



VOLUME 121

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

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

MARCH 2025

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

In December of 2022, a story made the rounds when a flight from Orlando, Florida to Knoxville, Tennessee, was canceled, leaving hundreds of passengers stranded. Thirteen of those passengers rented a van and made the journey together. The catch: they were complete strangers. The only thing they had in common was their destination – Knoxville. Each person had their own reasons for needing to get there. Yet, they all piled into the van, took turns driving, shared their stories, and kept each other awake. Despite their differences, they formed a small community along the way.

In many ways, this story is a fitting image for this Year of Hope, which is, at its heart, a year of pilgrimage together. Pilgrimage, after all, is like getting into a van with strangers and journeying toward a common destination. While vans weren't around in Blessed Seelos' time, his life was deeply marked by pilgrimage.

*As a Redemptorist missionary, Father Seelos was on a lifelong journey to proclaim God's mercy. His pilgrimage took him across the world and throughout the United States, where he encountered strangers who, in spite of their differences, became brothers and sisters in Christ.*

During this Year of Hope, we are all invited to make a pilgrimage – a journey together, united as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you're nearby, consider joining us at the Shrine of Blessed Seelos. We invite you to participate in our Jubilee Year events. Even if you're far away, you can still journey with us in prayer and join us for our online Beatification Anniversary Novena at [youtube.com/@seelosshrine](https://youtube.com/@seelosshrine), or submit your prayer intentions at [seelos.org/submit-a-prayer-petition](http://seelos.org/submit-a-prayer-petition) to be placed before Blessed Seelos' reliquary.

No matter how we make this pilgrimage, it is one that we make together. May Blessed Seelos be our guide.



Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.

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

## SAVE THE DATE: SEELOS HEALING MASSES

— + —  
**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

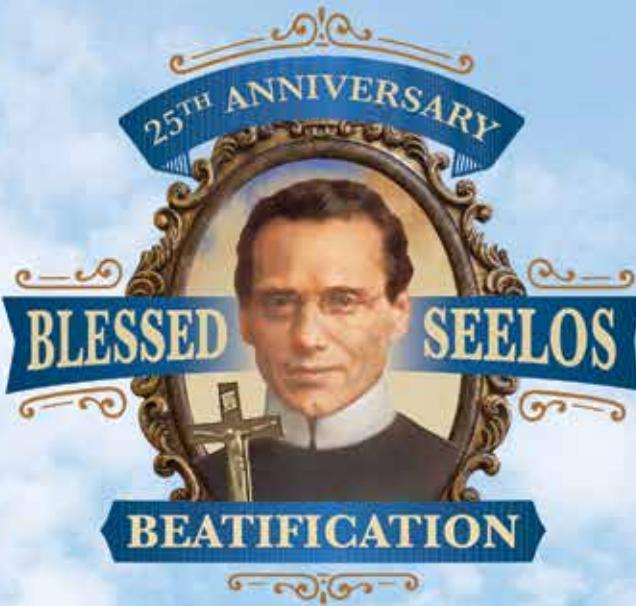
**ENGLISH MASS ~ 10:30 am CT**  
St. Mary's Assumption Church  
and on Facebook Live

**SPANISH MASS ~ 12:30 pm CT**  
St. Mary's Assumption Church

**Jerome Chavarria, C.Ss.R.**  
Celebrant



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



## JOIN OUR CELEBRATIONS AT THE SEELOS SHRINE!

In 2025 the Shrine is celebrating a Jubilee Year and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Blessed Seelos' beatification with a series of prayerful events.

**We invite everyone to join us  
in person or online.**

We look forward to celebrating with you and spreading the message of hope that Blessed Seelos so beautifully exemplified.

### NOVENA IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Every Wednesday, Now - April 9, 2025

Catch up on past Novena days at [youtube.com/@seelosshrine](https://youtube.com/@seelosshrine).

### ROSARY, MASS, STATIONS OF THE CROSS & JUBILEE DAY OF PRAYER

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

To see Beatification Anniversary event times and locations, scan this code or visit [www.seelos.org/beatification-novena](http://www.seelos.org/beatification-novena).



### 2025 JUBILEE HYMN

#### “Pilgrims of Hope”

Like a flame my hope is burning,  
may my song arise to you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.

Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people  
find a light within your Word.  
Scattered fragile sons and daughters  
find a home in your dear Son.

Like a flame my hope is burning,  
may my song arise to you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.

God, so tender and so patient,  
dawn of hope, you care for all.  
Heav'n and earth are recreated  
by the Spirit of Life set free.

