



VOLUME 116

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

The life of Father Seelos teaches us that every choice is a limitation, and every limitation is an opportunity for fulfillment beyond ourselves: Father Seelos once said, “We must strive to embrace our crosses which God sends us with a willing, even joyful heart. In matters of faith and piety let us rather believe too much than too little.” In the Christian tradition, hope in Christ and faith in Christ are closely linked, with hope meaning the one with hope has a firm assurance, through the witness of the Holy Spirit, that Christ has promised a better world to His followers. The Christian sees death not just as the end of a passing life, but as the gateway to a future life without limitation and in all fullness.

*Blessed Seelos had a profound commitment to pastoral care and the spiritual well-being of his community. His life was a testament to the power of hope, particularly during times of adversity.*

Seelos served in various parishes in the United States, where he encountered numerous challenges, including illness and the suffering of his parishioners. Despite these hardships, he remained a source of encouragement and optimism. His ability to inspire hope in others was evident in his pastoral approach; he emphasized the importance of trusting in God’s providence, even amidst personal and communal trials. He believed that hope was not merely a passive expectation but an active engagement with faith that could transform lives.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos’s commitment to the sick and the marginalized further illustrated his hopeful spirit. He understood that hope is essential for healing, both in body and soul. His famous words, “Let us be filled with hope,” resonate with those who seek solace in times of despair, reminding them of the light that faith can bring. His life encourages us to cultivate hope in our own lives and communities. His legacy as a devoted servant of God and a champion of hope continues to inspire many today, reminding us that hope can flourish even in the darkest of times.

In the Redeemer,

*The Seelos Shrine*

## SEELOS HEALING MASSES

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



**Sunday, October 6, 2024**

ENGLISH MASS ~ 1:00 pm CT

St. Mary’s Assumption Church  
and on Facebook Live  
Aaron Mezaros, C.Ss.R., Celebrant

VIETNAMESE MASS ~ 3:30 pm CT

St. Mary’s Assumption Church  
Tat T. Hoang, C.Ss.R., Celebrant



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

# Remembering the world's foremost Seelos expert

by Father Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

According to a perceptive African proverb, “When an old person dies, a library burns to the ground.” In the case of **Redemptorist Father Carl W. Hoegerl** – who died on November 4, 2021, at the age of ninety-eight – an entire archive was virtually lost.

However, to our good fortune, Father Hoegerl’s vast knowledge of Francis Xavier Seelos only partially accompanied him to the grave – thanks to the numerous publications and vital contributions to the Seelos Cause that he left behind!



Father Hoegerl in his office

In 1989, Father Hoegerl was appointed Archivist for the Baltimore Province of Redemptorists, an assignment he held until 2011, when he became Archivist

Emeritus. Consequently, his historical understanding of the Redemptorists in America was immense. But an arduous project begun in 1984 is what made him unarguably the world’s leading authority on Francis Xavier Seelos.

That’s when Father Hoegerl commenced work on the Seelos canonization cause at the request of the Redemptorist Superior General in Rome.

*Father Hoegerl labored for 14 years to compile the **Positio**, a three-volume, 2200-plus page magnum opus that demonstrated Seelos’ heroic virtues through documented sources. This massive work led to Seelos’ beatification on April 9, 2000.*

Incidentally, Father Hoegerl’s systematic presentation in the *Positio* is still viewed as an exemplary model among postulators to this day.

In 2003, the Seelos Center inducted Father Hoegerl as its first recipient into the Seelos Order of Witness. That same year, an updated second-edition of the Seelos biography, *Cheerful Ascetic*, included an Epilogue by Father Hoegerl to record the exciting developments in the Seelos Cause since the time of the book’s first publication in 1969.

In 2008, Father Hoegerl undertook the task of editing the 201 extant letters of Seelos in the book, *Sincerely Seelos*. In the decade that followed, he toiled on his intended final major writing project, a definitive historical Seelos biography titled *With All Gentleness*.

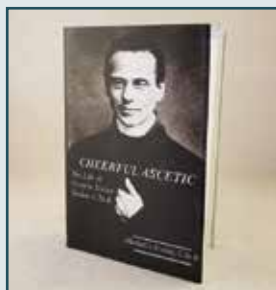
While contemporaries of Francis Seelos successfully initiated his canonization cause in the decades after his passing, it

was Father Hoegerl who significantly helped advance the Seelos Cause in our lifetime. Despite his death in 2021, the memory and legacy of this extraordinary scholar, archivist, and Redemptorist priest remain intensely alive!

