



VOLUME 110

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

APRIL 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

As you may be aware, Pope Francis is a vocal advocate for synodality in the Catholic Church, emphasizing the importance of collective discernment and decision-making processes within the Church. Synodality refers to the principle of walking together, where the entire community of believers actively participates in the life and mission of the Church. Pope Francis believes that this approach fosters a more inclusive and collaborative Church, where the voices of all members are heard and valued.

In his call for synodality, Pope Francis highlights the need for open dialogue, active listening, and genuine accompaniment of others. He encourages a culture of encounter and engagement, where differences are respected, and decisions are made through consensus-building rather than top-down directives. This approach reflects a deep commitment to unity and solidarity among the faithful.

Our beloved Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, known for his humility and compassion, exemplified the principles of synodality in his life and ministry. He was renowned for his attentive listening to the needs of the people he served and his willingness to accompany them in their joys and struggles. Blessed Seelos believed in walking alongside others, offering guidance and support while respecting their autonomy and dignity.

Blessed Seelos is a model for us, not only of holiness and humility but of synodality rooted in empathy and understanding towards others. He approached every interaction with a spirit of openness and compassion, seeking to build authentic relationships based on mutual respect and trust. The staff and volunteers at the Seelos Welcome Center strive to emulate our holy patron as the beneficiaries of his legacy to inspire everyone visiting the Shrine to feel seen, listened to, and held in prayer as we provide synodal accompaniment. Please know that we value you and sincerely pray for your intentions! We hope to see you at the Healing Mass on April 14th.



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

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

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

## SAVE THE DATE SEELOS HEALING MASS & ANOINTING OF THE SICK



**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

St. Mary's Assumption Church  
and Facebook Live ~ 1:00 pm CT

**Main Celebrant & Homilist:  
Father John Olenick, C.Ss.R.**

Vicar Provincial Superior  
of the Redemptorists of the  
Baltimore Province



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

# Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Institute announced

Article and photos courtesy Donnelly College

In Kansas City, KS at SHINE 2023, Donnelly College President Monsignor Stuart Swetland announced the launch of The Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Institute for the Advancement of Catholic Education. The Institute aims to provide services to the local Catholic community by embracing two of Donnelly's core values: seeking truth and building community.

The Seelos Institute is named after Blessed Seelos, a German-born Redemptorist priest who dedicated his life to serving the poor and marginalized, with a special focus on immigrants and youth.

"As a Catholic College, Donnelly is called not just to provide education and faith formation to its students, but to engage the Church and the greater community in lifelong learning," Msgr. Swetland said. "With the creation of The

Seelos Institute, the College will have a more formal structure for expanding these efforts."

One key initiative of The Seelos Institute provides ongoing faculty formation in elementary and secondary schools throughout the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas – a service previously provided by Holy Family School of Faith. The staff responsible for this initiative are Sebastian D'Amico, Jennifer Punswick and Aaron Williams, Donnelly's former director of mission.

Two other initiatives are also underway: a partnership with the Ethics of Evidence Foundation to publish a series of scholarly works exploring the relationship between faith and science, and adult education including a monthly adult Bible study and business classes. More initiatives will be added as The Seelos Institute evolves.



Sebastian D'Amico



Jennifer Punswick



Aaron Williams

## SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Terry Loetzerich

**How long have you been volunteering at the Shrine?** "5 years."

**What brought you to the Shrine?**

"In 2018 after a cancer diagnosis, my sister and her husband introduced me to Blessed Seelos and St. Mary's Church. I attended Sunday Mass the day before my surgery. The beautiful church and shrine embraced me and my family – I knew I had found HOME here! I've been cancer free for five years. I'm so very blessed! I immediately felt I wanted to give back in some way."

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

"I volunteer every Tuesday at the Gift Shop. I talk to visitors about the life of Blessed Seelos and introduce them to his miracles and our prayers for his canonization. I also listen to their needs and pray with them."

**What is your favorite thing about the Shrine?**

"I enjoy feeling the presence of Blessed Seelos and meeting all those that are drawn to him, and helping bring comfort to them."

**What is your favorite spot at the Shrine?**

"When we are not busy in the gift shop, I love to pray beside the Blessed Seelos statue, and also Theresa of Lisieux – Our Little Flower! My mother named me after her. She has watched over my family all my life."

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

"It's heartwarming to share my blessing with others and it's an honor to pray with those in need. Most importantly, I am helping to promote the canonization of Blessed Seelos."



