

*“Peace
be with you”*
~ Pope Leo XIV



VOLUME 124

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JUNE 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

Habemus Papam! We have a pope! On May 8, the Church once again echoed these timeless words from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica as the world welcomed Pope Leo XIV. In just over two weeks, we said a heartfelt farewell to Pope Francis and now turn with hope to a new shepherd of the Church.

It is worth remembering that the word “pope” comes from the affectionate word “papa”—father. The Holy Father is both a leader and a spiritual father to us all. Fittingly, Pope Leo XIV's very first words as pope were a father's blessing to the world: “Peace be with you.” In fact, he spoke of peace ten times in his initial greeting to the world. What more heartfelt desire could a father offer his children than peace?

This June, as we celebrate Father's Day, we are reminded of the quiet strength and deep love offered by fathers and father figures—those who, like Pope Leo XIV, bless us with peace through their presence, words, and lives.

Among them is Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Blessed Seelos lived a life of peace. His inner peace carried him through life's ups and downs. He also shared peace with others through the sacrament of confession, words of consolation, and compassionate service to the poor. He, too, was a spiritual father, gently guiding souls to the heart of Christ.

As we journey through this month, thank those who have been fathers of peace in our lives. And may we, in turn, echo the words of our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV: “Peace be with you.”



Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.

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

Act of Consecration to St. Joseph by St. Alphonsus Liguori

O Holy Patriarch, I rejoice with you at the exalted dignity by which you were deemed worthy to act as father to Jesus, to give him orders and to be obeyed by him whom heaven and earth obey.

O great saint, as you were served by God, I too wish to be taken into your service. I choose you, after Mary, to be my chief advocate and protector.

I promise to honor you everyday by some special act of devotion and by placing myself under your daily protection.

By that sweet company which Jesus and Mary gave you in your lifetime, protect me all through life, so that I may never separate myself from my God by losing his grace.

My dear St. Joseph, pray to Jesus for me. Certainly, He can never refuse you anything, as He obeyed all your orders while on earth. Tell Him to detach me from all creatures and from myself, to inflame me with His holy love, and then to do with me what He pleases.

By that assistance which Jesus and Mary gave you at death, I beg of you to protect me in a special way at the hour of my death, so that dying assisted by you, in the company of Jesus and Mary, I may go to thank you in paradise and, in your company, to praise my God for all eternity.

Amen.

Who was Pope Leo XIII?

Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, chose his papal name “Leo” as a tribute to Pope Leo XIII. So who was he?

Courtesy The Pope Leo XIII Institute, popeleo13institute.org

Pope Leo XIII reigned from 1878 to 1903, the fourth-longest reign of any pope. He is admired for a great many reasons, especially for writing the Prayer to St. Michael – often recited for protection against evil – and 11 encyclicals on the Rosary and on Catholic social teaching.

Pope Leo XIII promoted Marian devotion – especially through recitation of the Rosary – as a powerful antidote to the devil’s attacks on the Church, the family, and society. He was well aware of

the dangers posed by trends in modern thought. He foresaw many social evils that would come to pass as a result of erroneous philosophies.

He never tired of encouraging political and moral leaders to live and rule in a Christian way. As an intellectual and spiritual leader, he was able to see deeply into the reality of the world, always acutely aware of the invisible yet very real battle being waged against the soul of each person and against communities.

“The race of man, after its miserable fall from God, the Creator and the Giver of heavenly gifts, ‘through the envy of the devil,’ separated into two diverse and opposite parts, of which the one steadfastly contends for truth and virtue, the other of those things which are contrary to virtue and to truth. The one is the kingdom of God on earth, namely, the true Church of Jesus Christ; and those who desire from their heart to be united with it, so as to gain salvation, must of necessity serve God and His only begotten Son with their whole mind and with an entire will. The other is the kingdom of Satan, in whose possession and control are all whosoever follow the fatal example of their leader and of our first parents, those who refuse to obey the divine and eternal law, and who have many aims of their own in contempt of God, and many aims also against God...”

Let us take our helper and intercessor the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, so that she, who from the moment of her conception overcame Satan may show her power over these evil sects... Let us beseech Michael, the prince of the heavenly angels, who drove out the infernal foe...”

— Pope Leo XIII, April 20, 1884



Congratulations to Seelos Shrine volunteer Nina Tapia, 2025 Order of St. Louis IX Award Recipient!

