

VOLUME 93

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

When the calendar turns to November, many Americans start to give Thanksgiving more attention. Is there anything happening? Some place to go? People to invite to our house for the holiday? And then, of course, there's the plans for turkey with all the things that make the Thanksgiving meal so special. At the same time, we are aware that there are many who do not know the abundance of a cornucopia. There's no food, no family, no extras.

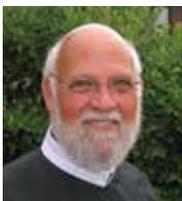
Whether we are some of the people who have an abundance or some of the people who struggle with not enough, it is possible for all of us to keep the spirit of Thanksgiving alive in our hearts by remembering the One who provides for all things.



*Thanksgiving is a time to thank God for whatever we are experiencing in our life.*

The Mass on Thanksgiving Day has always been among my most happy. I thoroughly enjoy praising God with the faithful who are able to make it to church not because of obligation, but because of gratitude. Together we say our prayers and sing our songs with sincere hearts.

All of us at the Shrine of Blessed Seelos and at our Seelos Welcome Center send you our fondest wishes that this year your Thanksgiving holiday will be among the very best, filled with blessings.



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

## REMEMBERING OTHERS ON THANKSGIVING



O God, when I have food,  
help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work,  
help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home,  
help me to remember those  
who have no home at all;

When I am without pain,  
help me to remember those who suffer,

And remembering, help me to destroy  
my complacency; bestir my compassion,  
and be concerned enough to help;

By word and deed, those who  
cry out for what we take for granted.

*- Samuel F. Pugh*

★ To learn how you can volunteer from home or at the Shrine, call (504) 525-2495. ★

# Holy Heroes: Reflections from Fr. Rich from his recent trip to Bavaria

Whenever I think of missionaries like Blessed Seelos, St. John Neumann or so many other men and women religious who came to the United States to help immigrants from their countries who were in great need of the spiritual consolation, I think of them as heroes.

This admiration becomes all the more intense when I visit the lands from which they came, and see the contrast between America in the 19th century and their home towns at the same time. The culture of the Old World was so much advanced and developed compared to the spurts of the evolving reality of the American lands.



*Füssen, Bavaria*



*St Mang's Parish Church*



*Inside St. Mang's Church*

America had not yet had the leisure time needed for the greater refinement of being settled. So, for instance, while the missionaries, with their long habits, walked their missionary journeys they dirtied their hems on muddy roads and boardwalks. The cobble streets of their homelands were a thing of the past, as were so many other details taken for granted.



*"The Kornhaus" Grade School*



*St. Stephan's High School*



*University of Munich*

For Blessed Seelos, the missionary calling meant leaving a quaint and very Catholic home town for the much more austere Redemptorist houses in America, often without the basic conveniences known back home. We know, for example, that Blessed Seelos and St. John Neumann had to share the same room in the rectory of Pittsburgh. Only a curtain between the beds provided a bit of privacy for the two men.

There are so many stories like these. Some of our ancestors did not have the luxury of leaving a settled Europe; they came as an enslaved people who would be sold to the rich and prosperous. Others came to the U.S. because they were starving in their homeland or were suffering terrible oppression. Each story of our immigrant ancestors is worthy of awe. They were valiant, daring and resourceful people. There is plenty to shame us as a nation for the way people were treated at their coming to the United States, but the possibility of a better life loomed in their hearts. They had to take what destiny placed in their path and find ways to benefit as time went along. The European missionaries like Blessed Seelos wanted to make sure that the future of immigrants continued to be nurtured by their faith, and they made great sacrifices to do that. They are heroes to us.

*Photos courtesy Michael Porter*

## SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



**Mike & Joan Boudreaux**

### **What brought you to the Shrine?**

Mike says, "As Director of Cemeteries for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, in 1999 I oversaw the removal of the coffin of Fr. Seelos from the vault under the altar of St. Mary's Church. I was privileged to witness the examination of Blessed Seelos' remains. After retirement my wife and I decided that we wanted to take part in spreading the word about Blessed Seelos."

### **What do you do at the Shrine?**

Joan says, "We prepare relics for the many people who are devoted to Blessed Seelos. Mike also answers the phone, taking prayer requests, and I give tours of the Shrine and St. Mary's."

**What's your favorite thing about the Shrine?** "The people – staff, volunteers and the wonderful pilgrims who visit the Shrine or call on the phone. All are so grateful for the prayers and blessings they receive from such a holy place."

**Where is your favorite spot in the Shrine?** "Of course the reliquary that contains Blessed Seelos' remains. We also enjoy taking advantage of the 11:30 am Mass celebrated on Thursdays on the third floor of the Seelos Center."

