



VOLUME 135

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MAY 2026

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

Each Mother's Day, my mom plays a cassette tape of a song my older sister and I recorded for her at ages 9 and 6. My sister composed both music and lyrics. The refrain was simple: "Mom, you are the best. You're special. You're the greatest mom in the world." Even now, as life changes, those words remain.

With Mother's Day on the horizon, I find myself thinking about family, and how it shapes us, shelters us, and teaches us to love. Family is where we first discover that we are safe, that we belong, and that we are loved. It is the harbor we return to when life's storms roll in. Sometimes, family is the people we grew up with. Sometimes, it is the friends who become as close as kin, or the community that quietly and faithfully grows around us over the years.

Spring and summer seem to call us to remember family in all its forms. We celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, and in May, we honor St. Gerard Majella and the many Redemptorists who have served the Church with love and devotion through the years.

Jesus, in the Gospels, invites us to see family with new eyes. He tells us that all who listen to God's Word and live it are brothers and sisters. In Christ, we are woven together into a family rooted in love, mercy, and compassion.

At the Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, this spiritual family comes alive each day. Pilgrims arrive with loved ones, carrying hopes and prayers in their hearts. Others come alone and discover to their surprise that they are not alone after all. No matter your story or where you have come from, you are always welcome here.

This month, pause and offer a prayer at the Seelos Shrine for the loved ones who have formed your life. If you wish, send us their names at seelos.org/submit-a-prayer-petition so we can remember them at Mass and in our prayers. In Christ, we are one family.



Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.

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

MAY DAY OF PRAYER MAY CROWNING



Friday, May 15, 2026

St. Mary's Assumption Church

Join us as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven.

10:45 am - Confessions

11:00 am - Rosary

11:30 am - Mass

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

Celebrating the 300th Birthday of St. Gerard Majella

Excerpts from catholic.org with a prayer from Rogério Gomes, C.Ss.R., Redemptorist Superior General, Rome, Italy

St. Gerard Majella was born in 1726 in Italy to a poor family of seven. When he was 12 his father died and his mother sent him away to become a tailor. Once he began earning money, he split his earnings with his mother and the poor. As the days passed, Majella began to grow pale and thin, often fasting and in prayer at a nearby cathedral.

In 1749, at the age of 23, he joined the Redemptorists. His charity, obedience, and selfless service as well as his ceaseless mortification for Christ made him the perfect model of lay brothers.

Several miracles are tied to Majella including, restoring a boy's life after he fell from a high cliff and multiplying bread for the poor on several occasions. Along with his miracles effected through

prayers for woman in labor, Majella's last recorded miracle is one that many credit toward his becoming the patron of expectant mothers. Shortly before his death, Majella encountered a young girl. He dropped his handkerchief and when she returned it, he told to keep it, saying she "may need it someday." Years later, the girl was married and with child. She unexpectedly went into labor and was on the verge of losing her baby. She called for Majella's handkerchief to be applied to her. Almost immediately, her pain abated and she gave birth to a healthy child, something rare during that time.

St. Gerard Majella died of tuberculosis on October 16, 1755 at the age of 29, living in the religious life for only six years. On December 11, 1904, Majella was declared a saint.



Eternal Father, we praise and thank you for the life of Saint Gerard Majella, born 300 years ago to be a light and a sign of hope in the Church and in the world.

Jesus, our Redeemer, we desire to follow you, inspired by the example of Saint Gerard Majella, embracing the cross of each day with love and humility in service to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

Holy Spirit, enlighten our minds and hearts to discern and fulfill the will of God with joy. Teach us to be brothers and sisters, and, with Saint Gerard, to promote fraternity and peace.

Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, you who dwell in the communion of saints with Saint Gerard, pray for the Redemptorist missionaries, that they may persevere in their vocation and mission. Bless families and awaken in the hearts of young people the desire to follow Jesus in consecrated religious life. Amen.



Congratulations to Art & Audrey LaPorte, inaugural recipients of the Seelos Order of Service Award!

This award recognizes long-standing Shrine volunteers who have showed excellence and dedication in their commitment to service, particularly in the spirit of Blessed Seelos who embodied this in the value and virtue of hospitality and welcome to guest and stranger.

New "At the Table" Monthly e-Newsletter



There's a saying about Redemptorists: we are kitchen-table missionaries. It is an expression that has grown out of people's experience of us. After all, you tend to find Redemptorists in the simple places where faith is shared: around kitchen tables, in hospital rooms, and in parish halls after Mass.

