



Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City

VOLUME 119

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JANUARY 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:



In 2025, we have much to celebrate, including the Jubilee Year and its inspiring theme: *"Pilgrims of Hope."* Pope Francis calls us to *"fan the flame of hope"* in our communities and extend God's grace and mercy to those most in need.

We are honored that Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans has designated the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos as a pilgrimage site during this Jubilee Year. This is a fitting recognition of Blessed Seelos, himself a true pilgrim of hope.

Blessed Seelos journeyed far from his homeland to answer God's call, dedicating his life to bringing hope and healing to the sick, the lonely, and the brokenhearted.

As his biographer reflects, *"God's grace was working in Seelos and was calling him away from his homeland,"* where he would serve as a powerful reminder that **hope is not just a feeling but an action that draws us closer to Christ and those in need.**

Throughout this Jubilee Year, we look forward to journeying together as pilgrims of hope. Whether through a visit to the Shrine, joining us in prayer, or reflecting on the life of Blessed Seelos, we invite you to embrace this year as an opportunity to rekindle the hope of Christ in your life so to be a beacon of God's love in our world.

Let us walk together as Pilgrims of Hope, allowing the spirit of the Jubilee Year to guide us toward renewal, healing, and joy in the Lord.



Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.

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

SEELOS HEALING MASS

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



Sunday, January 12th

~ 10:30 AM ~

St. Mary's Assumption Church
and Facebook Live

Main Celebrant & Homilist:
Fr. Peter Hill, C.Ss.R.



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

What is a Jubilee Year?

Excerpts courtesy www.iubilaeum2025.va

“Jubilee” is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the yobel, the ram’s horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur. This Jewish holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year. It was intended to be a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

The Gospel of Luke describes Jesus’ mission: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord,” (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2). Jesus lives out these words in his daily life, in his encounters with others

and in his relationships, all of which bring about liberation and conversion.

In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the first Jubilee, also known as a “Holy Year.” The frequency of Holy Years has changed over time: at first, they were celebrated every 100 years; later, in 1343 Pope Clement VI reduced the gap between Jubilees to every 50 years, and in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years.

By participating in the Holy Year, one is granted a plenary indulgence. The Jubilee Indulgence is a concrete manifestation of God’s mercy, which goes beyond and transforms the boundaries of human justice. This treasury of grace entered human history in the witness of Jesus and the saints, and by living in communion with them our hope for our own forgiveness is strengthened and becomes a certainty. The Jubilee indulgence allows us to free our hearts from the weight of sin because the reparation due for our sins is given freely and abundantly.

2025 JUBILEE: THE POPE’S PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

– Pope Francis, www.iubilaeum2025.va



MEET BLESSED SEELOS’ VICE-POSTULATOR FR. STEPHEN T. REHRAUER, C.Ss.R.

I am honored to be appointed Vice-Postulator for the Cause of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. The Vice-Postulator’s responsibility is twofold. The first is to ensure that the story of the life of Blessed Seelos is widely told, spreading devotion to him across North America and beyond, and encouraging people to pray to him as a healing saint and intercessor for us before God; The second is to work with Fr. Antonio Marrazzo, C.Ss.R., the Redemptorist Postulator General in Rome, and the Archbishop of New Orleans, in preparing and presenting documentation to the Vatican concerning any miraculous occurrences resulting from prayers to Fr. Seelos in anticipation of his canonization. Both tasks are interrelated. One cannot be done without the other.

I had the great privilege of concelebrating the Mass at the Vatican during which the Holy Father declared Fr. Seelos Blessed. Since that day I have been eagerly awaiting when he will be formally declared a canonized Saint. I look forward to working with everyone at the Seelos Shrine, and with all of those who contribute to, read, and share its newsletter with others to hasten the coming of that day. With your help, and with the grace of God, I am sure that the cause for the canonization of Blessed Seelos will move forward to a speedy and joyous conclusion.

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

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MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

KATY, TEXAS

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

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

NEW ORLEANS, LA

In 1999, my 4-year-old daughter Kaitlin underwent an 8-hour surgery for brain cancer. The following morning, we went into the PICU to check on her. While we were with her, an unknown man, believed to be a priest, asked if we minded if he prayed over Kaitlin. I didn't think much of it at the time, but I never saw this man before and he knew who my daughter was. He said he was in possession of a crucifix that belonged to Father Seelos. I was happy to allow him

to pray over my daughter. After a few minutes, we realized the man was gone, however, he never walked past us, which was the only way to get to the exit. He simply vanished.

After chemotherapy and radiation treatment, My daughter has been cancer free for years and I believe it was all because of the healing performed by Father Seelos. I am forever grateful.

PHOENIX, AZ

I visited the Shrine of Blessed Seelos in January 2024 and was given the crucifix containing his first-class relic to hold while praying the rosary in church. Since

that day, ALL of my pain and bleeding has ceased! Thank you Blessed Seelos for your intercession according to God's will. Amen!

EWING, NJ

My grandson, Leo, was hit by a car in December 2022 and suffered a critical injury involving a severe brain trauma. I was given a relic of Blessed Seelos by my cousin. The relic was placed on him in the intensive care unit and prayers were

requested. Leo survived and has gradually recovered through the intercession of Blessed Seelos. I know that through continued intercessions prayers, Leo will be completely healed. Thank You, Jesus!



Welcome, Delilah Grace!

Congratulations to Noah and Amber Billeaud-Lehotsky on the birth of their daughter, Delilah. Mother and baby are doing wonderfully. Dad is exhausted!

Born Tuesday, December 3, 2024
6:50 pm ~ 6 lbs, 3 oz ~ 20 inches

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

Happy Birthday Blessed Seelos!

Francis Xavier Seelos was born and baptized on January 11, 1819 in Füssen, Bavaria, Germany. Thank you, Lord, for your gift of Blessed Seelos to us!

"If I had to depend only on my own strength, I would lose all confidence and courage in such an undertaking. But when I think of the help of God, when I consider his promises, when I take into account his power and his goodness, everything within me comes alive again, and I feel strong and powerful enough to work in the vineyard of the Lord."

– Blessed Seelos

HOT IN THE SHOP



SCENTED MOTHER MARY WAX STATUE

– \$27

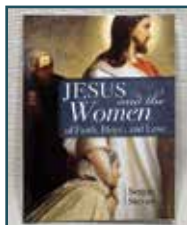
8" tall frankincense & myrrh scented blue wax figurine of the Blessed Mother holds a Mother Mary medal.



3D WOODCUT BEATIFICATION TABLETOP PLAQUE

– \$17

The official beatification painting of Bl. Seelos in a unique 3D tabletop plaque.



"JESUS AND THE WOMEN OF FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE" BOOK – \$9

Guided reflections on the encounters between Jesus & three women in the Gospels.



"BLESSED IS SHE WHO HOPES!" BOOK – \$17

Biblical readings & prayers to help women begin daily quiet time with the Lord.



"VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND OUR LADY" BOOK – \$32

Features daily meditations from St. Alphonsus.



MULTICOLORED SEELOS NECKLACE – \$16

Assorted colored beads spaced along a gold-toned chain with color Seelos 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



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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 from the mailing list: ☐ Change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____
