

"I promise to receive you with all mildness."



VOLUME 140

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

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

Dear Friends of Blessed Seelos:

"Father, is it ok to sit here a bit longer?" That question, from a young couple cuddling their baby girl, paused my way to celebrate daily Mass for a brief conversation with them.

They were sitting together, leaning onto a life-size sculpture of Fr. Seelos. Those of us who have visited the National Shrine of Blessed Seelos know that, in his museum, there is a bench upon which Fr. Seelos sits with his right arm extended and his saying "I promise to receive you with all mildness" etched on the wall nearby. Here, Fr. Seelos warmly invites this couple and other pilgrims to rest besides him.

In our conversation, the husband confided: "We brought our girl from Alabama to New Orleans for medical treatment. Last night was rough on her – restless, hard breathing." His wife added, "It's been a long journey. We feel overwhelmed, drained. So, I often come here, leaning on Fr. Seelos to unload my stress, anxiety, fear. I lean on him to soak in his gentle strength, to get through this day for tomorrow. I need his kindness to keep on caring. I know I have a friend in Fr. Seelos."

*"I lean on him to soak in his gentle strength, to get through this day for tomorrow.
I need his kindness to keep on caring. I know I have a friend in Fr. Seelos."*

Her words remind me of the song, "Lean On Me" by Bill Withers. He writes, "Sometimes ... we all have pain ... sorrow. But ... there's always tomorrow. Lean on me ... I'll be your friend. I'll help you carry on." This song aptly reflects the heart of Fr. Seelos. He invites those worn out by life to lean on him. Seelos ultimately guides us to Jesus Christ who promises, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Be assured that we have a friend in Fr. Seelos! Come to celebrate his feast day on October 3 at St. Mary's Assumption Church, or join us through our Facebook's live-stream.



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.

SEELOS HEALING MASS

— + —
**Saturday,
October 3, 2026
4:00 pm**

**Presider & Homilist
Most Reverend James Checchio
Archbishop of New Orleans**

St. Mary's Assumption Church
& Live on facebook.com/SeelosShrine



vee
**Vietnamese Healing Mass
Sunday, October 4, 3:00 pm**
St. Mary's Assumption Church

Celebrating Redemptorist St. Gerard Majella's feast day during Respect for Life month

Excerpts from www.catholic.org

St. Gerard Majella is the patron of expectant mothers. He was born in 1726 in Muro, Italy and grew up in a poverty with a great respect for the poor.

THE EARLY YEARS

When he was just 12, his father passed away. Shortly after, his mother sent him to live with his uncle and learn to become a tailor. After a few years, Majella took on a job with the local bishop as a servant.

Once Majella began earning money at the age of 21, he split his earnings between his mother, his hometown, and in offerings for the poor souls. As the days passed, Majella began to grow pale and thin, often fasting and in prayer at a nearby Cathedral.

Expectant Mother's Prayer to St. Gerard Majella

O Great Saint Gerard, beloved servant of Jesus Christ, perfect imitator of your meek and humble Savior, and devoted Child of the Mother of God: enkindle within my heart one spark of that heavenly fire of charity which glowed in your heart and made you an angel of love.

O glorious Saint Gerard, because when falsely accused of crime, you did bear, like your Divine master, without murmur or complaint, the calumnies of wicked men, you have been raised up by God as the Patron and Protector of expectant mothers. Preserve me from danger and from the excessive pains accompanying childbirth, and shield the child which I now carry, that it may see the light of day and receive the lustral waters of baptism through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

He applied to the Capuchin monastery at Muro twice, but was turned down both times. Majella was told his health was not well enough for such a strenuous life. However, he did not give up. In 1749, at the age of 23, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer and just three years later became a professed lay brother.

LIVING A REDEMPTORIST LIFE & WORKING MIRACLES

Majella stayed close with the poor and worked as a gardener, sacristan, tailor, porter, cook, carpenter, and clerk. However, because of his great piety, wisdom, and his gift of reading consciences, he was permitted to counsel communities of religious women.

This humble servant of God also had faculties associated with certain mystics including, levitation, bi-location and the ability to read souls. His charity, obedience, and selfless service as well as his ceaseless mortification for Christ, made him the perfect model of lay brothers.

Throughout his life, several reported miracles are tied to Majella including, restoring a boy's life after he fell from a high cliff; blessing a poor farmer's crops, ridding it of mice; blessing a poor family's supply of wheat, causing it to last until the next harvest; and he multiplied 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. During a visit to a family's home, he accidentally dropped his handkerchief. One of the girls in the family saw the handkerchief moments after he had left the house and ran after Majella to return it. He told her to keep it in case she might need it someday.



Years later, when the girl, now a married woman, was on the verge of dying in childbirth, she remembered his words. She asked for the handkerchief to be brought to her. Almost immediately, the pain disappeared and she gave birth to a healthy child.

