



VOLUME 112

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JUNE 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

I find it interesting that when people are looking for true happiness, they often look to material possessions, fabulous vacations, finding someone who offers loving companionship; and yet in their search for steadfast happiness, one's relationship with God is often overlooked or taken for granted. Finding true happiness in our relationship with God is a profound journey that many individuals embark on in their lives.

**First and foremost, our relationship with God provides a sense of purpose and meaning in life.** This vital relationship with the Divine can bring a profound sense of peace and contentment, knowing that there is a greater plan at work. **Moreover, connecting with God allows us to find solace in times of difficulty.** Life is filled with challenges and obstacles, and having faith in God who unconditionally loves us can provide comfort and strength during trying times. The belief that God is always present, offering love and support, can help us navigate through life's storms with resilience and hope. **Furthermore, the relationship we develop with God fosters a sense of community and belonging.** Building connections with others who share the same faith can deepen one's relationship with God and enhance feelings of happiness and fulfillment. Our relationship with God encourages us to cultivate virtues such as compassion, forgiveness, and gratitude. Embodying these virtues in interactions with those around us can help us experience a sense of peace and harmony. The spiritual practice of gratitude, for instance, allows us to appreciate the blessings in our lives and find joy in simple moments.

Finding true happiness in our relationship with God is a transformative journey that can bring immense joy and fulfillment. Our relationship with God offers a pathway to a life filled with love, meaning, and true happiness. Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos' legacy as America's "Happy Saint" continues to resonate with his devotees, inspiring us to emulate his virtues and seek spiritual growth in our own lives. Blessed Seelos, help us to experience the joy and happiness you found in your deep relationship with God.



*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.*

## FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND



One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints. So I said to the Lord, "You promised me, Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you."

*— Mary Stevenson, 1939*

# The Vital Role of Good Dads

*Abridged article courtesy National Catholic Register*

*To mark Father's Day, Bishop Shelton Fabre of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, wrote a statement that celebrates the irreplaceable role of fathers.*

“We Christians must support men who, in following the example of St. Joseph, choose to embrace their role as a father in all circumstances, but especially in challenging situations. St. Joseph was unexpectedly called to fatherhood amid extremely confusing and difficult circumstances. However, despite many obstacles, St. Joseph chose to be faithful. St. Joseph chose life by listening to God’s will and consciously deciding to be a father to Jesus, the Son of God.

Like St. Joseph, all fathers are uniquely entrusted with the protection and defense of both mother and child and, in this way, safeguard the sanctity of human life. But fatherhood extends beyond simple procreation and biology. Fatherhood is

first a spiritual reality, because fatherhood has its origins in God who chose to reveal himself to us as Our Father, sending his only Son for the sake of our salvation.

Fathers have a vital, unique, and important role to play in the personal and spiritual development of their children, and in reflecting the love of God the Father. Fathers are called to show the world the virtues of a tender protector, while living out the virtues of humility and courage.

In all circumstances, but especially in difficult circumstances, a father needs to be encouraged to faithfully accept the role entrusted to him by God and support the mother of his child. Through our prayers and through the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of fathers, may fathers come to know the irreplaceable role they hold in the lives of their children, and the responsibility they share in welcoming God’s gift of new life!”

*Here are some additional quotes to encourage and inspire fathers in their vocation.*

**POPE FRANCIS:** “Every family needs a father — a father who shares in his family’s joy and pain, hands down wisdom to his children, and offers them firm guidance and love.

A good father knows how to wait and knows how to forgive from the depths of his heart. Certainly, he also knows how to correct with firmness: He is not a weak father, submissive and sentimental. The father who knows how to correct without humiliating is the one who knows how to protect without sparing himself.”

**POPE BENEDICT XVI:** “God is a Father who never abandons his children, a loving Father who supports, helps, welcomes, forgives, saves, with a fidelity that immensely surpasses that of men, opening up to an eternal dimension.”

## Birthday Blessings

On behalf of the Redemptorists, the Seelos Welcome Center staff and volunteers, I express our deepest gratitude for your generous donations during our Blessed Seelos Birthday Blessings campaign. Your support means the world to us, and it will make a significant impact on our maintaining the Seelos Welcome Center, the work of the National Shrine of Blessed Seelos, and promotion of his cause for canonization.