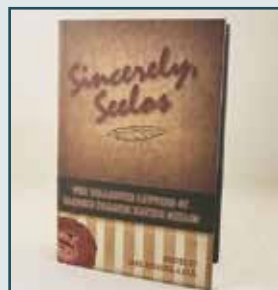
Rest in peace, Father Hoegerl. We are confident that “he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

## Read All About It!

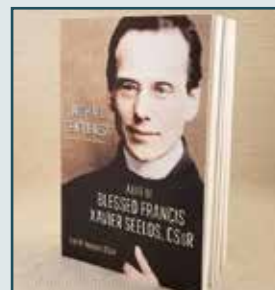
Discover books that detail the life and holiness of Blessed Seelos. Available in the Gift Shop today! Visit [seelos.org/gift-shop](http://seelos.org/gift-shop) or call (504) 525-2495 to order.



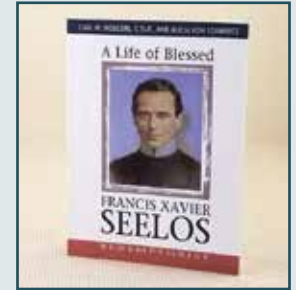
*Cheerful Ascetic: The Life of Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*



*Sincerely, Seelos: The Collected Letters of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos*



*With All Gentleness: A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*



*A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Redemptorist*

## 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

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### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

**KATY, TEXAS**  
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191  
Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### NASHVILLE, TN

I didn't intend to submit this story, since it seemed to me to be so insignificant in that it happened to me. Nevertheless, in my prayers, I heard the still, small voice asking me to share it with you, and so here I am.

My name is Megan. I am a very busy millennial mom of four small kids, ages 8, 6, 3, and 2. My husband stays at home with our youngest children, and I have been supporting our family as a Catholic schoolteacher (7th and 8th grade English and Religion) for the past year. I had just started at a school I hoped would be a good fit for our family. I was under an intense amount of financial, emotional, and mental stress. And then I was diagnosed with breast cancer.

I had some otherworldly moments of consolation in prayer, but one of the biggest shifts happened after a woman at church gave me a relic from the Seelos Shrine. I had never heard of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos before; he didn't immediately look like anyone I could

relate to, but I took it and kept it close to me. The relic reminded me to seek him often, asking him to pray for me, that I might survive this for my children's sake and my own, and, if it were God's will, for a complete healing.

The doctors did a mastectomy to remove the tumor and the breast right along with it. When I woke up, they told me they'd encountered something strange; the tumor was significantly smaller than it had appeared on imaging. My husband and I asked how to explain this, and the doctor shrugged and said imaging wasn't perfect. But I'd known it was smaller. Not long before my surgery, I'd felt it shrink. I was in awe of this confirmation of what I already knew.

Not only was the tumor smaller, but the doctor took some lymph nodes for testing, and determined that the cancer hadn't spread. There's no detectable cancer in my body, and I am free to live my life with my family, giving glory to God every day in this gift that is my life.

### CLEARWATER, FL

In February 2023 my son who was just turning 44 at the time had a severe heart attack. It was necessary for him to have quadruple bypass surgery. I asked for intercession from Blessed Seelos and had a candle lit at the Shrine. The operation was a success – he has made a complete recovery and is back to work full-time!

Also, a year and a half ago my sister was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. She had to undergo surgery, chemo, and radiation. Once again I asked for intercession from Blessed Seelos and had a candle lit at the Shrine. Recently she went to her oncologist who declared her cancer free!



## Shrine Prayer Phone Line

Call our prayer line any time at (504) 586-1803 to hear a recorded message and prayer.

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

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## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ OUR SWEET MOTHER



### MARY'S BEDTIME GIFT SET FOR CHILDREN – \$37

This set includes the book "First Stories: Mary's Story," a plush Mary prayer doll and a rubber bracelet (assorted colors) that says "Jesus loves you".



### "200 PRAYERS TO QUIET AN ANXIOUS HEART" BOOK – \$20

Discover the truth of God's devotion for you - even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations.



### MARY CERAMIC TRINKET DISH – \$25

4" round dish with gold edging, choice of pink, blue, green or cream glaze, and antique bronze Blessed Mother appliqué.



### OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS SCENTED CANDLE – \$26

Made in New Orleans - 8oz white organic soy candle infused with holy oil and Palo Santo scent.



### IMMACULATE HEART NOTECARD & ENVELOPE – \$7

Blank inside, with colorful illustration of Mother Mary and sparkle details. Envelope included.

### NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. FAUSTINA

O Jesus, who filled Saint Faustina with profound veneration for Your boundless Mercy, deign, if it be Your holy will, to grant me, through her intercession, the grace for which I fervently pray... (*Mention your request here...*) My sins render me unworthy of Your Mercy, but be mindful of Saint Faustina's spirit of sacrifice and self-denial, and reward her virtue by granting the petition which, with childlike trust, I present to You through her intercession. Saint Faustina, pray for us.  
— [novenaprayer.com/st-faustina-novena](http://novenaprayer.com/st-faustina-novena)

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](http://seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle).



**REQUEST A RELIC:** Relics are available for an offering of \$2.50 each at [SEELOS.org/gift-shop](http://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](http://seelos.org/charitable-giving) to learn more about charitable giving.

**VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER**



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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: \_\_\_\_\_