Like a flame my hope is burning,  
may my song arise to you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.

Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,  
for our God is born in time.  
Son made man for you and many  
who will find the way in him.

Like a flame my hope is burning,  
may my song arise to you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.

*Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri  
English translation: Andrew Wadsworth*

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

**ORLEANS PARISH**  
Amy Morel (504) 416-5018  
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073  
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

**WESTBANK**  
Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213

### LOUISIANA

**ALEXANDRIA**  
Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545  
Deacon Bill & Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

**BALDWIN / FRANKLIN**  
Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

**BATON ROUGE**  
Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

**COVINGTON**  
Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

**HOUMA / THIBODAUX**  
Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096  
Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056  
Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450  
Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807

**IOTA**  
Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

**LAFAYETTE / ABBEVILLE / ERATH**  
Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

**LAKE CHARLES**  
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

**LULING & SURROUNDING AREA**  
David Faucheaux (504) 908-4120

**MANDEVILLE / SLIDELL**  
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

**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**  
Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### CLEARWATER, FL

My 44-year-old son had a heart attack and underwent quadruple bypass surgery. I asked for intercession from Blessed Seelos and lit a candle at the Shrine. The operation was a success, and he made a complete recovery. He is back working full time!

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

### WESTPORT, CT

In 2010 my wife underwent gallbladder surgery. The surgeon nicked her colon and 24 hours later she was in severe distress due to sepsis. Further deterioration led to a second surgery. Ultimately, she was admitted to the ICU and was medically sedated for two weeks. During that period my college roommate's wife, who was dealing with breast cancer, sent me

a relic of Fr. Seelos which I pinned to my sedated wife's bedding. I asked for his intercession. We were told that her survival was precarious.

One week later, the doctor stepped into my wife's hospital room, looked at her and declared "It's a miracle." I believe he was right.

### RAYNE, LA

Our son, Nicholas, was born with congenital heart defects. At five weeks of age, we were told he would not live to be 2 years old and there was nowhere we could go that could help him medically. A dear friend introduced us to Father Seelos and we began praying for healing through his intercession. We distributed prayer cards and the little crocheted relics. Many people were praying for us and Nick.

made sure to attend the annual Seelos masses at St. Mary's Assumption in deep gratitude to God for Nick's health.

Nick grew to be a healthy young man who played high school sports and earned his master's degree in Kinesiology, before discerning a call to the priesthood. He was ordained on June 11, 2022.

We were guided by God's hand to pediatric heart specialists with Texas Children's hospital who told us they could operate and correct his defects. Following Nick's two heart surgeries, we

We all continue to have a great devotion to Blessed Seelos. At the time of his ordination, Fr. Nick was given a Seelos first class relic, and he has shown up for my son in many other ways. We pray Fr. Seelos will be a canonized saint one day, but to us, he already is!



### 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)

### SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

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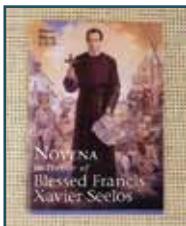
## MARCH SHRINE CLOSURES

Due to our proximity to local parade routes, the Shrine will be closed on the following days.

**Saturday, March 1 – Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

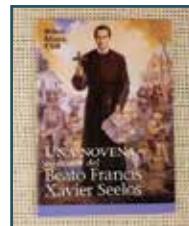
**Saturday, March 15, 2025**

## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ JOIN THE NOVENA!



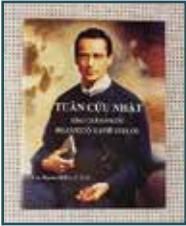
### SEELOS ENGLISH NOVENA BOOKLET – \$5

*Nine meditations to help us live a life of holiness on our journey of faith.*



### SEELOS SPANISH NOVENA BOOKLET – \$5

*Nine meditations in Spanish to help us live a life of holiness on our journey of faith.*



### SEELOS VIETNAMESE NOVENA BOOKLET – \$7

*Nine meditations in Vietnamese to help us live a life of holiness on our journey of faith.*



### “SWEET ANGEL SCENTS” SEELOS CANDLE – \$27

*This 8oz organic soy candle is hand-poured with holy oil, frankincense and myrrh. Burns up to 25-30 hours.*



### SEELOS REDWOOD ROSARY – \$19

*This rosary of redwood beads features an image of Seelos and a silver crucifix.*



### SEELOS ROSARY POUCH – \$9

*This soft black zippered pouch features the Seelos Shrine logo and is perfect to store your Seelos rosary.*

*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](http://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 from the mailing list:     Change my name and address as follows:

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