



VOLUME 111

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MAY 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

In the United States we celebrate mothers during the month of May. This month, we also honor Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus, who was conceived “full of grace”, free from original sin from the first moment of her existence. Henceforth, her life would be completely guided by the Divine Will of the Father, which Mary embraced both in times of joy and sorrow. She accepted all that had to occur in God’s plan of redemption, and she encourages us to do the same.

True to his Redemptorist vocation, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos had a profound devotion to Mary, especially under her title of Our Mother of Sorrows, recognizing her as a source of comfort and strength in times of suffering and hardship. Blessed Seelos found solace in Mary’s example of faith and endurance amidst profound sorrow.

As an expression of his devotion, Blessed Seelos commissioned a statue of Our Mother of Sorrows. This statue served as a visual reminder of the suffering that Mary endured and the immense love she had for her son. Blessed Seelos’s intention in commissioning this statue was to honor Mary’s role as the Mother of Sorrows and to inspire others to turn to her in times of pain and suffering.

He desired to be buried beneath the statue of Our Mother of Sorrows. This request reflected his sincere connection to Mary and his desire to be in close proximity to her, even in death, seeking her intercession and protection beyond the boundaries of life. In fact, he was interred beneath this statue and today that same statue towers above his reliquary.

During, this special month, I will pray for you before this special statue of Mary. I am also grateful to all those who generously gave to the Blessed Seelos’ birthday campaign. You help us to continue our mission!



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.

OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS TRYPTECH STATUE



From the sought-after Veronese Collection made in Italy, this exquisite triptych measures 11” tall and is hand-painted in full color. Our Lady’s arms open to reveal The Pieta, The Sacred Heart of Jesus, and Our Lady of Sorrows.

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★ To learn how you can volunteer from home or at the Shrine, call (504) 525-2495. ★

The sweet duty of mothers, in the words of Blessed Seelos

“A Christian mother, in particular, has a very beautiful field to cultivate; and a very sweet duty to fulfill. The children are attached to their mother with special love. She is the first to hear and understand the inarticulate speech of the child. To her it puts its first questions. **How beautifully can the mother here implant the faith in the soft and tender heart of her child.**”



SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Gina Dominguez Brothers & JoAnn Dominguez

How long have you been volunteering at the Shrine as a mother-daughter team? “5 years.”

What brought you to the Shrine? Gina says, “Our family has a devotion to Father Seelos and St. Mary’s Assumption Church. My mother and father went to school at Redemptorist.”

What do you do at the Shrine? Gina works in the gift shop and helps out on Good Friday and at the Healing Masses. JoAnn does anything that needs to be done.

What is your favorite thing about the Shrine? Gina says, “I love to be on the grounds and hear the stories of the pilgrims. I love to share Blessed Seelos with others.” JoAnn says, “I love to visit the church in front of Fr. Seelos’ tomb.”

What is your favorite spot at the Shrine? Gina says, “I love walking the grounds and knowing that blessed Seelos was present here.” JoAnn says, “I love praying at Blessed Seelos’ tomb.”

What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you? Gina says, “I always encounter something special on my days that I volunteer. I feel blessed to be a part of Blessed Seelos’ devotion to the people that come near and far.” JoAnn says, “I love to spread more devotion to Father Seelos.”

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

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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

BALTIMORE, MD

My name is Joe and I am a seminarian at St. Mary's in Baltimore. I am only submitting this testimonial because it is really a random occurrence that culminated in a very uncertain time becoming resolved by simple trust.

There was a terrible storm on September 12, 2023 here in Baltimore. There were flash flood warnings and many places suffered terrible damage, even the sanctuary at St. Mary's Seminary took on some water. On September 13, I went to pick up some dry cleaning and immediately noticed the employees outside hosing off clothes that had been damaged during the storm. The entire facility was in shambles, and I was pretty sure my clothes were among the many ruined shirts and coats. I asked an employee if they needed any help. He said, "No, just give us a few days."

I returned on September 15 to still find clothes and debris outside. When the same employee saw me, I asked if he could locate my clothes. Construction and mold prevention workers were on the scene and the walls were all gutted and the floors were ripped up. The damage seen even after three days was indicative of the tragic effects the storm had on this small business.

Regardless, the man returned in a few minutes with all of my clothes neatly pressed and bagged; he said that I was pretty lucky. But then he also handed me a small card and said, "We found this in your pocket." I knew I didn't leave anything in my pockets but it just looked like a business card so I paid no attention to it and took it. I thanked them very

much, paid them, and happily took my clothes back to the seminary.

I am now trying to figure out from where that "business card" came. It is a small card-sized envelope with "The National Shrine of BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS C.Ss.R." and "Relic of the cloth that bound the bones of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos" still sealed with a little sticker that says "Please report favors received. Rev. Vice-Postulator 919 Josephine Street New Orleans, LA 70130."

In short, I was relieved my clothes survived the storm that literally destroyed the building in which they were kept. Trusting in the Lord in any circumstance is comforting and even these small inconveniences can be large tests of patience; I am thankful for that. Meanwhile, I really don't have a personal explanation for the mere coincidence of being handed a relic of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos from a man claiming it had been in my pocket.

Now, it could be a simple mistake. It could have been confused with someone else's belongings. Even this man himself could have given it to me of his own volition. But, naturally, if it had been in my pocket, it should have at least endured water damage or crumpling of some sort. But it's not damaged at all. In the light I can see the cloth that it contains. And it is still perfectly sealed with an imperative statement: "Please report any favors received." And so, that is what I have done.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, pray for us.



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor

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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM BLESSED SEELOS

“For full thirty years, our loving Savior did not do anything else but perform household chores at the orders of his mother. You have to do exactly like this: to live as a poor servant who loves from her heart this lowly state.”

HOT IN THE SHOP



“HEAVEN SENT” SACRED HEART EARRINGS – \$28

Choose from antique gold or silver-toned dangle earrings with crystal adornments.



GOLD CERAMIC WALL CROSS – \$29

This 9” metallic gold painted ceramic cross features a tiny heart imprint in the center.



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“DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR PEACE OF MIND” BOOK – \$22

Women of all ages will find inspiration in this devotional based on Isaiah 26:3.



“A MONTH WITH MARY” BOOKLET & SCAPULAR – \$14

This pocket-sized booklet features 31 meditations for May and a scapular with a decorative gold border.



AVE MARIA NOTE CARD SET – \$8

This blank note card features an image of Mary with her arms outstretched and framed in roses. Envelope included.

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.



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:

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