



VOLUME 103

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,



It is a pleasure to write my first newsletter article as the “interim director” of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. I am Redemptorist Father Maurice Nutt. I was reared as a child at St. Alphonsus Liguori “Rock” Catholic Church in St. Louis. Essentially, I have known the Redemptorists all my life. At an early age I was impressed by the Redemptorists’ communal and prayer life. The Redemptorists merited my vocation also by their compassion and closeness to God’s people, and their

solidarity and advocacy for the poor and those who experience societal injustices. As a result of these early impressions, I have persevered as a Redemptorist for forty years!

Some have asked what it means to be “interim director?” I serve on the Extraordinary Provincial Council of the Redemptorists of the Denver Province and when charged with discerning the appropriate person to assume the duties of director of the Seelos Center, the Council asked me to assume the position as we continue our collective discernment. I gladly accept the responsibilities of serving as director while continuing to serve as local superior of the New Orleans’ Redemptorist community, occasionally preach parish missions, and accompany a few spiritual direction clients.

*I begin this ministry with the unwavering commitment of serving you, our dedicated Seelos devotees, and promoting the sanctity of my saintly confrere, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.*

I look forward to our journey together as we pray for and promote Blessed Seelos’ cause for canonization.

Wishing you abundant blessings,

Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R.

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

## SAVE THE DATE: SEELOS HEALING MASSES

& ANOINTING OF THE SICK



**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

ENGLISH MASS ~ 1:00 pm CDT  
St. Mary’s Assumption Church  
and on Facebook Live

VIETNAMESE MASS ~ 3:00 pm CDT  
St. Mary’s Assumption Church



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

# St. Michael, Warrior of God

Excerpt from [catholicsaintmedals.com](http://catholicsaintmedals.com)

Over the years, angels have been portrayed and presented in different forms. Many see these messengers of God as fluffy winged, halo-crowned youths or as the babyish cherubs often seen in old paintings and sculptures. People's interpretations of angels vary from guardians of children to the myth of the ringing of a bell giving an angel its wings. Overall, angels have become widely romanticized. What many people fail to notice, however, is that angels are the warriors of God. Sometimes they are described as fearsome beings, such as the Cherubim with four wings and heads, covered with eyes and flaming wheels about them, or the Seraphim sporting four wings and towering stature. It makes sense why they greet mortals with the phrase "Be not afraid"!

One of the best known of the angels is St. Michael the Archangel, the high prince and one of the principal angels. Michael was a great leader of the angels in the war against Satan and his followers. His name served as the war-cry of the good angels as they plunged into battle to "fight the dragon." The image of Michael defeating Satan is one of the most popular depictions of the archangel prince. He's often shown with a spear, sword, armor, banner, and/or scales.

*Michael is known for his strength and courage, and many applaud him for his chivalry and determination to boldly fight for justice. He is featured more than any other named angel in religious texts, and is the oldest angelic devotion.*

Michael is the leader of the four archangels. His fellow archangels are Raphael, whose special mission is healing, Gabriel, the announcing angel who came to the Virgin Mary, and Uriel, the angel of consolation who comforts mortals in times of great loss. Michael is charged with the tasks of protecting those who love God, transporting the souls of the dead, and leading the battle against Satan. He also is traditionally called upon for the freeing of those possessed by evil spirits.

Michael is the patron saint of the military, police officers, firefighters, death, and people who work in dangerous conditions. His feast day is celebrated on the 29th of September. St. Michael the Archangel has inspired artists, accompanied souls, and protected God's people throughout the ages as the leader of the angels and a true warrior of God.

## Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel



St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle. Be our defense  
against the wickedness and snares  
of the Devil. May God rebuke him,  
we humbly pray, and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God, thrust into  
hell Satan, and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.



## HAPPY 87<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, FR. GIL!

On August 11th, fellow Redemptorists, staff and volunteers at the Shrine gathered for a party in honor of Fr. Gil's birthday on August 12th. He said he was feeling especially blessed to be celebrating his 87th year around the sun.

*"We are so very grateful for the gift of Fr. Gil. Happy to celebrate such a wonderful, kind, generous man." - Vicky, Shrine Volunteer*

Thank you, Fr. Gil, for your service to the Shrine  
and to the mission of Blessed Seelos!

## Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix  
(Only family members may request)*

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

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)  
Mark / Monica Surprenant (504) 895-5371  
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961  
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

UPTOWN / ORLEANS PARISH  
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
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

SLIDELL  
Lisa & Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677

LAKE CHARLES  
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA  
David Faucheaux (504) 908-4120

MANDEVILLE  
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

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### BUSH, LA

Blessed Seelos has repeatedly answered prayer requests for my daughter, Tracy. Tracy was born with cerebral palsy due to a lack of oxygen at birth. When we went to the Seelos Shrine, the lady that prayed over her with the cross said "this child is perfect." I said, "I know, my real prayer is that God provide everything we need to take care of her."

God has answered Seelos' intercession! First, right after we got home from the Shrine, I received an email from a lady saying that she wanted to host a race to raise money for Tracy. The event raised \$1,800! Then, a friend who had retired from practicing law offered free services to create a trust fund for Tracy's donations. Tracy has gotten every piece of therapy equipment we have ever asked for, including a handicap accessible van and a gait trainer that her therapist had to write a 16-page letter for and send to Medicaid 15 times to get it approved because they had never approved that type of gait trainer before.

But by far the best answers to our prayers have been her physical healing. About five years ago Tracy sat up for the first time and since then, she has continued to improve to the point where she can sit for hours unassisted. In 2016 Tracy developed epilepsy and her seizures became so frequent that she had to have three times the dose of medication for her weight. She also had episodes where she quit breathing. We prayed fervently asking for Blessed Seelos' intercession and she has now been seizure-free for three years.

I could go on and on about the ways Blessed Seelos has intervened – these are just a few! She is the only level 5 quadriplegic cerebral palsy person that I know who has 100% cognitive function and can communicate! Her orthopedist says that if he had never met her, he couldn't tell from her X-rays that she has cerebral palsy, she has excellent bone structure! Praise the Lord for all His blessings.

### NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV

I have prayed to Blessed Seelos for many years. When an X-ray and C-scan showed a spot on my right lung and the PET scan lit up, I turned again to Blessed Seelos for

help. After 2 lung biopsies the results are no cancer. Thank you, Blessed Seelos, for your intercession!

### WAYNE, ME

Gratitude to Blessed Seelos for his intercession. My husband and I did a novena for blood work which turned out

perfect! My mammogram was perfect as well. Thanks, Blessed Seelos, for hearing and answering our prayers.

### Prayer Partner Available By Phone

Can't make it to the Shrine? Volunteer **Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404** is available to pray with you by phone 7 days a week, any time day or night.



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

## Celebrating the Most Holy Name of Mary

The feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary the Mother of God takes place annually on September 12, four days after the feast of her birth. There is no better way to celebrate the Most Holy Name of Mary than by attending Mass, whether that be online or in person. Also consider praying the Memorare:

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in your mercy, hear and answer me.*

*Amen.*

— catholicgallery.org

## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ ANGELS AMONG US



### ST. MICHAEL ORNAMENT – \$28

*This 5” resin ornament features a carved image of St. Michael conquering Satan - handmade in U.S. & comes with blue ribbon.*



### ST. MICHAEL CANDLE – \$19

*This 10” glass-encased candle with gold detailing burns for up to 124 hours and features a painting of St. Michael defeating Satan.*



### MINI ST. GABRIEL STATUE – \$24

*This 4” bronze statue depicts the patron saint of journalists, radio, TV & telecommunication workers, & postal workers.*



### ST. RAPHAEL PRAYER BOOKS – \$11

*Features “St. Raphael: Angel of Marriage, of Healing, of Happy Meetings, of Joy and of Travel” and “St. Raphael Prayer Book”.*



### ST. MICHAEL PRAYER BOOKS & MEDAL – \$11

*Features “Spiritual Protection” booklet, a pocket prayer book, and a full-color oval medal.*



### WOODEN OMPH STATUE – \$47

*This beautiful 10” statue of Our Mother of Perpetual Help was hand painted in Columbia by widows who lost husbands to violence.*

*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-\$4. Please visit [SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle](http://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](http://SEELOS.org/gift-shop).

**VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER**



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Very Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, 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: \_\_\_\_\_