

VOLUME 114

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

AUGUST 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

August 1st is the feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, (The Redemptorists). St. Alphonsus, out of pastoral concern for the poor and most abandoned, founded the Redemptorists to be present and to preach a message of God's unfailing love for them. Redemptorist spirituality is deeply rooted in the principles of mercy, compassion, and the dedication to serving the marginalized. Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos exemplified these values throughout his life, living out his faith in a way that left an indelible mark on those he served.

His commitment to the core tenets of Redemptorist spirituality was evident in his daily life and work. Seelos was known for his tireless dedication to the poor and the sick, seeing every individual as a worthy recipient of God's boundless mercy. His work in the confessional was particularly remarkable; he spent long hours offering spiritual guidance and the sacrament of reconciliation, embodying the Redemptorist call to bring redemption and hope to all.

Seelos's pastoral care extended beyond the spiritual realm. He was deeply involved in the physical well-being of his parishioners, visiting the sick, providing comfort to the dying, and offering practical assistance to those in need. His kindness and patience made him a beloved figure in the communities he served.

In addition to his direct ministry, Seelos was also a mentor and spiritual director to many other Redemptorists, instilling in them the same fervor for missionary work and compassion for the marginalized. His life stands as a testament to the power of living out Redemptorist spirituality, leaving a legacy of faith, hope, and charity that continues to inspire. In this month that we celebrate St. Alphonsus Liguori, we express our gratitude to you for your support and prayers—your support and encouragement is essential to us in fulfilling our mission and sharing our charism!

Happy Feast of St. Alphonsus! St. Alphonsus, Blessed Seelos, and all the Redemptorist Saints, Blesseds, and Martyrs, pray for us!

The Redemptorists



St. Alphonsus Liguori, C.Ss.R.



Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Redemptorists value laity as Partners in Mission

Article courtesy of redemptoristsdenver.org and cssr.net

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (The Redemptorists) has always been close to the people, particularly the poor and abandoned, and has always sought collaboration with the laity in its apostolic work.

Redemptorists have been called by the church to bring the good news to the people who are on the margins of society and those who want to grow in faith. The Redemptorist Family is much more than the priests, brothers and deacons who have professed vows in the congregation. The support of this family to help us in the mission is vast since there are many people that make the mission possible. We would not be able to accomplish the work of Jesus the Redeemer without the help of the laity and others in this task.

The Redemptoristine Nuns, religious institutes that share the charism, members of the confraternity of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Co-Redemptorists, Oblates, volunteers at our shrines, parishes and retreat houses, benefactors, family members, friends that support Redemptorists, and staff are indispensable for the mission and are recognized as members of this family.

Within this family, there are people who see the spirituality of Jesus the Redeemer as important in their own spiritual journey with God. Associates of the Redeemer, (ecumenical association), Redemptorist Associates, and Lay Missionaries of the Most Holy Redeemer are those that embrace this

spirituality and share with one another and Redemptorists as they grow on this journey of faith. This familial relationship is more than just making the mission possible, but it is a way to live as disciples of Jesus. Anyone who is already connected to the Redemptorist Family can choose to learn more about this spirituality. They can also make this spirituality the foundation of their relationship with God.

This year, in a meeting with Redemptorist Partners in Mission, Superior General Father Rogério Gomez, C.Ss.R explored the idea of the Redemptorist Family saying, “When I refer to the Redemptorist family, I am not simply talking about a group of people with a shared heritage or bloodline. I am referring to a unique and strong community, a family of individuals who are deeply connected to the original source of our charism, St. Alphonsus, or to an institute founded by a Redemptorist. This connection is not just spiritual, but also charismatic and missionary in nature, making the Redemptorist Family a unique and strong entity.”

Father Rogerio concluded with an encouraging and visionary summary: “Lay people connected to our Congregation become multipliers of the spirituality and charism in their own families, workplaces and communities, helping to spread the charism and deepen our charism, identity and mission as a Redemptorist Family.”

Did you know that St. Alphonsus Liguori is the patron Saint of those suffering from Arthritis?

PRAYER TO SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI FOR ARTHRITIS



St. Alphonsus, preacher, confessor, founder, bishop, doctor of prayer and friend of the poor, you are also the special patron of all who suffer from arthritis and the pains of many years.

When our fingers twist with pain, keep us focused on the hands of Christ pierced with ugly nails. When our knees knob with endless aches, allow us to see the knees of Jesus smashing to the street under the heavy cross.

When our backs stiffen with soreness, let us remember the back of Christ thrown across the cold, rough wood of the cross.

When our joints, hips, arms, legs and knuckles hurt so much that tears well up in our eyes, help us to recall the tears, the sweat and the blood that flowed from our crucified Jesus Who suffered so much more for each of us.