The Order of St. Louis IX Award was established in 1975 to honor laypersons who have contributed their time and talents to the church. It is one of the most cherished awards presented in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



THE PAPAL BULL OF INDICATION

Tradition dictates that each Jubilee is proclaimed through the publication of a Papal (or Pontifical) “Bull of Indiction.” A “Bull” is an official document, generally written in Latin, bearing the seal of the Pope. In the past the seal was made of lead and bore, on the front, the image of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, founders of the Church of Rome, and, on the back, the name of the current Pontiff. Later an ink stamp replaced the metal seal.

Each Bull is identified by its initial words. For example, Saint John Paul II proclaimed the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 with the Bull *Incarnationis Mysterium* (The Mystery of the Incarnation), while Pope Francis proclaimed the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy (2015-2016) with the Bull *Misericordiae vultus* (The face of mercy). The 2024-2025 Jubilee Bull is *Spes non confundit* (Hope does not disappoint). To read the complete Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025, visit www.rb.gy/es87ta.



Text & photo courtesy iubilaeum2025.va

Blessings for the Sick

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

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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

NEW ORLEANS, LA

I was prayed over at the Shrine for my diagnosis of stage 4 breast cancer. I felt God's spirit enter my body and the

crucifix I held was vibrating. I have experienced a great healing ever since and my tests are totally wonderful.

CHICAGO, IL

In 2021 during pregnancy with my son, I was told the baby had a brain condition. He was born with retractable epilepsy. At the age of 3 months we were told he needed to undergo surgery to disconnect half his brain to free him from seizures. I prayed and prayed for a miracle.

My son did undergo a successful surgery and now is seizure free. He is disabled but thriving. He is now learning how to talk and walk – something I never imaged my son would do. Thank you God, and thank you Father Seelos!

BREAUX BRIDGE, LA

When I was very little, I was sent to a hospital in New Orleans to remove a brain tumor. I was prayed over by so many people – including, I believe, Father Seelos himself. His church was

close to my hospital and when I woke up from surgery, I told my parents and doctors how he was in the room with me. I've always said he is my saint and guardian angel.

LOUISVILLE, KY

I have a second class relic of Blessed Seelos encased in a reliquary. I recently decided to quit using all nicotine products, and the withdrawal has been quite difficult.

briefly after doing so, and when I came back and sat down at my desk, I felt an unmistakable, instantaneous relief of all of my withdrawal-related symptoms and fatigue.

During a particularly hard time, I placed the reliquary upon my head and implored Blessed Seelos to intercede for me that I might have some relief from my withdrawal symptoms. I left the room

The difference between the agonizing cravings and the instantaneous total lack of any cravings was nothing short of miraculous.



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor

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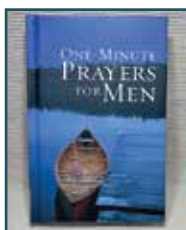
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DID YOU KNOW?

Only three birthdays are celebrated on the Church's liturgical calendar: the Nativity of Our Lord (Dec. 25), the Nativity of Mary (Sept. 8), and the Nativity of John the Baptist, on June 24. John, cousin of Jesus, is honored in the Church because of his role in preparing the way for Christ before He began His public ministry.

Courtesy missions.ewtn.com

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ FATHER FIGURES



"ONE-MINUTE PRAYERS FOR MEN" BOOK – \$15

These simple prayers will help men focus on their relationship with God.



"THE POWER OF A PRAYING HUSBAND" BOOK – \$28

Features guidance from the Bible, personal experiences from well-known Christian men, prayers and more.



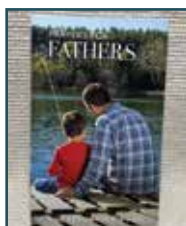
ST. JOSEPH NOVENA PRAYER KIT – \$10

Metal box features image of St. Joseph cradling Jesus - includes novena prayer, petition pad and mechanical pencil.



MINI SLEEPING ST. JOSEPH STATUE & PRAYER CARD – \$20

This gift set features a laminated "Prayer to Sleeping St. Joseph" card and a small pewter statue.



"PRAYERS FOR FATHERS" PAMPHLET – \$3.50

Features prayers to St. Joseph and prayers for families and the Church.



ST. JOSEPH NOTECARD & ENVELOPE – \$5

Hand-painted by New Orleans artist Rachelle Woodard, blank on inside.

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.



REQUEST A RELIC: Relics are available for an offering of \$2.50 each at 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 to learn more about charitable giving.

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".

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