



VOLUME 109

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MARCH 2024

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

On the last day of this month, the Church Universal celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ—Easter Sunday. Our joyous cry is “Alleluia! He lives no more to die!” I am intrigued and inspired by St. Paul’s assertion found in Philippians 3:10-11: “to know him and the power of his resurrection...” Our belief in the power of the risen Redeemer is our promise of everlasting life.

We received the sad news that our former director, Father Richard Boever died after battling lung cancer on January 28, 2024. I am told that Father Rich was prepared and ready to go Home to God. I believe those who are spiritually prepared to face death are also prepared to embrace the gift of eternal life. For the Christian, life is changed, not ended. We are given one life to live and the material things we invest in are left behind. But our dearly departed also leaves us with the precious memories of the life they lived. These memories are what we must cherish.

It has been said that human beings die twice—once when our physical bodies leave this Earth but finally when the memory of our lives are forgotten. The Redemptorists have a tradition of reading the “memorabilia” each day; it is a brief record of deceased confreres’ lives, their contributions to our community and beyond, and a memory of their personality. Thus, our Redemptorists, in a sense, never die because we remember them, we speak their name, and cherish their memory.

We mourn because we are human; we rejoice because we are Christian. And we celebrate the power of Jesus’ resurrection; for we are a resurrection people in life and in death. We lovingly remember you, Father Rich!

Have a happy and blessed Easter.



Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.

Father Maurice J. Nutt, C.Ss.R.

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

SAVE THE DATE SEELOS HEALING MASS

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



Sunday, April 14, 2024

St. Mary’s Assumption Church
and Facebook Live ~ 1:00 pm CT



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

Snapshots from the January Healing Mass



SHRINE SPOTLIGHT



Manny Broussard

How long have you been volunteering at the Shrine? “5 years.”

What brought you to the Shrine? “I had two brothers and a sister-in-law who were diagnosed with cancers. I came after hearing about Blessed Seelos. I bought a dozen second class relics, then sent one to each of my sick family members. I still give relics and prayer cards to people who are dealing with health and life problems. I was asked if I would like to volunteer and said yes.”

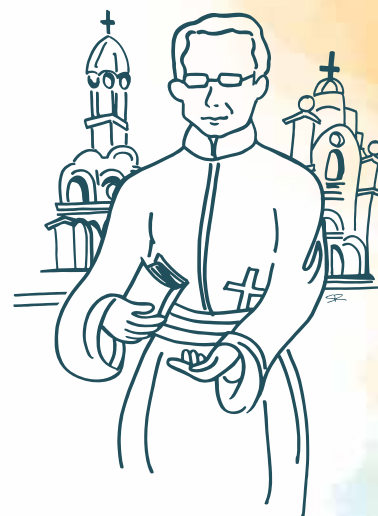
What do you do at the Shrine? “I work in the gift shop and volunteer for Healing Masses. I am also a prayer partner in the Shrine.”

What does volunteering at the Shrine mean to you? “Volunteering has helped me to spend time developing a prayer life past the doors of the Shrine. I see the goodness in all of the volunteers and priests at the Seelos Shrine. I only hope that goodness can be seen in me.”

Birthday Blessings

To honor the birth of Blessed Seelos, we are holding our annual “Birthday Blessings” giving campaign! Choose from three levels of giving and receive tokens of our gratitude for your generosity.

Visit www.SEELOS.org/birthday-blessings
or call (504) 525-2495 to donate!



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
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)
Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)
Monica Surprenant (401) 207-5521
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

ORLEANS PARISH
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK
Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213
Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515

LOUISIANA

ABBEVILLE / ERATH / LAFAYETTE
Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

ALEXANDRIA
Deacon Bill / Joan Travis (318) 664-7069
Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545

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
Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450
Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807

IOTA
Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

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

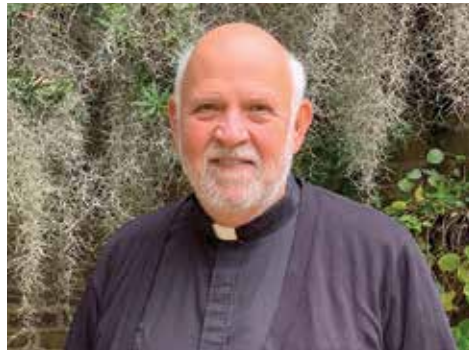
PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES
Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY
Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

KATY, TEXAS
Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

Honoring the devoted life of Father Rich Boever, C.Ss.R.