This is where Redemptorists have always tried to be—close to the people and attentive to where God is already at work in their hopes, worries, and questions, long before we arrive. That spirit is what we hope to share with you through *At the Table*, our new monthly email newsletter. Here you will find glimpses of Redemptorist life, our ministries, and the everyday people who shape and inspire our mission.

With *At the Table*, you'll receive Redemptorist news previously while also being invited into something more. Alongside updates and stories from our ministries, you'll find fresh perspectives on Redemptorist spirituality, prayerful reflections, and the voices of the men of our congregation—offered in an up-close, conversational style. So pull up a chair, stay awhile, and come back often. There's always room at the table.

To sign up, scan the code below with your phone's camera, or visit RedemptoristsDenver.org/at-the-table



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
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Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK
Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213

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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 / THIBODAU
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
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MANDEVILLE / SLIDELL
David Brumfield (985) 234-9355
Lisa and Eric Johns (985) 640-1677
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE
Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

OPELOUSAS
Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PONCHATOUA
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

HARAHAN, LA

In 1966 my son, Timmy, was tested for Cystic Fibrosis, and the results were positive. His doctor said that we needed to test him again in a month.

For that length of time all my neighbors, family, and I prayed to Father Seelos for a miracle. I was so worried as Cystic

Fibrosis was very prevalent in my family having four members diagnosed with the disease and Timmy had all the symptoms.

A month later, when he was tested again, the results were negative. I know Father Seelos interceded for Timmy.

PUENTE GENIL, CÓRDOBA, SPAIN

Fui al hospital a llevar a mi abuela para un cateterismo porque nos dijeron que tenía una válvula mala del corazón y ella está en un Estado muy delicado por tener muchas patologías. Antes de entrar a la prueba me dirijo a la iglesia del Hospital y me encontré la imagen del beato

I took my grandmother to the hospital for a catheterization because they told us she had a bad heart valve, and she's in very delicate condition due to several health problems. Before going in for the procedure, I went to the hospital chapel and saw a picture of Blessed Francis Xavier. I prayed to him and

Francisco Javier y me encomende a el y la cogí. gracias a dios todo salió genial y al resultar el diagnóstico era totalmente erróneo y ella está gracias a Dios bien, doy las gracias por protegerla a ella y a la compañera de habitación que también pedí por ella y también salió todo bien.

picked it up. Everything went perfectly, and the diagnosis was completely wrong. She's doing well, thank God. I give thanks for protecting her and her roommate, for whom I also prayed, and everything turned out well for her too. Thank you for everything.

LAPLACE, LA

Dear Father Seelos, thank you for answering my prayers and helping my husband, Steve, receive a PET scan that shows he is still in remission from

Mantle Cell Lymphoma. Thank you for being by our side for the last four years. You have made this difficult journey so much easier.

BELLEVILLE, IL

13 years ago my daughter Anne Marie was diagnosed with an aggressive bone cancer called Ewing's Sarcoma. She had over 30 radiation treatments, chemo treatments and a stem cell transplant. Nothing was working. A family friend gave us the relic, prayer card and candle of Blessed Francis Seelos during her

treatments. We prayed to Father Seelos. After a cyberknife treatment, Anne Marie was in remission. She is now a FOCUS missionary at Georgia Tech.

Ewing's Sarcoma is very aggressive with a low survival rate. All glory to God and the intercession of Father Seelos.

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

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MAY SHRINE CLOSURE

The Shrine will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2026, in observance of Memorial Day.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ MOM, MARY & MAJELLA



PRAYING WOMAN GIFT SET – \$28

Includes “The Power of a Praying Woman” book and a matching leatherette bookmark featuring the Bible verse Jeremiah 29:11.



OUR LADY OF GRACE SHELL OPAL RING – \$21

This gold-toned adjustable ring features a tiny image of Mary. Choose teal (shown), purple, white or green.



RENAISSANCE EMERALD ROSARY – \$19

This silver-toned rosary features double capped green beads – the birthstone of May.



BLESSED MOTHER SEASHELL ORNAMENT – \$25

This 3” tall seashell features a decoupage image of Mary with gold edging.



IVORY MADONNA BUST STATUE – \$47

This beautiful 8” tall statue depicts the Virgin Mary in an ivory finish.



ST. GERARD MAJELLA GIFT SET – \$34

Includes “Waiting in Hope” book, a St. Gerard prayer card with embedded holy medal, and ½ oz. bottle of holy oil.

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 (\$15)

Other: _____

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

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