



VOLUME 102

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

AUGUST 2023

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

On August 1st, we celebrate the Feast Day of St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists. His feast day is a day when Redemptorists profess their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience – “Behold how good it is and joyous to have brothers as one.”

A well known Redemptorist lives in New Orleans – Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. There are many interesting accounts from people who experience the presence of Blessed Seelos in their times of trouble. Fr. Seelos loved ministering and being with children. Recently I came across a photo of a statue of Seelos in the Shrine with 2 children looking at him. Tell me, did Blessed Seelos turn his head and smile at the little ones? There’s an account of a young boy that was in the hospital recovering from an illness. When he was shown a picture of Fr. Seelos, he exclaimed, “That’s the priest that was here last night.”

As I prepare to leave The Shrine and New Orleans, I will miss hearing the witness from our pilgrims about Fr. Seelos’ intercession. I know these cures and



Fr. Rich and Zeke

experiences will continue into the future. I await the day when Blessed Seelos becomes ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS. I hope to be able to journey to Rome when the canonization takes place. Until then, I will adapt to living in a new community in Tucson, AZ. I’m told it’s hotter there than in New Orleans but the low desert humidity makes the heat seem more bearable. After a few blistering months of summer, the remainder of the calendar is said to be beautiful in temperature.

Zeke and I will remember you with joy. Many blessings!

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

NEW IN THE SHOP: SEELOS SOCKS



Stand out from the crowd with these limited-edition socks, made in the USA exclusively for the Seelos Shrine. These socks feature an image of Seelos on the ankles and a Seelos quote on the sole: “In simplicity and love, in humility and self-denial, let us walk our path.”

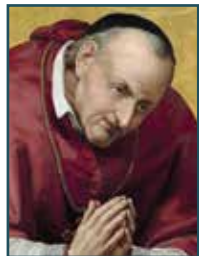
**\$16 ~ Adult One Size Fits Most
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or call (504) 525-2495 today!**



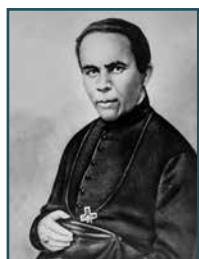
Notable Redemptorists

Excerpts from catholic.org



ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

Bishop, Doctor of the Church, and founder of the Redemptorists, Alphonsus was born on September 27, 1696 near Naples, Italy. Visiting the local Hospital for Incurables in 1723, he had a vision to consecrate his life to God. He was ordained in 1726 and founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in 1732. For more than a decade he fed the poor, instructed families, reorganized the seminary and religious houses, taught theology, and wrote. Alphonsus suffered pain from rheumatism that deformed his body. He spent years having to drink from tubes because his head was so bent forward. In 1769 an attack of rheumatic fever left him paralyzed. In 1780, Alphonsus was deposed and excluded from his own congregation, causing him great anguish. But he overcame his depression and experienced visions, performed miracles, and gave prophecies. Alphonsus died peacefully on August 1, 1787 near Naples. He was canonized in 1839. He is the patron of confessors, moral theologians, and the lay apostolate.



ST. JOHN NEUMANN

John Neumann was born in the Czech Republic in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. John wrote to bishops all over Europe but the story was the same – no one wanted any more priests. John was sure he was called to be a priest but all the doors seemed to close in his face. He wrote to the bishops in America and the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating Mass at kitchen tables. Because of his isolated life, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists. He was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852 and was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system in America. John never lost his love and concern for the people. He died on January 5, 1860 at the age of 48. St. John Neumann was the first male American to be canonized and is the patron of immigrants and sick children.



ST. GERARD MAJELLA

Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy. He grew up in poverty with a great respect for the poor. In 1749, he joined the Redemptorists. It is said that he possessed mystic faculties including levitation, bi-location and the ability to read souls. Along with his miracles effected through prayers for woman in labor, Gerard's last recorded miracle was credited toward his becoming the patron of expectant mothers. Shortly before his death, he encountered a young girl. He had dropped his handkerchief and she set out to return it, but her told her to keep it because she "may need it someday." Years after his passing, the girl was married and with child. She unexpectedly went into labor and was on the verge of losing her baby. She called for Gerard's handkerchief to be applied to her. Almost immediately, her pain receded and she gave birth to a healthy child, something very rare during that time. Gerard died of tuberculosis on October 16, 1755 and was canonized in 1904. St. Gerard Majella is the patron of unborn children, women in childbirth, mothers, and expectant mothers.

SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Greg Terrebbonne

How long have you been volunteering at the Shrine? "8 years."

What brought you to the Shrine? "I felt that God was calling me. So I asked Him, "Where are you leading me?" My wife, Peggy, and I went to the Holy Land in 2015. While I was there, I prayed for Him to show me where He wanted me to go. I ended up st the Shrine."

