



VOLUME 126

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

AUGUST 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

For many people, July and August are simply the dog days of summer—hot, humid, and slow-moving. Some cultures call this period “ghost months”, a quieter time when commerce slows and daily routines take on a relaxed rhythm. In New Orleans, we know these days well: long afternoons watching the rain fall, feeling the weight of the heat, and moving through life at a gentler pace.

And yet, in the life of the Church, there is nothing empty or ghostly about these months. Far from being forgotten time, these summer weeks are bursting with reminders that God is near. The calendar is rich with saints and celebrations of giants of our faith whose lives burned brightly with love for God and neighbor. We mark the feast days of great founders like St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Dominic, St. Clare, and, of course, our own St. Alphonsus Liguori, whose vision gave life to the Redemptorist mission that Blessed Seelos lived out faithfully. These are not just holy interruptions in an otherwise slow season. They are invitations to recognize that grace is alive even in the heat of summer.

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos knew this truth well. His life was marked not by dramatic moments alone, but by a quiet constancy in the presence of God, even in daily hardship.

*Blessed Seelos writes, “Time, in which we have found nothing to offer up to God, is lost for eternity.” For Seelos, every season and moment—be it moments of suffering, rest, or joy—was a chance to draw nearer to God.*

At the National Shrine, we strive to see all time as sacred. The slow days, the fast-paced ones, the dog days, the days of sorrow, and the days of joy... they all belong to God. And they all hold the potential to be transformed by grace.

As you make your way through these August days, I invite you to see not just the heat or the haze, but the holy. Watch for God in the pause. Listen for grace in the stillness. Let the lives of the saints, especially Blessed Seelos, remind you that every day is a gift. And that every day, God is waiting to meet you.



*Aaron L. Meszaros C.S.R.*

Aaron L. Meszaros, C.S.R.

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

## SEELOS DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



**Friday, August 15**  
**St. Mary's Assumption Church**

Join us on the Solemnity of the  
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary for a day of prayer,  
reconciliation and fellowship.

**10:45 am - Confessions**

**11:00 am - Rosary**

**11:30 am - Mass**

**12:00 pm - Eucharistic Exposition**

**3:00 pm - Eucharistic Benediction**

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

# Pope Leo XIV Receives Relic of Blessed Seelos from Redemptorists

In a moment of spiritual and historical significance particularly special to the devotees of the Seelos Shrine, Pope Leo XIV received a first-class relic of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos from the Redemptorists during a private audience on June 26, 2025. The gift was presented by Br. Larry Lujan, C.Ss.R., General Consultor, on behalf of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos in New Orleans.

The audience brought together the Redemptorist Superior General and Curia, along with Redemptorist bishops from around the world, for a special meeting with the Holy Father.

In his address, Pope Leo reflected on the legacy of St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists, praising his unwavering dedication to the poor and to migrants. "Upon encountering the misery in the neglected neighborhoods

of eighteenth-century Naples, [St. Alphonsus] gave up a comfortable life and a promising career to embrace the mission of bringing the Gospel to the least of society," reported Vatican News journalist Deborah Castellano Lubov, summarizing the Pope's remarks.

As a token of the Redemptorists' gratitude and in recognition of the Pope's personal ties to New Orleans, the Holy Father received a first-class relic of Blessed Seelos, a custom Seelos relic rosary, a commemorative booklet marking the 25th anniversary of Seelos' beatification, and a formal letter from the Shrine's leadership.

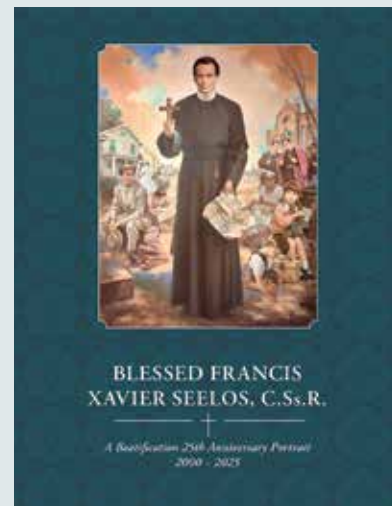
The gesture underscores the continued mission of the Shrine to share the life of Blessed Seelos and his Redemptorist identity beyond the city of New Orleans, fostering devotion and connection across the wider Church.



*Pope Leo accepts gifts of a first-class Seelos relic, Seelos relic rosary, and commemorative booklet from Br. Larry Lujan, C.Ss.R., courtesy of the Seelos Shrine. Photo © Vatican Media.*

Get your copy of the commemorative booklet given to Pope Leo

\$18 ~ Call (504) 525-2495  
or order online



Designed and produced in New Orleans by the Seelos Shrine, this 40-page booklet includes remembrances from the April 2000 beatification ceremony, prayers for the intercession and canonization of Blessed Seelos, letters from around the world, full-page photos of the Shrine and St. Mary's Church, and more.

