



VOLUME 128

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

On October 5, 1867, New Orleans mourned the passing of a dear friend. Contemporary accounts tell us that at his funeral, “every seat in Saint Mary’s was taken.” Germans, French, Americans, Black and white, rich and poor crowded into the church. No standing room was left, and “the whole congregation was in tears.”

Those tears revealed the love that people had for Fr. Seelos. After all, people knew him not only as a confessor, a comfort in illness, and a joyful presence in their homes and parishes. They knew him as a friend.

As we near the end of the 25th anniversary of Blessed Seelos’ beatification, it is fitting to reflect on when we first met this man whom many have called “friend.” For me, that first encounter came as a seminarian in 2008, during my summer ministry in Biloxi, Mississippi, when I made a brief trip to New Orleans. There, on a hot summer day, I met Blessed Seelos. Over the years, he has become a friend and a companion of hope and healing in my own life.

Much has changed in the 17 years since that visit. The Shrine has grown and welcomed countless thousands of pilgrims. We have faced challenges and celebrated milestones, but we have always moved forward with the generosity of volunteers, benefactors, devotees, and Redemptorists who keep this mission alive. And yet, one thing remains unchanged: the joy of being a friend of Blessed Seelos.

That friendship continues today. Pilgrims seek his intercession. Many pray for the healing of body and spirit. Others discover comfort. And many encounter a sense of peace.

As we celebrate his feast day, I invite you to renew your friendship with Blessed Seelos: speak to him in prayer, visit his Shrine, share his story with someone in need.

Above all, follow his example of joyful trust in God.



Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.

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

OCTOBER SEELOS HEALING MASS



**** SATURDAY ****

October 11, 2025

4:00 pm CDT

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

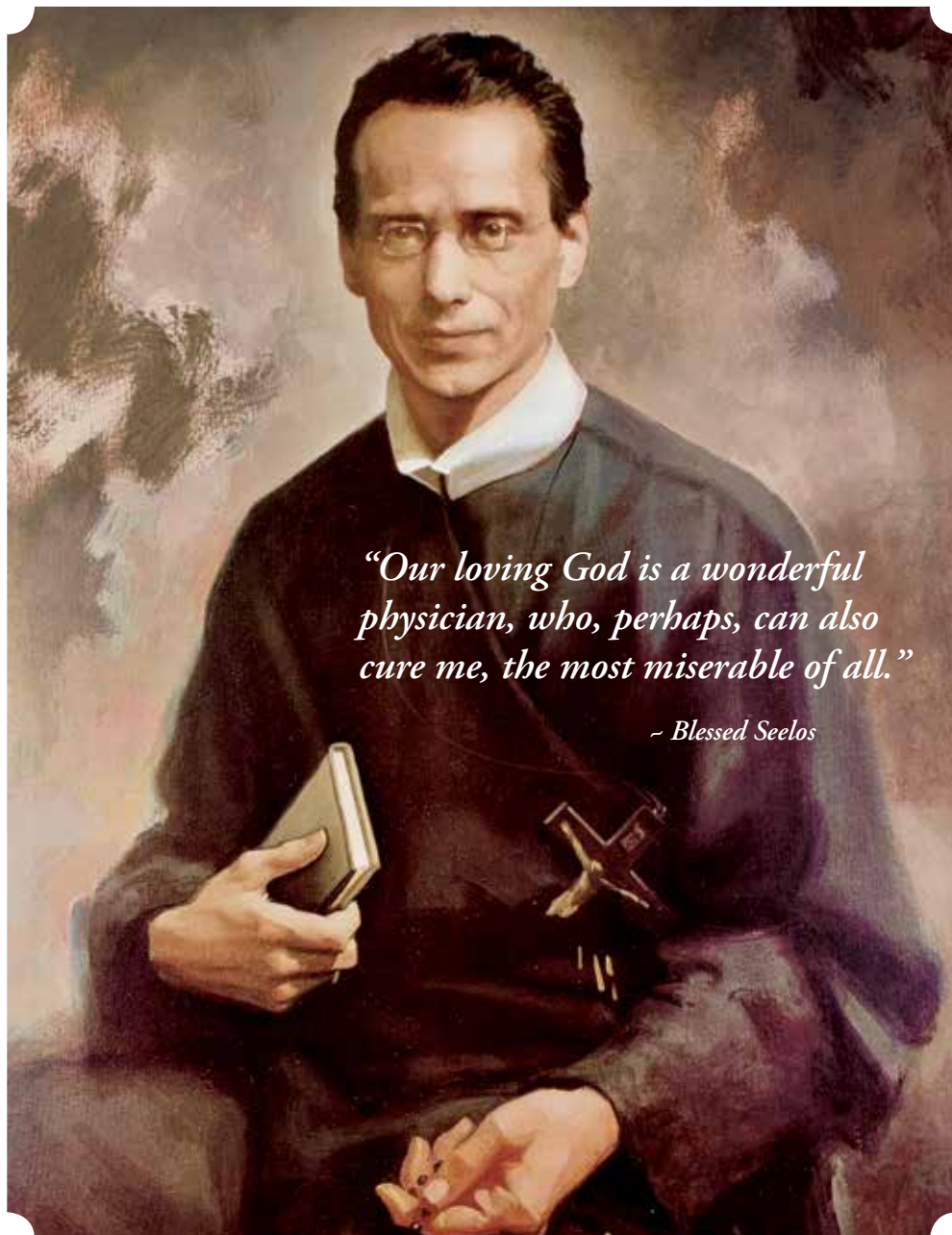
Celebrant

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



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

Happy Feast Day Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos! ~ OCTOBER 5 ~



"Our loving God is a wonderful physician, who, perhaps, can also cure me, the most miserable of all."

