

VOLUME 104

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2023

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

The Redemptorists' primary mission is preaching to the poor and most abandoned. We strive to be good news to God's children by our closeness and concern for people; being present, listening, and trying to compassionately answer their anxious questions. Our founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori, wrote over 100 books to assist us in coming to a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and morals, as well as pragmatic ways of living the Christian life. Father Seelos wrote letters to friends, family and his Redemptorist confreres. So much of what we know about his life and holiness are from what we learn through his prolific letter writing. One such letter was written to his cousin, Monica Baur. He writes, *"My dear Monica, please do not be led astray in your way of life by the coldness, by the unbelief, by the malice of our dissolute, frivolous, and shameless age. With your children go faithfully to the holy sacrifice of the Mass; receive the holy sacraments as often as possible and permissible for you. At home, make use of the customary practices of prayer with continual perseverance. A beautiful death, the death of a God-fearing mother, and a beautiful eternity, a glorious crown await you."*

Writing is a way that Redemptorists convey God's mercy and plentiful redemption. Our writing is known as our "apostolic of the pen." The Redemptorists of the Denver Province have promoted this for over a century through the *Liguorian* magazine and other books and pamphlets, and bulletins. I invite you to share in this wonderful ministry by subscribing to the *Liguorian* and learning more about the spiritual and faith formation products of Liguori Publications ([www.liguori.org](http://www.liguori.org)).

Finally, I also invite you to attend the Seelos Healing Mass at St. Mary's and online on October 8 – 1 PM for the English Mass or 3 PM for the Vietnamese Mass. Receive healing graces through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos! I hope to see you there, and please introduce yourself. I would love to meet you personally!



In the redeeming love of Christ,

*Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.*

Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

*Interim Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

## SEELOS HEALING MASSES & ANOINTING OF THE SICK



**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

ENGLISH MASS ~ 1:00 pm CDT

St. Mary's Assumption Church  
and on Facebook Live  
John Fahey Guerra, C.Ss.R., Celebrant

VIETNAMESE MASS ~ 3:00 pm CDT

St. Mary's Assumption Church



Rev. John Fahey Guerra is the chaplain of the Hispanic Apostolate for the Diocese of Baton Rouge and lives in the St. Gerard Redemptorist community.

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

# Enjoy a century-old Catholic publication

For over 100 years, *Liguorian* magazine has offered hope, inspiration and spiritual guidance to thousands. It represents the best of the Catholic Tradition, with timely pastoral messages to Catholics on matters of the faith, practices, Christian living, and social justice. Subscribe today to receive the *Liguorian* in your home or in your inbox!



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## SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



**Manny Broussard**

**How long have you been volunteering at the Shrine?** “4 years.”

**What brought you to the Shrine?**

“I had two brothers and a sister-in-law who were diagnosed with cancers. I came after hearing about Blessed Seelos. I bought a dozen second class relics, then sent one to each of my sick family members. I still give relics and prayer cards to people who are dealing with health and life problems. I was asked if I would like to volunteer and said yes.”

**What do you do at the Shrine?**

“I work in the gift shop and volunteer for Healing Masses. I am also a prayer partner in the Shrine.”

**What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you?**

“Volunteering has helped me to spend time developing a prayer life past the doors of the Shrine. I see the goodness in all of the volunteers and priests at the Seelos Shrine. I only hope that goodness can be seen in me.”

## Zealous Missionary / VI THỪA SAI NHIỆT THÀNH

From the Perspective of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

Now Available in English (\$15) & Vietnamese (\$24)

Written in the first person and accompanied by excerpts from letters Blessed Seelos wrote to his family, confreres, and others, Father Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., highlights the struggles and successes of missionary life, with a personal touch. Translated by Father Dominic Bao Tran, C.Ss.R.

Call (504) 525-2495 or order at [SEELOS.org](https://SEELOS.org)



## Blessings for the Sick

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

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

**EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL**  
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

### 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 / THIBODAU**  
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

**SLIDELL**  
Lisa & Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677

**LAKE CHARLES**  
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

**LULING & SURROUNDING AREA**  
David Faucheaux (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

### RIVER RIDGE, LA

Here's my story, or should I say miracle? My son, Kenny, was 12 when he was diagnosed with leukemia in 2007. When Kenny was born the doctors didn't expect him to live because he had heart problems which caused his esophagus not to grow and attach to his stomach. He had to have a feeding tube inserted the day he was born, at five months old he underwent open heart surgery, and three months later an esophageal atresia procedure attached his esophagus to his stomach.