*Pope Leo waves to an audience of Redemptorists and other religious figures from around the world at the Vatican.*

*Photo © Vatican Media.*





## 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)

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Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

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Deacon Bill & Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

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#### BATON ROUGE

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#### LA FAYETTE / ABBEVILLE / ERATH

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Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

#### LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

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#### MANDEVILLE / SLIDELL

David Brumfield (985) 234-9355  
Lisa and Eric Johns (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

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Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807  
Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

#### KATY, TEXAS

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### OXFORD, AL

In November 2008, I was diagnosed with testicular cancer. I called a friend of mine, a priest, to pray for me. We celebrated the Eucharist that night, and he blessed me with a Seelos relic and anointed me with oil. He also prayed to Blessed Seelos to intercede on my behalf for healing.

We prayed together several times during my few months of treatment, and I remember clinging to that relic while I was undergoing rounds of chemotherapy.

Though it was not easy and I was very weak and sick during my treatment, I was healed of that dreadful disease in only a few months. In 2019, I went from "remission" to "cured" according to my oncologist.

I believe that Blessed Seelos interceded on my behalf, and I thank him for petitioning the Father for my healing. I am grateful to my priest and to Blessed Seelos for their petitions to God.

### SAN ANTONIO, TX

My name is Fr. Johnson Lê. My friend Sister Lissy Sebastian was hit by a car on December 17, 2024 while crossing an intersection. She was in critical condition almost to the point of death and underwent multiple surgeries. When I came to visit with her, she was unable to speak due to tubes in her mouth. As I anointed her, tears came down her face. I asked for the intercession of Seelos with God's help to heal her.

The doctors are amazed at how quickly she is healing. Thy said that she shouldn't be where she's at and actually should

be in a worse state. The doctor has said multiple times that he could not believe it, but we told him it was precisely the power of prayer that has helped her on this road to recovery. The wonder is that cognitively she is sound despite the great impact of the accident. She should not be as healthy as she is.

Sr. Lissy is now in rehab and has improved tremendously. She still has a long road to recovery but she is alive and sound of mind. The doctor, I believe, is also having a change of heart in believing that this is nothing short of a miracle.



### Seelos Shrine Featured in the *Liguorian*

Thank you to the *Liguorian* magazine for a wonderful article about our beautiful shrine, compassionate staff and volunteers, and the pilgrims who form our mission. To read the article in the July-August issue, visit [www.liguorian.org](http://www.liguorian.org).

### NOTICE: Newsletter Donation Increase

Due to the rising cost of printing and mailing, the annual \$12 newsletter offering has increased to \$15. To renew your subscription, please visit [www.SEELOS.org](http://www.SEELOS.org).

### SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

# SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER SEELOS HEALING MASS



**\*\* SATURDAY \*\***

**October 11, 4:00 pm CDT**

St. Mary's Assumption Church  
and on Facebook Live  
facebook.com/SeelosShrine

**Celebrant: Fr. John Collins, C.Ss.R.**  
Provincial, Redemptorists  
of the Baltimore Province



## HOT IN THE SHOP



### "PRAY THE STORM AWAY" KIT – \$25

*Pray to protect your home  
and family with this kit.  
Includes blessed salt, holy  
water, and a 3rd class  
Seelos relic crucifix.*



### ST. CHRISTOPHER TRAVEL KIT – \$19

*Perfect for summer vacations  
and business trips. Includes  
a prayer card, blessed salt,  
holy water, holy oil and  
pocket token.*



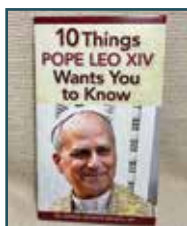
### SEELOS ROSARY KEYCHAIN – \$10

*Keep Blessed Seelos AND  
a decade rosary in your  
pocket or purse with this  
silver-toned keychain.*



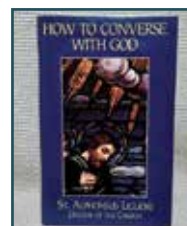
### MINI GLASS MOSAIC CROSS PLAQUE – \$65

*Handmade in New Orleans  
by Paulette Lizano, this 3"  
cross of tiny glass pieces is  
mounted on a wood block.  
Comes in assortment of colors.*



### "TEN THINGS POPE LEO XIV WANTS YOU TO KNOW" BOOKLET – \$11

*Leo XIV invites us to live  
a faith that is alive and  
open to the world.*



### "HOW TO CONVERSE WITH GOD" BOOKLET – \$10

*St. Alphonsus teaches us  
how to use the small events  
of everyday life to raise our  
hearts and minds to God.*

*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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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 (\$15)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".*

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

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