## Get more out of Eucharistic Adoration

The month of April is devoted to the Holy Eucharist, a perfect time for attending Eucharistic adoration. Here are some things to do while you're there:

- Say "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner" repeatedly to quiet your mind.
- Speak to Jesus and tell Him all that comes into your thoughts.
- Read a passage from the Bible and ask God to let the passage speak to you.
- Think of those who have hurt you and request a special blessing for them.
- Sit quietly and just BE. Instead of talking to the Lord, try listening for His voice.

Courtesy [www.stjulianachurch.org](http://www.stjulianachurch.org)

## Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix*

*(Only family members may request)*

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

#### CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

#### 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)

Monica Surprenant (401) 207-5521

Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

#### ORLEANS PARISH

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 / THIBODAUX

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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 Faucheaux (504) 908-4120

#### MANDEVILLE / SLIDELL

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

#### PONCHATOULA

David and Joan Diaz (504) 715-6642

#### 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

### STOCKTON, CA

Last year, my 93-year-old mother had to endure numerous hospital visits, intrusive medical procedures and was on several heart medications to treat pleural effusion, a condition in which the surrounding areas of both lungs filled with fluid. The doctors did not know why she was suffering from this dangerous condition. In January 2023, her health began to deteriorate. She was put on 24-hr oxygen, she was weak and could not walk. She was constantly out of breath and in extreme pain. She had to endure four lengthy hospital stays where she endured numerous intrusive procedures. My mother was declining in body and in Spirit.

When she relapsed for the fifth time, she was unable to breath even with the oxygen and was delirious and in constant pain. On May 5, 2023, she collapsed and it was at this time we believe a divine guidance spoke to us and told us to take her to another hospital. She was immediately admitted to a thoracic medical intensive care unit at a different hospital and was attended to by numerous teams of medical personnel.

Throughout my mother's hospital stay, prayers were said to God, Blessed Seelos and other saints. Each day her medical condition improved, astonishing the medical staff.

After 11 days of intensive treatments, she was discharged. She is now in better health, has lost over 40 pounds and is no longer on 24/7 oxygen. She is walking again and does not take any of her numerous heart medications that she had been taking for over 20 years. My mother endured six thoracentesis which was unheard of for someone of her age. It is a risky procedure with dangerous consequences. It is a miracle that her lungs did not collapse and kill her. She has not had any recurrence.

My mother's strong Catholic faith guided her and helped her with a full recovery. She never lost faith and is a true living testament of the Power of Prayer. Our family would like to say a heartfelt Thank You to Jesus Christ our Savior and to Blessed Seelos for his intercession in her full recovery from this dangerous condition. Praise God. God is Good.

### INDIANAPOLIS, IN

I was completely healed following praying a novena to Father Seelos which happened to end the day of my oldest son's first reconciliation.

I was recently injured in a car accident and the MRI showed complete tears which could only be repaired with surgery using knee connections from

a deceased donor. I did not have the surgery, but I received full healing.

I was healed as I entered the confessional and the Lord allowed me to kneel without pain for the first time in over four months! I have had no pain at the sites since that healing.

### Prayer Partner Available By Phone

Can't make it to the Shrine? Volunteer **Geri Heigle (504) 312-1732** is available to pray with you by phone 7 days a week, any time day or night.



**SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS**  
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.



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PUBLISHED BY THE REDEMPTORISTS

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist at Mass, when the celebrant gathers not only bread and wine, but the substance of our lives joined to Christ's perfect sacrifice. These prayers are offered not to Christ, but to the Father. Although our offering is in itself imperfect, joined with the offering of Christ it becomes perfect praise and thanksgiving to the Father. *Courtesy usccb.org*

## HOT IN THE SHOP



### ARTISAN BIBLE – \$60

*This NRSV updated edition delivers an accurate, readable, and inclusive version of the Bible with lined, wide margins for journaling, notes and art.*



### MADONNA & CHILD CANDLE – \$20

*This 10" glass-encased candle with gold detailing burns for up to 124 hours and features an illustration of Mary and Jesus.*



### CONFIRMATION ROSARY BOX – \$19

*This beautifully detailed 2½" stone resin box features a gold Holy Spirit Dove and an engraved bible verse, Isaiah 11:2, on the lid.*



### LACE CONFIRMATION PRAYER CARD – \$3

*This card features an image of the Holy Spirit on the front, "Come Holy Spirit" prayer on the back, and lace detailing around the edge.*



### CROSS CUFF RING – \$44

*This 18k gold plated stainless steel ring features a cross with 6 sparkling stones. Fits sizes 6-7.*



### "EVERYDAY GRATITUDE" BOOK – \$11

*This book features nearly 200 short gratitude-themed devotions to brighten your outlook.*

*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: \_\_\_\_\_