in the town square.

Even though it is not our practice to say "Merry Labor Day" like we do for Christmas, I still wish you all a good season as we prepare for winter.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

Director, National Shrine of Blessed

Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

SAVE THE DATE

SEELOS FEAST DAY HEALING MASS

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2022

Fr. Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R., Celebrant

Confessions 12 pm ~ Mass 1 pm

St. Mary's Assumption Church
and facebook.com/SeelosShrine

Shrine, Center & Gift Shop

10 am - 12:30 pm & 2 - 3 pm

★ To learn how you can
volunteer for Healing Masses,
call (504) 525-2495. ★

Striking a balance between a cheerful zest for life and intense spirituality

Fr. Seelos was always known for his cheerfulness. A university companion, Anton Schirsner, said of him:

"He was always so cheerful, so full of life and of almost exuberant gaiety that everyone had to love him. Somberness, gloomy seriousness, moodiness, and so forth, were strangers to him. Toward all he was full of straightforward friendliness, openness, and goodness of heart. But what constituted the foundation of the whole man, from a psychic and spiritual point of view, and from which he must be understood if one wants to describe him to you and to others, is his purity of heart." (p. 33)

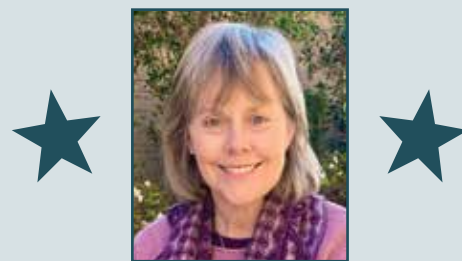
Seelos was beloved and he always enjoyed life with others. But he never allowed himself to become complacent with his spiritual life. During one of his retreats, he reflected on the path toward good ministry for him. He was speaking to himself and thus addressed himself by the name his family called him – Xavier:

"Xavier, you must be transfigured and consecrated through fasting and prayer. Then you will be strong. The mute will confess their sins; the rigid will become soft, repent of their guilt, admit their misery, make use of their means. The foolish and stupid will be enlightened. You will awaken those burning in the fire of lust that they may not perish. Those agonizing in the abyss of despair will come forth and breathe the divine air of mercy. Those attached to the things of this world will seek for help from heaven. The weak and the wavering will become strong. Those foaming with anger and those snapping for revenge will become meek and mild. Those hardened in sin from their youth will be renewed and become children of God." (p. 53)

It was in large part the balance that Fr. Seelos was able to attain in living his spiritual life. He was intense in his conviction and in the execution of that conviction but he never lost the zest for life. His people knew both parts of Blessed Francis Seelos.

The quotes above are taken from the writings presented in the cause of being declared to have practiced heroic virtue, the kind of virtue needed for canonization: POSITIO SUPER VITA, VIRTUTIBUS ET FAMA SANCTITATIS, Vol. I.

SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Stacey Shane Schott

What brought you to the Shrine?

"I started praying with a prayer partner and thought I should give back."

What do you do at the Shrine?

"I organize the annual walk of the nine churches, work in the gift shop and assist with the Healing Masses."

What's your favorite thing about the Shrine?

"I feel peaceful being in front of the relics and in the presence of Fr. Seelos' relics/body."

What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you?

"We all need to spread some positive thoughts and encourage others to pray and have faith. Volunteering lets me do things for others and hopefully will bring them back to experience the same peace that I have felt."



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Crocheters, Prayer Partners & Videographers

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



2. Prayer Partners are needed to pray with pilgrims visiting the Shrine on Mondays thru Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. No experience necessary!

3. We're looking for a volunteer to live stream Seelos Healing Masses. Must be able to attend Masses in person, climb steep stairs, and use an iPhone camera. Brief training included.