**What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you?** "Being part of helping people when they are in need of support as they face the crosses in their lives. We have personally felt that support when we lost our daughter, Lisa. The people here are so wonderful and there is such a sense of peace at the Blessed Seelos Shrine."

## 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)

Mark / Monica Surprenant (504) 895-5371  
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  
Tori Winters (504) 237-2962

#### LOUISIANA

##### ABBEVILLE / ERATH / LAFAYETTE

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##### ALEXANDRIA

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Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545

##### BALDWIN / FRANKLIN

Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

##### BATON ROUGE

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##### COVINGTON

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##### HOUMA / THIBODAUX

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Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056  
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Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807

##### IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

##### LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

##### LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

David Faucheaux (504) 908-4120

##### MANDEVILLE

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

##### 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

When my daughter was 18 she was diagnosed with Hepatitis B and admitted to the hospital. Her liver was shutting down and her bilirubin level was not reacting to any medicines. I was told that she wasn't getting better and could die. I was beside myself.

My sister-in-law told her grandmother about the situation, asking for prayers. Memaw was a member of the Blessed Father Seelos Society and asked them to go to the hospital to pray over my daughter. When I got to the hospital the

nurses said that my daughter had visitors who came and went very quietly.

When the next vitals were taken my daughter's bilirubin level had increased significantly and her color was good, she was hungry and no longer in danger of dying. The doctor had no explanation, but she was healed and all of her levels returned to normal. This improvement occurred overnight. She is 47 now with 3 grown children of her own. I cannot thank Father Seelos enough for healing my daughter.

### SPRINGFIELD, IL

Recently, I noticed a pain in my ribcage. I don't recall injuring myself in any way, but it was painful to the touch and to breathe. I couldn't sleep on that side. I didn't go to the doctor, thinking maybe it will go away. I was diagnosed with sleep apnea recently, so the only thing I could figure was somehow that did something to my ribcage. I was trying to lose weight to help lessen my sleep apnea and I became discouraged that with the pain I was having, I couldn't ride my bike for exercise. I could still walk, but not for a long distance. I had this pain for four or five days. I was taking an aspirin here and there, but it was no help.

One morning, I saw a "Miracle Story" episode, *The Life and Miracles Attributed to Father Xavier Seelos*. I had never heard of him. So I prayed to Fr. Seelos to ask God to take away this pain. I was confident in my prayer. I really felt like Fr. Seelos would make the request

to God. The next morning, my ribcage still hurt like usual. I dutifully got ready and began my day at work. After work, I decided to take a walk around the block. It was a pleasant, sunny day. I started to notice something was different. What was it? Oh, I don't have pain in my ribcage! I had forgotten all about it. I felt my ribcage – no pain. I was breathing – no pain. I walked around the block and went a little further – no pain. I never had a healing miracle like this before. I just marveled at it. But then I thought, maybe it's a fluke. So I thanked Fr. Seelos and God for what seemed like a miracle, but wanted to wait til the next day to see if it "stuck". Well, when I woke up the next morning, I noticed I had been sleeping on my ribcage side. The pain was gone, and it has remained gone. I'm just flabbergasted.

I thank God profusely and Fr. Seelos for asking God for that miracle.



## Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

[www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor](http://www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor)



## Children's Thanksgiving Prayer

We gather together  
on Thanksgiving Day  
To be thankful  
To celebrate  
To thank you, Holy God,  
For loving and providing for us  
Always.

We love you, Lord and Savior,  
and Praise your wonderful name,  
Because of the blessings you've given.  
We'll never be the same.

Help us to remember  
To be thankful every day,  
To walk in the way that you have done  
and praise your Holy Name.  
Amen

— Amy Finley

## HOT IN THE SHOP



### NEW! SEELOS GLASS MUG – \$22

*This 8oz clear glass mug features an image and inspirational quote from Blessed Seelos, "Every day holds the possibility of a miracle." It's a perfectly positive way to start your day!*



### "HEAVEN SENT" HOLY BIBLE – \$150

*This maroon heirloom bible features antiqued brass and filigree accents, a Miraculous Medal, crystals and pearl beads.*



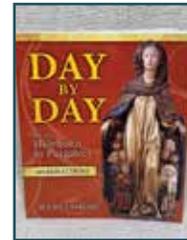
### ANTIQUED VIRGIN MARY STATUE – \$58

*This 12" statue features an image of Mary dressed in flowing white robes.*



### CHILDREN'S TEACHING ROSARY BRACELET – \$22

*This bracelet features the inscription "Luke 22:19". Choose from light or dark brown ceramic beads.*



### "DAY BY DAY FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY" BOOK – \$26

*This book includes prayers, teachings, real-life stories and quotes from the saints.*

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](http://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](http://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 Seelos".*

Please  remove  change my name and address as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_