~ Blessed Seelos



Congratulations to longtime Seelos Shrine volunteer Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, 2025 Order of Seelos Witness Inductee!

The Order of Seelos Witness honors laypersons who embody the principles and values found in the life of Blessed Seelos. Elizabeth will be inducted in a ceremony on October 11.



1 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE FLOOD ROME FOR JUBILEE

In July, over a million young people from 146 countries filled the streets with joyful singing, flags waving, smiles, and emotion.

120,000 attended a Welcome Mass on Tuesday, July 29. At the end of Mass, the Holy Father paid a surprise visit to the young people. "We hope that all of you will always be signs of hope in the world!" he said in a greeting in front of the basilica.

On Wednesday and Thursday, pilgrims participated in over 70 events, from adoration and prayer, to thematic reflections, to festive and musical events. On Friday, a river of young people, over 30,000 in eight hours, lined up for Confession. Saturday and Sunday saw the gathering of one million youth for Mass with Pope Leo XIV, over 7,000 priests, 400 bishops, and 25 cardinals.

The Jubilee continues, carrying in its hearts a celebration which Rome will not easily forget.



Courtesy www.iubilaeum2025.va

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

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 Fauchaux (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

Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450
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

HOUSTON, TX

Our granddaughter, Quinn Riley, was born at 24 weeks on February 6, 2023 weighing 1.2 lbs. She spent 18 weeks in the NICU. On February 14, we were told the brain ultrasound showed a Grade 4 bleed on both sides of her brain and we needed to be prepared for cerebral palsy and other developmental issues. Devastating news.

I had read about Blessed Seelos in my *Modern Day Saints* book and also watched an amazing documentary about him on EWTN. My sister, Debbie, and I contacted all our Catholic friends and asked them to pray for Blessed Seelos' intercession to heal our Quinn.

Debbie had a dear friend that had a first class relic from Fr Seelos' beatification. She sent it to us and we brought it to the hospital. After several weeks, another ultrasound showed the brain bleeds were now Grade 2. When Quinn was released from the hospital on June 9, 2023, the brain bleed was Grade 0...no evidence of a bleed on either side!

Today, Quinn is a thriving, curious, smart, healthy, beautiful little girl with no physical or mental developmental delays. She's perfect and in my soul I know that Blessed Seelos' intercession is the reason this healing occurred. We call her Our Mighty Miracle Quinn!

CHARLESTON, SC

My name is Thomas Dietrich and I was born in 2006 with a rare liver disorder called Progressive Familial Intrahepatic Cholestasis. I suffered a lot with itching as a toddler until I had a surgical intervention to relieve the itching. I have thrived from a medical standpoint with very few flare ups, until last summer. The itching was worse than it had ever been, to the point that I had to undergo a liver biopsy.

At this point in my life, my faith was growing and maturing and I already had a strong devotion to Blessed Seelos for several years, praying for his intercession that I may grow spiritually to unite my will with God's will, to offer as redemptive suffering. Last summer when I was in the hospital, I kept my Blessed Seelos relic cross in my room and brought it to my procedures. I prayed with this relic before entering my liver biopsy. At the time, I was having liver ultrasounds twice yearly

to monitor the fibrosis in my liver and screen for liver cancer. My ultrasounds consistently indicated moderate liver fibrosis and my routine liver enzyme labs were always elevated 3-4 fold. Yet, much to our surprise and joy, my latest biopsy results revealed NO FIBROSIS, which cannot be explained by medical treatments alone and left the doctors in awe. My liver enzyme labs are at their lowest ever and I feel great!

This journey of suffering has also been one of the greatest blessings in my life because it has brought me so much closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, has brought me joy and inner peace. I am now discerning the priesthood and entering seminary with the diocese of Charleston and this will place me at St. Joseph's Seminary in Louisiana. I can't help but truly believe that Blessed Seelos has been intervening for me through my whole physical and spiritual journey.

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

POPE'S MONTHLY OFFERING PRAYER

Good Father, I know you are with me. Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more next to the Heart of your Son Jesus, who is giving himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist. May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.

I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters. With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

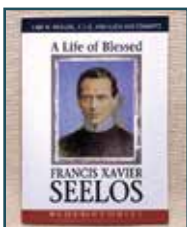
Courtesy Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, clicktopray.org/monthly

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ A CELEBRATION OF SEELOS!



NEW! "PRAYING SEELOS" NOTECARD – \$9

Exclusively available at the Shrine, this 5x7 notecard features a watercolor illustration painted by New Orleans artist Angelle Skaggs, and the quote "Pray earnestly, because a prayer full of confidence can obtain everything from God." Comes with envelope.



"THE LIFE OF BLESSED SEELOS" BOOK – \$15

A biography about Seelos' German roots, the formation of his faith, and his devotion to the Redemptorist mission.



WOODEN PRAYER BOX – \$29

4x3 wooden box featuring an image of Seelos, perfect for holding a special rosary, prayer petitions and more.



RELIC CRUCIFIX – \$132

This 8" Redemptorist crucifix features a Seelos 2nd class relic inlaid by Shrine volunteers. Comes with gift bag.



PEWTER AUTO VISOR CLIP – \$15

Make Blessed Seelos your co-pilot with this pewter and epoxy visor clip.

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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Director: Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.
Vice-Postulator: Stephen T. Rehauer, C.Ss.R.
Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman, Heidi Groat, Patricia Norman, Marilyn Olivard, Shelly Raynal

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Reverend Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R.

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:

Name: _____

Address: _____