



*Above all, my dear ones,
Keep Peace*
~ Blessed Seelos

VOLUME 118

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

I'm guilty of falling into the sentimental and nostalgic feelings or "vibes" of Advent and Christmas. I love the holiday lights, the smell of warm pine-scented candles, and a cup of hot chocolate while sitting by the Christmas tree listening to Bing Crosby. And frankly, I hope that sense of wonder never goes away. But the seasons of Advent and Christmas, as short as they are, can be easily missed amid these wonderful seasonal festivities.

Advent, like Lent, is a penitential season. A time to acknowledge change is needed. While Lent is focused more on personal conversion, the themes of Advent point us outward.

Advent asks us to consider how we can transform the world with justice and peace. Perhaps it's best to start by transforming the world in small ways: in our local neighborhood and community, where we work, pray, and shop. Do we recognize, care for, and love those different from us, the strangers we pass by on the street, and those who are hungry and homeless? After all, Christ came to our world a stranger, hungry and homeless.

Before leaving for the United States, Francis Xavier Seelos wrote a farewell letter to his family, knowing he would never see them again. In it, Blessed Seelos urged his family to live out compassion, closeness, and tenderness. Perhaps his words can speak to us as we pilgrim together these Advent and Christmas seasons as we transform our hearts, our communities, and our world:

*Above all, my dear ones, keep peace...
Let each one live for the other.
Let each one carry the other's burdens.
Let each one seek first the good of the other and make a sacrifice
of everything, so far as it is possible for peace.*



Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.

Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.

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

SEELOS HEALING MASS

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



Sunday, January 12, 2025

St. Mary's Assumption Church
and Facebook Live ~ 10:30 am CT



Main Celebrant & Homilist:

Fr. Peter Hill, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Peter is from the Caribbean island of Dominica. He holds a Doctor of Ministry in preaching from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO.

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

❧ The Seelos Perspective ❧

In his letters to family and friends, we are offered much wisdom, guidance and comfort directly from the mind of Blessed Seelos:



“Dearest brothers and sisters, above all, preserve peace, because through it people really know that we are grounded in virtue, that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, that we truly love one another sincerely.”

– *Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: Crocheters & Prayer Partners

Calling all crocheters, tatters and cro-tatters! We need your skills to add decorative trim around Seelos 3rd class relic cards provided for you. Work from anywhere and drop off or mail us your completed cards.

Prayer Partners are needed at the Shrine to pray with pilgrims on Mondays through Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. No experience necessary!

Email Heidi at hgroat@seelos.org or call (504) 525-2495 for more information.

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
Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Monica Surprenant (401) 207-5521

OCHSNER (KENNER)

Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

ORLEANS PARISH

Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK

Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA

Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545
Deacon Bill & Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

BALDWIN / FRANKLIN

Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

BATON ROUGE

Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON

Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

HOUMA / THIBODAUX

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 Fauchaux (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

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

KATY, TEXAS

Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191
Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

WESTERVILLE, OH

My 32-year-old son, Patrick, was violently assaulted, fell, and hit head on a concrete sidewalk. He suffered a severe traumatic brain injury and was near death when he arrived at the emergency room. He underwent emergency brain surgery and was in the ICU for 3 weeks and in-patient rehab for 4 months. During this time, he suffered complications of his injuries, including pneumonia and stroke.

Throughout his ordeal, he wore a relic cloth of Blessed Seelos, pinned to his hospital gown by his mother. He was not expected to survive, but Patrick has recovered from the brink of death. His physical and cognitive function has been restored. I believe deep prayers of family, friends and constant contact with the relic cloth have helped restore life to my son.

CHURCH POINT, LA

I believe Father Seelos interceded in my healing from COVID and pneumonia. I was hospitalized August 27, 2022. Doctors said my prognosis was dire because the lung damage was so severe it affected my heart. I was also in a coma and on a respirator. My 5-month hospital stay was very long and difficult.

to remove the relic, but if they had to, to put it back on my chest over my heart.

Before COVID I did not live a life pleasing to God. I had no relationship with Him at all. But after my healing, I will never be the man I was before. I am now a faithful, grateful follower of Jesus Christ. It's because of his everlasting LOVE that I'm here today.

When I was healed, the doctors could not believe what they were seeing. A woman who I didn't know, Kortne, visited me often during my hospital stay and prayed for me the whole time. It's through her that Father Seelos was connected to me. She prayed to him, anointed me with holy oil, and gave me his relic which remained on my body at all times. She even left instructions with the nurses not

I was released from the hospital on February 8, 2023. My 3 kids were able to be reunited with their father, my wife with her husband and my parents their son. I am so thankful for Father Seelos and his prayers sent to me straight from heaven. I will always bless this most holy servant of Christ.

NEW YORK, NY

My daughter went to see an obstetrician for some tests. She was told the test showed something on her ovaries that would make it impossible for her to have children. She was so upset and was very depressed. When she called to tell me about the news I denied it right away.

I prayed to Father Seelos explaining her situation and asked for her healing. She got a second opinion and was told there was no issue with her ovaries and didn't see anything to cause her concern. Thank you Father Seelos for healing my daughter.

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

**Shop seelos.org
for unique gifts for
everyone on your list!**

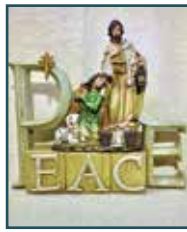
MEN + WOMEN + CHILDREN

**Candles • Rosaries • Artwork
Jewelry • Books • Statues • Toys
Holy Oil, Prayer Cards & Relics
Medals and Much More!**

**POPE FRANCIS'
PRAYER FOR PEACE**

Lord, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. Amen.

HOT IN THE SHOP



**HOLY FAMILY
NATIVITY "PEACE"
STATUE – \$39**

This 8.5" tall statue depicts the Holy Family nativity on the word PEACE in a rustic, wood-carved style.



**OUR LADY OF
GUADALUPE
ROSARY – \$15**

Silver-toned rosary with green beads and an Our Lady of Guadalupe centerpiece medal.



**"THREE WISE
WOMEN" BOOK
– \$24**

40 devotions celebrating Advent with Mary, St. Elizabeth & St. Anna.



**"ANGELS OF THE
LORD" BOOK – \$24**

Spend every day getting to know these messengers of God with 365 reflections on our heavenly guardians.



**"HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS" SOFT BOOK
– \$25**

This 6x6 washable plush book depicts colorful scenes from the birth of Jesus.



**MOTHER MARY
ACRYLIC CUFF
BRACELET – \$65**

A cream colored acrylic cuff with vintage green stone, gray pearls, and Mother Mary medal.

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.

Director: Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.
Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman, Heidi Groat, Patricia Norman, Marilyn Olivard, Shelly Raynal

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Reverend Kevin Zobel, 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 from the mailing list: Change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____