St. Alphonsus, afflicted with curvature of the spine and nailed to a wheelchair cross in your final years, teach us to unite all our pains with the dreadful sufferings of Jesus on the cross.

We ask you to ease our pains but more so to enable us to be one with Jesus in his great act of dying and rising.

Amen.



Learn more about the Redemptorist Partners in Mission

Keep up-to-date about Partners in Mission by visiting RedemptoristsDenver.org/partner. Download the free “Living Redemptorist Spirituality” booklet, join the Redemptorists mailing list, and more.

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 / ABBEVILLE / 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 / 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

METAIRIE, LA

On February 2, 2022 I went to the hospital, swollen and discolored. I was in complete liver failure and all my organs were shutting down. My doctors told my mom and my grandfather to make funeral arrangements because I was not going to survive past the week. My twin sister died 10 years ago of the same thing. It was a genetic flaw in our liver.

My grandfather refused to believe that this was the end of my life. His favorite person was Father Seelos. He went to church at least once a week for all his life and had medals and cards and constantly prayed to him. When I was in the hospital, he went to church and prayed to Father Seelos to help save me. He bought me blessed stuff from the Shrine, and we all prayed and prayed every day.

I stayed in the hospital for three months. After I was discharged, I had to learn how to walk again because I had not moved the whole time I was in the hospital. That was a painful process but I pushed and pushed. I was swollen and gained 40 pounds because of fluid. I was miserable and depressed and did not know how I was going to go on. I prayed every day to Father Seelos to give me strength.

During this time, I also developed

cancer in my liver. I had to go through seemingly constant tests, MRIs, CAT scans, you name it. In March 2023, I had radiation treatment while I waited for a transplant. The radiation killed the cancer, but it also damaged my liver. The transplant didn't come through until June 2023. By that time I could barely move. I was weak and in so much pain that I didn't know if I was going to survive, but the call finally came and I had a full liver transplant.

Well, I had 2% chance of living and I beat the odds. It's like I have a whole new life now. My doctors said that if I wouldn't have had the transplant surgery when I did, I would've died in my sleep in a couple of weeks because my liver was so damaged. I truly believe I was not supposed to live, but I did.

I fought hard to survive this death sentence. It was a long and painful battle, but I did it with all the prayers, hope and love from my friends, family, God, and especially Father Seelos. I truly believe he interceded for me. He gave me the strength and courage to keep on pushing and fighting no matter how bad I wanted to give up. I am so blessed to be alive and healthy at 44 years old, and I want the world to know!

GRAMERCY, LA

When I was diagnosed with Melanoma, a friend gave me a Blessed Seelos candle and prayer card. I lit the candle and prayed everyday for a successful surgery.

My cancer is now gone and the PET scan did not show any other spots. Thank you God and Blessed Seelos!



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

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 for details.

PUBLISHED BY THE REDEMPTORISTS

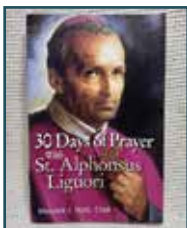
BLESSED SEELOS PRAYER

O God, who made your priest, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, outstanding in love, that he might proclaim the mysteries of redemption, and comfort those in affliction, grant, by his intercession, that we may work zealously for your glory and for the salvation of mankind.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

— www.redemptorists.co.uk

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ REDEMPTORISTS



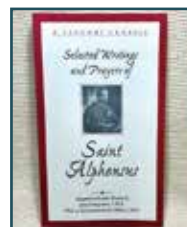
“30 DAYS OF PRAYER WITH ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI” BOOKLET – \$5

Written by Seelos Shrine Director Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R., this booklet invites us to pray with St. Alphonsus over 30 days, joining in his journey toward a deeper, more passionate relationship with God.



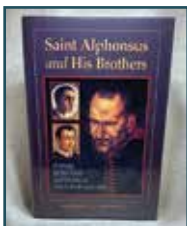
ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH NOTE CARD & ENVELOPE – \$7

This blank note card features a watercolor by New Orleans artist Marina Reed.



“SELECTED WRITINGS & PRAYERS OF ST. ALPHONSUS” – \$13

This book features excerpts of Saint Alphonsus’ own writings.



“ST. ALPHONSUS & HIS BROTHERS” BOOK – \$31

This book is a behind-the-scenes look at how an early priestly congregation worked.



ST. GERARD PRAYER KIT – \$6

This kit includes a pamphlet, prayer card and medal featuring the patron saint of expectant mothers.

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. Visit seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle.



REQUEST A RELIC: Relics are available for an offering of \$2.50 each at SEELOS.org/gift-shop.



INCLUDE US IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN: There are several options for including the Shrine in your estate plan. Visit seelos.org/charitable-giving to learn more about charitable giving.

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.

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: _____