Your kindness and generosity touched our hearts, the birthday campaign garnered \$18,000—donations that were greatly needed! May Blessed Seelos continue to watch over you and your family and intercede for your special intentions. Blessed Seelos, pray for us!

Warm regards and my personal prayers,

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

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

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



## 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

**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

**LAFAYETTE / ABEVILLE / ERATH**  
Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

**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 / ABEVILLE / JEANERETTE**  
Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

**OPELOUSAS**  
Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

**PONCHATOUA**  
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

### ALPHARETTA, GA

A friend called with news that his daughter was expecting her second child. Sonograms revealed there was a serious problem with the baby's heart – the absence of one heart valve. The baby would need emergency surgery once he was born. His mother elected to continue the pregnancy and wait for the outcome. Upon hearing the news, I offered prayers

for the baby and mother. I located a novena to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos and prayed for his intercession. The baby was born, examined and tested, and results revealed there was no need for surgery. The baby spent two weeks in the NICU as a precaution. He is thriving and has a healthy heart function. Thank you Father Seelos, thank you Jesus!

### COVINGTON, LA

My husband Danny was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer on January 16, 2023. It was in his lymph nodes, stomach and esophagus. He could barely eat or drink without pain. Danny was added to the prayer list at the Seelos Center and carried the relic with him to every appointment.

He went through multiple rounds of chemo, immunotherapy, and proton therapy. After follow-up testing, Danny was given the results that all biopsies and PET scans came back negative. He no longer has cancer in his body. He went from Stage 4 to Stage 0. God bless!

### SPRING, TX

My daughter went to the ER with acute symptoms of abdominal pain and blood in her urine. It was presumed she had kidney stones, but they couldn't be seen on imaging because of the blood. After taking her to surgery twice in five days, an additional CT scan revealed a large mass in her kidney. It was tentatively thought to be renal cancer.

A family member asked her prayer group in New Orleans to pray to Blessed Seelos for his intercession and for healing. In a third surgery, the kidney was removed. Pathology revealed that a vessel had ruptured and there was a large blood clot – NO TUMOR and NO CANCER. We attribute this to Blessed Seelos' intercession.

### PENSACOLA, FL

In March 2023, I asked Blessed Seelos' intercession that I may become a permanent resident in the US. At that time, I was so sad knowing that I will have to face going back to my country as a failure. Within a week, I met a man whom I fell in love with and we got

married. He sponsored my immigration and I received my legal documents a day before Blessed Francis' memorial day. I know in my heart that he helped me receive such wonderful blessings from God – my legal status and a wonderful marriage to a good and loving husband.



### Submit Your Testimonial Online!

*Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.*

[www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor](http://www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor)

### SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

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

## Helping Catholics Apply Gospel Messages Today!



Find hope and inspiration in the award-winning **Liguorian** magazine

Subscriptions available for as little as \$12 per year.

AVAILABLE IN **PRINT** AND **DIGITAL** FORMATS.

**Visit [Liguorian.org](http://Liguorian.org) for details.**

**PUBLISHED BY THE REDEMPТОRISTS**

## PRAYER FOR FATHERS

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience. Support them in the work they do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen.

— [christianity.com](http://christianity.com)

## HOT IN THE SHOP



### “3-MINUTE PRAYERS FOR MEN” BOOK – \$11

*This book packs a powerful dose of inspiration into just-right-sized readings for men of all ages and backgrounds.*



### “FATHER’S MANUAL” BOOKLET – \$9

*This booklet features counsels, prayers, novenas, the Mysteries of the Rosary and much more.*



### SEELOS LEATHER & BEAD BRACELET – \$40

*This set features an adjustable braided leather bracelet with a Seelos medal and a stretch bracelet with tiger eye & lava rock beads.*



### DAUGHTER TO FATHER TOKEN – \$12

*This metal keepsake has a heart-shaped center and loving words etched on it that read: “Always your daughter.”*



### ST. JOSEPH NOVENA PRAYER KIT – \$10

*This tin case includes a novena prayer to St. Joseph, mechanical pencil, and 50-page petition pad.*



### SILVER WEDDING ROSARY – \$24

*This rosary features clear beads with linked wedding bands as the Our Father beads and on the cross.*

*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](http://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.

Seelos Center Interim Director: Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.  
Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman, Heidi Groat, Patricia Norman, Marilyn Olivard, Shelly Raynal

Denver Provincial Superior:  
Very Reverend Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R.

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: \_\_\_\_\_