At the age of five Kenny had an infection in his hip and was in a body cast for six weeks. After getting out of the cast he started kindergarten and things went back to normal for several years, till he turned 12 and was diagnosed with leukemia. When we were admitted to the hospital, the doctors told us they were going to start chemotherapy. All I could think of after all he's been through was, "Is he going to make it through this?"

Well, my husband and I went to the Seelos Center where a prayer partner prayed with us in the chapel. She also asked a Seelos blessing to come to the hospital and

bless Kenny. Soon after that, the doctor said the cancer had disappeared but he wanted Kenny to finish treatment. After completing chemotherapy, we found out that it caused his esophagus to swell where it was attached to his stomach. This prevented food from going into his stomach.

The gastrointestinal doctor said Kenny was probably going to have to eat puréed food for the rest of his life. After we received that news, I called the Seelos Center again and the same blessing came to the hospital and prayed on Kenny with the crucifix of Father Seelos. My son was sleeping during the prayer, but when the blessing touched Kenny with the cross he lifted his head up, looked at the cross, and laid back down. It was very moving!! Later that night Kenny started eating, and has been eating normally ever since.

In my opinion, what we experienced was a miracle. I am a true believer and I know in my heart Blessed Father Seelos healed my son. Thank you, Blessed Seelos, for your intercession!



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

**Give Thanks to God & Blessed Seelos  
on Our Thanksgiving Wall at the Shrine!**

Has Blessed Seelos interceded for you or a loved one? Show your gratitude with a brief word of thanks. Submissions will be posted throughout November on our Thanksgiving Wall in the Seelos Welcome Center.

**Submit your words of thanksgiving  
online at [www.SEELOS.org/thanks](http://www.SEELOS.org/thanks)  
or call (504) 525-2495!**



**SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS**  
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see [SEELOS.org](http://SEELOS.org) for visiting guidelines.

# Happy Feast Day Blessed Seelos!

On October 5th, we celebrate Francis Xavier Seelos – a gentle, caring and compassionate soul who was moved to help those in need and was loved by nearly everyone he met. This month and every month, we ask his intercession for ourselves and our loved ones.

Bountiful God,  
in Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,  
You have given Your people a  
model for those who labor joyfully  
in Your earthly kingdom. May  
his smile dwell on those who find  
life burdensome. In him, our eyes  
continually behold the gentleness  
of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen.

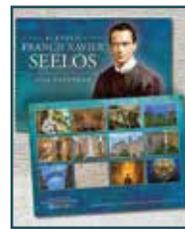
– Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ NEW ITEMS!



### SILVER SEELOS MEDALLION NECKLACE – \$20

*This 18” necklace features  
a round Seelos medallion  
on a silver chain.*



### SEELOS 2024 WALL CALENDAR – \$19

*Made in New Orleans  
exclusively for the Shrine.  
Features large photos of the  
Shrine, church & grounds.*



### SEELOS HEALING PRAYER GIFT – \$19

*Features a Seelos prayer  
card and a token with the  
inscription “This token is a  
reminder that you are being  
thought of and loved.”*



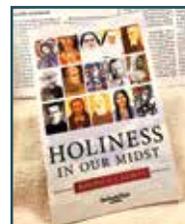
### ST. PEREGRINE CANCER PRAYER KIT – \$16

*Includes holy oil, prayer  
cards and a pewter token  
of St. Peregrine, patron  
saint of cancer patients.*



### ST. AGATHA BREAST CANCER PRAYER KIT – \$16

*Includes holy oil, a Seelos  
relic, glass stone and prayer  
card to the patron saint of  
breast cancer patients.*



### “HOLINESS IN OUR MIDST” BOOKLET – \$5

*This 32-page booklet tells  
us about the life of Blessed  
Seelos and other saints.*

*Quantities are limited. Prices 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-\$5. 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 OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER**



SEELOS CENTER NEWS (USPS 4472) is published monthly at The National Shrine of Blessed Seelos, a ministry of the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers.

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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: \_\_\_\_\_