A FALSE ACCUSATION

At 27, Majella faced scandal after being identified by a young pregnant woman as the father of her child. To avoid exposing the real father, Gerard accepted the blame and was punished by his superior, Alphonsus Liguori. After several years, the woman retracted the allegation.

FINAL DAYS

Even as he became ill with tuberculosis, Majella only desired to live in God's will. His last request was that a placard be placed on his door stating, "Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills." St. Gerard Majella died on October 16, 1755 at the age of 29, living in the religious life for only six short years.

Due to the numerous miracles performed through Majella's prayers, proceedings for his canonization began shortly after his death. In 1893, Majella was beatified and on December 11, 1904, he was canonized. His feast day is October 16.



Visit TheMothersSaint.org to further explore the gift of St. Gerard Majella for mothers.

Blessings for the Sick

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

GREATER NEW ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Monica Surprenant (401) 207-5521

OCHSNER (KENNER)
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Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

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WESTBANK HOSPITALS
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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

BATON ROUGE, LA

I was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010 at the age of 45. I had a left mastectomy and thought I was cancer free. In October 2021 I felt a lump on my left side below my armpit. I was diagnosed with a recurrence of breast cancer. I did 4 months of chemo, 2 surgeries and 37 radiation treatments and thought I was cancer free again.

Last March, I found a nodule in the skin on my chest. I was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic cancer in my skin and lungs. My treatment options were limited. I already reached my lifetime max of radiation to that area, surgery was determined to be "too late," and I made the decision not to do chemo due to the devastating side

effects I experienced in 2022. My doctor offered a daily maintenance medication and a targeted therapy shot every three weeks. I agreed to this to hopefully slow down the progression of the cancer.

A July 2025 scan indicated the medicine was helping, no progression. On October 5, 2025 I attended the Father Seelos Healing Mass at Saint Gerard's Church in Baton Rouge. On October 27 I had another scan that showed no disease.

On January 11, 2026, I attended another Father Seelos Healing Mass in New Orleans. On January 19 I received the results of my next scan. No sign of any cancer at all.

HAMMOND, LA

In March of 2025, I began bleeding internally. I received several blood transfusions, had labs, scans and scopes, and the doctors could not find or stop the bleeding. For ten days and nights I laid in a hospital bed. We prayed for a miracle. I was given holy water and a rosary made from stones at Apparition Hill, and kept them with me.

By the time we found the area of the bleed, it had stopped. But because it had stopped, they could not cure the source of the bleed. I continued to pray.

A few months later a CT scan showed a mass in the lower portion of my small intestine, a mass on my liver, and a cyst on my kidney. It was then we found out I had Neuroendocrine Cancer. We prepared for surgery to remove the

tumor from my small intestine. My family and friends spread my story to many Catholics and Christians across our region to ask for prayers. I received mail from a friend's mother and inside was the story of Blessed Seelos, a crochet relic, and the assurance of intercessory prayers at the tomb of Blessed Seelos. I carried it with me through multiple hospital stays and two surgeries.

I am incredibly happy to report after two surgeries, four tumors have been removed. The cancer did not metastasize anywhere else in my body, the mass in my liver was benign, and the kidney cyst unrelated. As of today I am cancer free. Glory be To God. I thank all others who prayed for me. I am forever grateful and humbled. Thank you.

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

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SEELOS SHRINE PRAYER LINE



Call our prayer line any time at (504) 586-1803 to hear a recorded message and prayer.

HOT IN THE SHOP: CELEBRATING SEELOS



#229

"DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" BOOK – SALE \$18

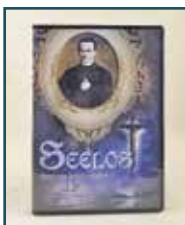
Account of Seelos' final weeks of life, told by those who witnessed his death from yellow fever.



#4418

BLACK WOOD BRACELET – \$19

This expandable bracelet features black beads and various images of our Mother of Perpetual Help, Seelos, and other saints.



#121

"SEELOS: TIRELESS INTERCESSOR" DVD – SALE \$18

Documentary chronicles the heroic and miraculous life of a young immigrant Redemptorist priest.



#4195

DOUBLE-SIDED GOLD-TONED KEYCHAIN – \$13

This oval keychain features Seelos on one side and Our Mother of Perpetual Help on the other.



#5919

SEELOS INTERCESSION PRAYER KIT – \$26

Includes a prayer card for the intercession of Blessed Seelos and an iridescent beaded Seelos rosary.



#1913

SEELOS HOME PRAYER KIT – \$45

Includes bottles of holy oil and holy water, laminated Seelos relic prayer card, and full color Seelos statue.

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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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: _____