What do you do at the Shrine? "I am at the Shrine one day per week. I give tours, I talk about the life of Blessed Seelos and I pray with people who come to the Shrine asking for his intercession or in thanksgiving for answered prayers."

What is your favorite thing about the Shrine? "The opportunity to give tours to people and pray with them."

Where's your favorite spot at the Shrine? "Sitting on a chair in the church next to Blessed Seelos's original burial place. I can see the tabernacle and participate in Eucharistic Adoration, pray the rosary and at the same time I can see the entrance door to the Shrine for when people come in."

What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you? "It is a very holy place. God led me here. So, it is part of carrying out God's will for me. Every day I'm there is a blessed and prayerful day for me. It is an opportunity to teach people about Blessed Seelos. It is such an honor and a privilege to pray with people and help promote the cause for his canonization."

Blessings for the Sick

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

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)
Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
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

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Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

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SLIDELL
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LAKE CHARLES
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

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Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

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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

CARENCRO, LA

I had a stem cell transplant in 2020. I visited the Shrine for prayer with the relic and the pastor prayed with me and my

husband. Praise God! I'm cancer free and my health is great! Thanks be to God! God is faithful! Thank you Blessed Seelos.

WESTPORT, CT

In 2010 my wife underwent gall bladder surgery and the surgeon nicked her colon. 24 hours later she was in severe distress due to sepsis. Further deterioration led to a second surgery. She was admitted to intensive care and sedated for two weeks. During that period my college roommate's wife,

suffering from breast cancer, sent me a relic of Fr. Seelos which I pinned to my sedated wife's bedding, asking for his intercession. We were cautioned that her survival was precarious. One week later, the doctor who cautioned us stepped into her room, looked at her and declared "It's a miracle." I believe he was right.

BATON ROUGE, LA

In 2012, my 20-year-old son, Steven, fell out of the bed of a pickup truck and suffered a traumatic brain injury. He was taken into surgery that lasted six hours. The doctor told me he had a 10% chance of surviving the surgery. If he survived, he would probably be 30% of the person he was pre-accident and would need long-term rehab. A friend blessed my son with a Father Seelos

relic. He spent 8 days in ICU, 2 days in a regular room, and was then released to go home. Doctors and nurses were amazed by his progress. Steven did not need long-term care, he lived alone, and graduated college, all since the accident. He is 31 years old, a father, and a civil engineer. I truly believe in my heart that Father Seelos interceded for my son. Thank you, Father Seelos!

BATON ROUGE, LA

In August 2005 I was pregnant with my first child and having serious complications. The doctors prepared me for the worst. They put me in the hospital, expecting me to miscarry. Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans that month causing people to relocate. A priest who was in charge of one of Fr. Seelos' relics relocated to my parish and a family member requested a healing

on my behalf. The priest visited me with the relic in the hospital, performed the blessing, and told me that "he" was going to be just fine. I did not know the sex of the baby! Six months later I gave birth to a healthy baby boy! He is now 17 years old and recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are true believers of the healing and intercession of Blessed Seelos!

Prayer Partner Available By Phone

Can't make it to the Shrine? Volunteer **Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404** is available to pray with you by phone 7 days a week, any time day or night.



SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.

Petition to St. Alphonsus

Glorious St. Alphonsus, loving Father of the poor and sick, all your life you devoted yourself, with a heroic charity, to lighten their spiritual and bodily miseries.

Full of confidence in your tender pity for the sick, since you yourself patiently borne the cross of illness, I come to you for help in my present need...

(Share your request)

Loving father of the suffering, St. Alphonsus, look with compassion upon me in my suffering. Ask God to give me good health. If it is not God's will, then give me the strength to bear my cross patiently and to offer my sufferings with my crucified Savior and his Mother of Sorrows, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, in reparation for my sins and those of others, for the needs of this troubled world, and the Holy Souls in purgatory. Amen.

– daily-prayers.org

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ REDEMPTORISTS



“PASTORAL DYNAMO: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF SAINT JOHN NEUMANN” BOOK – \$15

Imagined in the first person and accompanied by excerpts from letters written by St. John Neumann, Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., tells the story of a poor immigrant who reaches worlds beyond his Bohemian birthplace.



ST. JOHN NEUMANN PRESSED FLOWER PLAQUE – \$24

This handcrafted plaque features real dehydrated flowers in a pewter frame. Each piece is unique.



ST. GERARD MAJELLA NOVENA, HOLY OIL & MEDAL SET – \$14

This set includes a novena to St. Gerard, a ½ oz bottle of holy oil, and a small St. Gerard holy medal.



ST. ALPHONSUS ARTHRITIS GIFT SET – \$10

Features an arthritis novena to St. Alphonsus and a laminated prayer card with a holy medal.



“3-MINUTE PRAYERS FOR DIFFICULT TIMES” BOOK – \$10

Meditate, pray and reflect for just 3 short minutes and find quality, stress-free time with 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-\$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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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:

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