



VOLUME 137

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JULY 2026

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

As you read this newsletter, we at the Seelos Shrine pray that you and your extended family be graced with a meaningful July 4th! On this day 250 years ago, our nation's ancestors courageously claimed a clear truth that all people "are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

I suspect that Father Seelos would agree with this declaration, while patiently directing us to anchor and to practice these Rights within the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For Fr. Seelos, these Rights and their pursuit, if based on human effort alone, without Christ, are likely shallow and short-lived. Christ's Sacred Heart contains boundless love and wisdom; it is the source of renewal for merciful living, the roadmap to eternal salvation!

Blessed Seelos taught that any meaningful pursuit in life can best be attained through daily immersion into Christ's mercy, from which we then faithfully care for one another. In doing so, individually and together, deep healing and lasting joy will surge within us, our family, our world!

Friends, on this national anniversary, our bishops invite us to consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. How? In the words of Pope Leo, consecration begins with "contemplating Christ's love which [urges] us to attend to our sisters and brothers suffering in the world today, particularly in our care for poor and vulnerable people."

Let us beg Blessed Seelos to help each of us devote our daily living to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to continue practicing gratitude for our country, to guide us in fostering Christ's gifts of truth, dialogue, solidarity and compassion into our society.

Dear good Fr. Seelos, pray for us!



Fr. Binh T. Ta, C.Ss.R.

Fr. Binh T. Ta, C.Ss.R.

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

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Father in Heaven,
you chose Mary to be the mother
of your Son and gave her to us
to be our mother also.

As we celebrate the 250th
anniversary of independence
of the United States, we ask Mary
to protect and guide our country.

May we, under her protection,
be united with you and with
one another.

Strengthened by the gift of the
Holy Spirit, help us to have a
stronger faith, be filled with hope,
and live in charity with all of our
brothers and sisters.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Courtesy arlingtondiocese.org

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

Shrine Gift Shop Christmas in July Sale!

UP TO 40% OFF ~ IN-STORE ONLY ~ GOING ON NOW



Stop by and pick up
gifts for everyone
on your list!

*Rosaries, Medals, Toys,
Jewelry, Books, Artwork,
Seasonal Items and More*

ACKNOWLEDGING THE PASSING OF TWO SEELOS DEVOTEES

ANTONIO MARRAZZO, C.Ss.R. (1952–2026)



Father Antonio Marrazzo, C.Ss.R., died on April 26, 2026, after nearly forty years of service as Postulator General of the Redemptorists. He dedicated his priestly life to advancing the causes of canonization of saints

whose witness continues to enrich the Church, including Blessed Seelos, whose holiness and missionary zeal Father Marrazzo helped bring before the universal Church. Through his tireless work as postulator, he promoted the legacy of Seelos and numerous other Redemptorist blessed, ensuring that their lives of faith, compassion, and service would inspire future generations. May he rest in the communion of the saints he so devotedly served.

JOYCE DUPRE BOURGEOIS (1940–2026)



Joyce Bourgeois passed away peacefully on April 29, 2026. She was a devoted nurse for over 30 years. After her long career of nursing, she continued her service to others through the Seelos Shrine, becoming its administrator in

2003. Joyce never judged a person on their appearance, and treated everyone the same—with care, love, and compassion. Her legacy will live on in the family and friends she held so close in her heart. The value she instilled was love and perseverance and the importance of always staying connected to Our Lord and Blessed Mother. She would say “We can’t control the winds, but we can adjust the sails.”

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

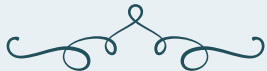
Parting thoughts from Shrine Director Fr. Aaron Meszaros: "We are all pilgrims."

The more I have come to know Francis Xavier Seelos, the more I believe that when he left Füssen, Bavaria, he was searching for the "home" God was calling him to find as a missionary. He would come to understand that this home was not a place, but the home one discovers when dwelling in God's loving gaze. In time, he would come to New Orleans, where he would live, serve, and ultimately be laid to rest.

Here—and in the many other places he served—he became beloved for his merciful heart and closeness to God's people. Even if it was not the home he once knew, it became the home he was given and received with a ready heart. It was a foretaste of the fullness of God's promise.

I am grateful for the home the Seelos Shrine has been for me. In these almost two years that I have served as director, it has been an honor and a joy. I offer my thanks to each of you for your kindness and generosity.

If there is one theme that has defined these months we shared, it is that we are all pilgrims. What greater calling than to walk together—bringing light, not shadow; hope, not despair; unity, not division; peace, not fear; and above all, love. Always love. No matter where we find ourselves, may we always be in God's sacred gaze, knowing we are home.



A Pilgrim's Prayer for Home

by Aaron L. Meszaros, C.S.R.



Buildings and structures
cannot contain the warmth
the human heart longs for.
Where every hurt and hidden wound
is met with the anointing of healing—
yes, this is home.
Where every division and careless word
is made whole in the unbroken heart of God—
yes, this is home.
I long for home,
where I will meet again the pilgrims
who have walked this path before me,
and greet them face-to-face.
O, how I long for that embrace.
Alleluia—this is home.
I long for home.
The Home I call love:
where the door stands open,
and the table is set.
Come without fear or trembling.
Here, we are received gently.
Alleluia! We are home!

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm ~ Check seelos.org/calendar for closures

Helping Catholics Apply Gospel Messages Today!



Find hope and inspiration in the award-winning **Liguorian** magazine. Subscriptions available for as little as \$12 per year.

AVAILABLE IN **PRINT** AND **DIGITAL** FORMATS.

Visit Liguorian.org for details.

PUBLISHED BY THE REDemptORISTS



JULY SHRINE CLOSURE

The Shrine will be closed on Saturday, July 4, 2026, in observance of Independence Day.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ AT HOME & ON THE ROAD



EXCLUSIVE! "SEELOS SEASONAL" MARIAN NOVENA BOOKLET – \$14

New at the Seelos Shrine and edited by former Shrine Director Aaron Meszaros, C.Ss.R., this booklet features a novena to "A Mother who Walks with Us." It includes prayers, reflections, quotes from Blessed Seelos, daily actions, prayer intentions and more.



"PRAY THE STORM AWAY" KIT – \$27

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



SEELOS FLORAL GARDEN FLAG – \$18

12"x17" outdoor-grade flag with Seelos quote, "To feel God's presence in nature. It is that which always refreshes my heart."



SEELOS CRYSTAL AUTO ROSARY – \$14

This one-decade rosary features aurora borealis crystal beads, an image of Seelos and a clasp to add it to your rearview mirror.



ST. CHRISTOPHER TRAVELER'S KIT – \$18

Includes "Prayer before a Journey" prayer card, prayer token, holy oil & holy water bottles, and blessed salt to sprinkle in your vehicle.

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



SEELOS CENTER NEWS (USPS 4472) is published monthly at The National Shrine of Blessed Seelos, a ministry of the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers.

Director: Binh T. Ta, C.Ss.R.

Vice-Postulator: Stephen T. Rehauer, C.Ss.R.

Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman,

Heidi Groat, Andi Koenig, Patricia Norman,

Marilyn Olivard, Beau Perrault

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: _____