Father Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., former Director of the Seelos Shrine, died after a struggle with cancer on January 28, 2024. Fr. Rich expressed his creativity and talents throughout his 50 years of ministry, but he may be best remembered for promoting devotion to St. John Neumann and Blessed Seelos.

Richard and Clara Boever welcomed Richard Andrew to their family on May 13, 1947 in St. Louis, MO. His interest in a priestly vocation was sparked in first grade and cemented by the sixth grade, when he served Mass for a Redemptorist preaching a novena at his parish. He enrolled at St. Joseph's College in Edgerton, WI in 1961, where his artistic talents began to blossom and he formed lifelong friendships with his classmates. He was accepted into novitiate in 1967. After completing theology studies, he professed perpetual vows on August 21, 1971. He and his classmates returned to Holy Redeemer College for their ordination on June 21, 1973.

Fr. Rich was assigned at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Mattese, MO in 1975. After four years he joined the staff of Liguori Publications in Liguori, MO. Although he was working full time as an editor, he managed to earn a doctorate degree in Historical Theology at St. Louis University.

In 1987, Fr. Rich was appointed local superior and pastor of St. Gerard Majella Parish in Kirkwood, MO. After three years, he returned to Liguori Publications as publisher and local superior of the Liguori Mission House community. In 1996, he was assigned at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS. He excelled in retreat ministry, and also served as a chaplain and associate professor of theology at nearby Newman University. Five years later, he was chosen as director of St. John Neumann House in St. Louis in 2001. He also served as local community superior from 2002 until 2005, and taught theology at nearby St. Louis University. In 2005, Fr. Rich returned to retreat ministry, where he delved into pottery and weaving, honoring his contemplative spirit and passion for working with his hands.

In 2010, Fr. Rich was appointed to the Liguori Mission House, a few months before his book, *Saint John Neumann: His Writings and Spirituality*, was published. This position afforded him the flexibility to serve as a research expert at the Neumann Shrine in Philadelphia for three years, and then as pastor of three rural parishes in Missouri. He enjoyed the country life, especially growing bountiful crops of vegetables in his garden.

Fr. Rich was appointed Executive Director of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos in New Orleans, LA in 2019. He enjoyed promoting devotion to Blessed Seelos and wrote *Zealous Missionary: From the Perspective of Francis Xavier Seelos* in 2021. He was granted retirement status in 2023 and moved to the Desert House Mission Community, where he lived out his final days. He was laid to rest in St. Louis, MO.

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

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.

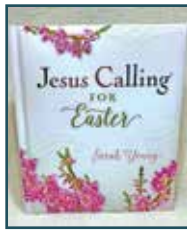
Visit Liguorian.org for details.

PUBLISHED BY THE REDEMPТОRISTS

THE IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm
of His hand.

HOT IN THE SHOP



“JESUS CALLING FOR EASTER” BOOK – \$20

This padded hardcover book features 50 selections for the Lent and Easter season, with scripture and quotes.



ST. PATRICK PRAYER CARD, ROSARY & TOKEN SET – \$16

Includes a Lorica of St. Patrick prayer card, a rosary with green beads, & a pewter St. Patrick token.



ST. PATRICK STATUE & “IRISH BLESSING” TOKEN SET – \$23

This gift set features a 4” statue of St. Patrick and a pewter token with a celtic cross and the Irish Blessing.



WOODEN ROSARY CRAFT KIT – \$12

Children ages 5 and up can make their own rosary with this colorful craft kit.



MR. CHOCOLATE BUNNY PLUSH – \$20

This 11” plush looks just like a chocolate bunny, but you can snuggle with it!

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. 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



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

Seelos Center Interim Director: Father Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.
Seelos Vice-Postulator: Father Gilbert Enderle, C.Ss.R.
Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman, Jan Brown, Heidi Groat, Patricia Norman, Marilyn Olivard, Shelly Raynal

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Reverend Kevin Zubeł, 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 (\$12)

Other: _____

Make checks payable to “National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos”.

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____