



VOLUME 127

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

When I was a kid, every year on the first day of school my sister and I followed the unwritten rule: stand still, smile, and let Mom take the “first day of school” photo before we left the house. I’m not sure what happened to those pictures. They’re probably tucked away in a shoebox in my parents’ basement, waiting to be rediscovered.

As September arrives, classrooms once again fill with students. Children are opening their minds to the wonders of the world. Young adults gather on college campuses, preparing to become the next generation of poets, teachers, and scientists.

For many of us, school is something we remember rather than attend. Perhaps now we are capturing the first-day smiles of children and grandchildren. Yet no matter our age, there is still a school we are all invited to enter: the school of prayer.

In the Redemptorist tradition, prayer is at the heart of our relationship with God. St. Alphonsus Liguori—a Doctor of Prayer—understood its power. He taught that if you pray, you are certain to be saved, not because of prayer alone but because those who pray nurture a living relationship with our loving God.

As a Redemptorist, prayer was just as central to Blessed Seelos’ life. Fr. Peter Zimmer, C.Ss.R., recalled how Blessed Seelos would find ordinary moments, such as “moving about the house, and on the street,” to lift his “heart to God.”

As this school year begins, why not enroll yourself in the School of Prayer? This school has no grades, no deadlines—only the gentle shaping of the soul in God’s presence. Take a few minutes each day to speak with God as you would with a dear friend. Or pause quietly and ask Blessed Seelos to sit with you in prayer.

*In the School of Prayer, every day is the first day,  
and God is always ready to meet you there.*



*Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.*

Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.

*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](https://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. ★

# Hallow app founders and friends stop by the Shrine for a visit

This summer, the Seelos Shrine was visited by the creators of Hallow, the most popular prayer app in the world. The app provides audio guided Bible stories, prayers and reflections, meditations, books, content for kids and schools, devotionals, sleep aids, rosaries, study courses, music and more.

Other features include community challenges and daily prayers such as the Catholic practice of *Lectio Divina*, and options to set prayer routines.

*Try the app for free at [hallow.com](http://hallow.com) and get started on your prayer journey today!*



*From left: Meghan Jones, app co-creator Alex Jones, Father Joseph, Seelos staff member Geri Bothman, app co-creator Erich Kerekes, app founding team member Kristina Chapple, and Seelos staff member Heidi Groat*

## SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



### Pilgrim & Volunteer Testimonial

The Seelos Shrine is a unique place in New Orleans of peace and continuous silent healings. I experienced a healing of remission from cancer after frequent prayer with a Seelos Shrine prayer partner and the intercession of the Holy Spirit and Blessed Seelos. I have seen many people experience unforgettable moments when praying with the Cross of Fr. Seelos.

I found a deep peace that overflows into the gift of cleansing tears as I sit before the beautiful reliquary of Fr. Seelos. It has happened several times. Each time I walk away wondering when I can come back to experience it again.

The Seelos Shrine is one of the most peaceful places that I have ever visited. It houses one of the largest collections of saintly relics that I have seen in the area. Since my healing, I have volunteered for the healing masses. My favorite thing is being a host for the Walk of the Nine Churches every year on Good Friday.

If you need any prayer cards or a religious gift for anyone, the Shrine's gift shop is an amazing place to find something special. But most of all, I'd say you just have to visit and experience the peace for yourself. You'll want to come back over and over.

## Hey Baltimore, say "Hi!" to the Seelos Shrine!



Blessed Seelos will be featured at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's canonization 50th anniversary celebration. If you're in the area, stop by our table, grab some freebies, and say "Hi!" to Fr. Steve, Greg and Peggy!

**SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2025**  
*339 South Seton Ave, Emmitsburg, MD*

Mass • Candlelight Concert • Live Music  
Performances, Tours & Presentations  
Food Trucks • Games for Children

See a schedule of events at [SetonShrine.org/celebration](http://SetonShrine.org/celebration)

## 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 Johnson (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

### LOUISVILLE, KY

I recently decided to quit using all nicotine products, and the withdrawal has been quite difficult. I have a second class relic of Blessed Seelos which I placed upon my head, and implored him to intercede for me that I might have some relief from my withdrawal symptoms. I left the room briefly after doing so,

and when I came back and sat down, I felt an unmistakable, instantaneous relief of all of my withdrawal-related symptoms and fatigue. The difference between the agonizing cravings and the instantaneous total lack of any cravings was nothing short of miraculous. Thank you, Fr. Seelos!

### NEW ORLEANS, LA

I received a blessing that I consider a gift from God and my devotion to Blessed Seelos. It was the gift of getting to spend 70 days with my 23-year-old daughter in the ICU before complications from the flu took her life. She didn't die alone. I am deeply grateful for that. My daughter had moved away to Florida for her career, and she could have passed without me being able to spend time with her.

the 70 days. I got to be with her and hold her until her last breath.

I continue to find peace with the intercessory prayers of the prayer partners at the Seelos Shrine. It gives me the strength to find purpose in my daughter's death. I give third class relics that I get from the Seelos gift shop to share with friends and family who need peace or healing. I always encourage them to visit the Shrine to find the peace and comfort that I experience. Thank you God and Blessed Seelos!

We had a Blessed Seelos relic in her hospital room. As devastating as the outcome was, I am still very grateful for

### BERLIN, NJ

I am 51 years old and I have had a leaking mitral valve in my heart since childhood. The leak suddenly worsened in January and I became ill from a combination of issues, including pulmonary failure. I was in the hospital on a ventilator for 20 days with a 5-10% chance of survival. While I was in a coma, my good friend blessed me with holy oil from Blessed Seelos in the hopes of a healing. I not

only survived the pulmonary failure, but then survived complications including pulmonary embolisms and heart failure. On March 14 I underwent a procedure to place 2 clips in my heart to stop the severe leaking. Now, my valve has only a trace leak, I am no longer in heart failure and many of the other complications are resolving. I'm learning to walk again and improving every day by the grace of God.



### 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

## 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



### NEW! BLUSH MADONNA & CHILD STATUE – \$23

*Hand-painted by Colombian widows who have lost their husbands to violence, this 7" tall wooden statue depicts the Blessed Mother in a blush pink gown with gold detailing, cradling sweet Baby Jesus.*



### OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PRAYER KIT – \$25

*Includes prayer pouch, rosary made with tiny holy medals, and booklet with prayers for protection.*



### OUR LADY OF MERCY HOLY BOX – \$40

*Wooden box featuring image of Our Lady includes holy oil, blessed salt, wooden scapular and second class Seelos relic.*



### "HEAVEN SENT" SEELOS ORNATE PRAYER BOX – \$70

*This 2" glass box features antique gold filigree, four colored stones and an image of Blessed Seelos.*



### "HEAVEN SENT" MIRACULOUS MARY ORNATE PRAYER BOX – \$60

*This 2" glass box features antique gold filigree, pearls, and Miraculous Mary medal.*

*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 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 (\$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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_