

*The people who
walked in Darkness have seen a great
Light*
- Isaiah 9:2

VOLUME 97

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MARCH 2023

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

January and February are often described as tunnel months—so much of life feels like it is dark. The daylight is short. Finally in March, we see a light at the end of the tunnel and we get new energy to keep going.

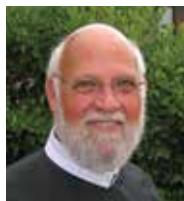
There's also a feast day in March that is very much like the light at the end of a tunnel. It is called the Annunciation.

*The world lay in darkness until the Messiah
came to be our light and Mary accepted the invitation
to become the Mother of God.*

The angel greeted Mary and frightened her. What manner of greeting was this about being full of grace? And then, even more, the message was that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Christ. She didn't understand. How can this be? She was single and very pure. She said she did not live with a man. She needed the explanation that the Holy Spirit would work it all out and the child she would conceive would be the Son of God.

That announcement was a lot to take in for Mary. Her questions were answered, though those answers would be beyond Mary's understanding. Still, she let her doubts dissipate. What was most important was her response. She uttered the magnificent words: "Be it done to me according to God's word!" She saw herself as the servant or handmaid of the Lord and was willing to do whatever the Lord wanted. And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.

The Annunciation is a feast day worth celebrating. It is nine months before Christmas and on that day, the light would burn brightly for all to see. This is the same light that gave illumination to Blessed Seelos in all the works he undertook. He too saw himself as the servant of the Lord and was always determined to do whatever was asked. This kind of conviction is so necessary for each of us. May we always be blessed with the ability to say "yes" to God's invitations in our lives.

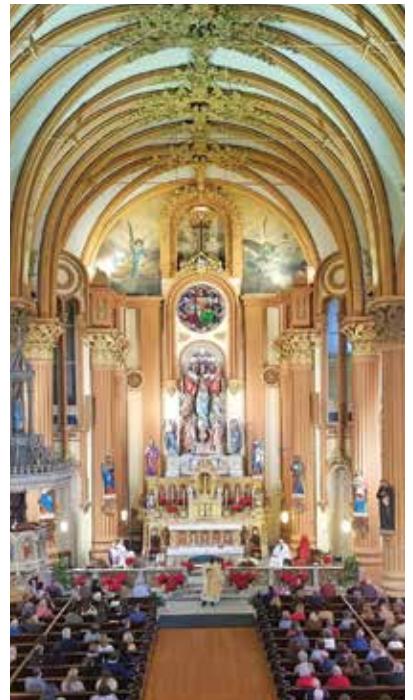


Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.
Director, National Shrine of Blessed
Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Rich Boever, C.Ss.R.



~~ Snapshots from the January Seelos Healing Mass ~~



SAVE THE DATE

+

APRIL SEELOS
HEALING MASS

Sunday, April 16, 2023
St. Mary's Assumption Church
and on Facebook Live



Prayer Partner Available By Phone

Shrine volunteer **Jack Guidry** (504) 554-3078 is available to pray with you by phone, 7 days a week from 10am to 7pm CST. Thank you, Jack!



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

Blessings for the Sick

Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix
(Only family members may request)

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310

Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)

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

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

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Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

UPTOWN / ORLEANS PARISH

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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WESTBANK

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Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515

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Eric Johnsen (985) 640-9226

LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

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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

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

OCALA, FL

In 2007, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Shortly after, I received a Blessed Seelos relic as a gift from a family member. I began praying to Blessed Seelos for help. At that time, I was a homeschooling mother of 5 and we had recently relocated my family for my husband's work, which separated us from family support. I had to undergo double mastectomy and reconstructions, but I did not have to endure chemotherapy treatments at that time. I praise God and thank Blessed Seelos for his intercession and help through it all, especially for helping me to laugh during the most difficult times!

On December 28, 2020, I was diagnosed with stage 2 Hodgkin's lymphoma. On Christmas Eve, I received the 2nd class Seelos relic rosary and began praying with it. My lymph node removal and biopsy was on January 11, 2021 on Blessed Seelos' birthday. Due to COVID safety measures at the hospital I was alone, but I knew Blessed Seelos was praying for me.

Because of difficulties after three chemotherapy treatments, on April 8, the eve of the anniversary of Blessed Seelos' beatification, I had an MRI to determine possible causes. The result of the test showed that I was mainly cured! My last chemotherapy treatment was September 8, the feast of Our Blessed Mother's birthday. My final MRI was on September 29, the feast of the archangels. The imaging was completed while I was praying the 4th decade of the Glorious Mysteries, the Assumption of Mary – also the name of Blessed Seelos' parish in New Orleans. The results showed that I was cancer free! Again, I am so thankful to God, to Our Blessed Mother, and to Blessed Seelos. I continue to bless myself every day with his relic and never leave home without it. I pray and speak to him often as a friend and holy priest. I encourage others to do the same. He has helped me and my family throughout this journey. Thank you Blessed Seelos!

WAYNE, ME

I was having long COVID symptoms and had to have an X-ray and medication. I submitted a prayer request for healing my lungs to Blessed Seelos. The X-ray

showed no further deterioration and the doctor's words, "You have nothing to worry about," was an answer to my request for Seelos' intervention.

LAPLACE, LA

Blessed Seelos, thank you for protecting my husband during his stem cell transplant. He is day 100+ from his

transplant and has regained his strength and energy with little to no complications. Thank you with all my heart!

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.



St. Patrick's Prayer



May the Strength of God pilot us.
 May the Power of God preserve us.
 May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
 May the Hand of God protect us.
 May the Way of God direct us.
 May the Shield of God defend us.
 May the Host of God guard us
 Against the snares of the evil ones,
 Against temptations of the world.
 May Christ be with us!
 May Christ be before us!
 May Christ be in us, Christ be over all!
 May Thy Salvation, Lord,
 Always be ours,
 This day, O Lord, and evermore.
 Amen.

— St. Patrick

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ GOING GREEN



“HEAVEN SENT” ST. PATRICK PRAYER CANDLE — \$48

Made by New Orleans artist Heidi Groat, this 8" tall candle features antiqued appliquéd details, a green stone and an image of St. Patrick, with a burn time of 120-170 hours.



“HEAVEN SENT” CUFF BRACELET — \$36

Made in New Orleans by Heidi Groat, this 1" wide cuff is made from genuine leather and is adorned with antiqued bronze medal details and an image of Seelos. The cuff diameter is adjustable to form to the wrist and comes in a linen pouch.



SHAMROCK CROSS & ST. PATRICK PRAYER CARD — \$16

A great addition to your home altar, pray to St. Patrick with this prayer card and add a little sparkle with a 4" tall clear acrylic cross featuring a clear green shamrock detail.



ST. JOSEPH WITH CHILD STATUE — \$38

Celebrate St. Joseph on his feast day, March 19th, with this 8" tall statue depicting him in flowing green robes holding Baby Jesus and a bouquet of lilies.

Quantities are limited. Prices listed above 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-\$4. 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 Xavier Seelos”.

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____