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

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

SAINTLY CORNER



ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

St. Gregory was born around 540 in Rome into a family of great wealth and influence. His great-great-grandfather was Pope Felix III (before the clergy took vows of celibacy). Gregory was well educated and excelled in all his studies. He became the Prefect of Rome when he was 33. After Gregory's father died, he converted the family villa in Rome into a monastery which still stands today.

When Pope Pelagius II died in 590, Gregory was proclaimed pope by acclamation. This was not something he wanted because he preferred the monastic life.

Pope Gregory was famous for the emphasis he put on missionary work. He was known for his alms to the poor, and he gave generously of the riches donated to the Church. He ordered his clergy to go out into the streets to find and care for the poor. When a famine struck Rome in the 590s, Gregory used the Church's two thousand square miles of land to feed the people. Instead of selling the produce, he ordered it to be given away for free, saving thousands from certain death. Gregory himself refused to eat until his monks returned from their work of handing out food. Because of his devotion the poor, it was Pope Gregory and the Church that became the most respected and obeyed force across Italy. Gregory died in 604 and was immediately proclaimed a saint. His feast day is September 3 and he is the patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers.

Adapted from catholic.org



ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

St. Teresa of Calcutta, or Mother Teresa, began life as Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910 in Skopje, Macedonia. Her religious formation was assisted by the Jesuit parish of the Sacred Heart. Moved to pursue missionary work, Gonxha joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland at the age of 18 and received the name Sister Mary Teresa. After making her First Profession of Vows in

1931, Sister Teresa was assigned to the community in Calcutta. She made her Final Profession of Vows in 1937 and from then on was called Mother Teresa.

It was on September 10, 1946 that Mother Teresa received her "inspiration, her call within a call." Jesus asked her to establish a religious community dedicated to the service of the poor. In 1950 the Missionaries of Charity officially opened. By the early 1960s, Mother Teresa began to send her Sisters to other parts of India. In 1965 she opened a house in Venezuela, followed by Rome and Tanzania and, eventually, every continent. Numerous awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, honored her work.

In spite of severe health problems towards the end of her life, she continued to respond to the needs of the poor. By 1997, her Sisters numbered nearly 4,000 in 123 countries. On September 5, 1997, Mother Teresa's earthly life came to an end. She was canonized by Pope Francis on September 4, 2016. She is the patron saint of World Youth Day and Missionaries of Charity. Her feast day is September 5.

Adapted from catholic.org

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

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



Mother Teresa's Daily Prayer

Dear Jesus, help me to spread
Thy fragrance everywhere I go.
Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love.

Penetrate and possess my whole being
so utterly that all my life may only
be a radiance of Thine.

Shine through me and be so in me
that every soul I come in contact with
may feel Thy presence in my soul.
Let them look up and see no longer
me but only Jesus.

Stay with me and then I shall begin
to shine as you shine, so to shine
as to be a light to others.

Amen.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ IN-STORE & ONLINE



NEW! SEELOS BLESSED SALT – 8 oz \$20, 4 oz \$15

The ancient sacramental of Salt is an instrument of grace, together with prayer, used to protect one from evil. Add a few grains of blessed salt to food or drinking water, sprinkle across entryways or in your car, place on the tongue of a person being baptized, or carry some with you.



SEELOS QUOTE ORNAMENT – \$22

This two-sided antique gold framed ornament features a Seelos image, a quote, and a gold Seelos medal.



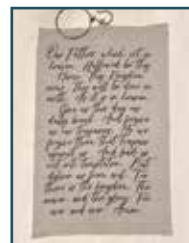
SEELOS GOLD STRETCH BRACELET – \$28

This bracelet features gold-toned squares and a gold Seelos medal. Flexes to fit all wrists.



SHRINE BISTRO MUG – \$26

This 16 oz blue speckled bistro mug features a sandstone rim and Shrine logo. Makes a great gift for coffee lovers.



"OUR FATHER" LINEN TOWEL – \$25

This 18" x 28" machine-washable linen towel features the "Our Father" in script and comes with decorative hook.

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: _____
