



VOLUME 123

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MAY 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

Growing up in Michigan, you never knew if April showers would bring May flowers or the potential for a last-minute snowstorm. Yet, weather permitting, every year, our Catholic grade school would gather outside on the grassy lawn and celebrate the crowning of Mary. I remember the feel and smell of the dew-covered grass and the multicolored tulips that were sometimes just starting to open. As a young child, those memories are the foundation of my love for Mary. Years later, as a teenager, my relationship with Mary would take on a new dimension as I began praying to Our Mother of Perpetual Help, seeking her help in the good and challenging moments of life. Today, as a relatively “young” Redemptorist Missionary, my love for Mary continues to grow. She is a model of discipleship and of hope.

As we enter the month of May, the Church turns her heart toward Mary, our Mother. For us at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, this month carries special meaning as we recall Seelos’ relationship with Mary, especially under her title of Our Lady of Sorrows.

*Blessed Seelos looked to Mary as a model of perfect discipleship  
and a companion in suffering.*

Her sorrows, borne silently at the foot of the Cross, resonated deeply with Seelos’ life of sacrifice, illness, and tireless service to the poor and the abandoned. In her, he found strength, compassion, and hope—the very gifts he offered so generously to others.

This May, I invite you to reflect on your relationship with Mary. I pray that you will entrust to her your burdens and joys, your fears and hopes. May you see in her the first disciple, who teaches us how to follow her Son with courage and love. Blessed Seelos teaches us that to walk with Mary is to walk the path of mercy, peace, and resurrection. In this year of hope, may we follow that path together.



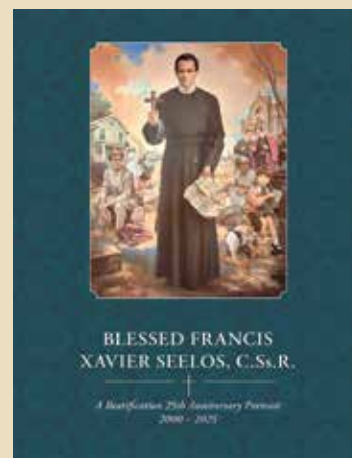
*Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.*

Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.

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

## Seelos Beatification 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Booklet

**\$18 ~ Call (504) 525-2495  
or order online!**



Designed and produced in New Orleans by the Seelos Shrine, this 40-page booklet includes remembrances from the April 2000 beatification ceremony, prayers for the intercession and canonization of Blessed Seelos, letters from around the world, full-page photos of the Shrine and St. Mary’s Church, and more.

# Reading with Blessed Seelos about the Glories of Mary

By Dorinda C. Plaisance

What would you think if you received an invitation to sit down and read alongside Blessed Fr. Seelos about the Blessed Virgin Mary? Consider this your invitation!

Just like countless numbers of faithful pilgrims to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R., I took a prayerful moment one Monday morning to snuggle in under the extended arm of the bronze statute depicting the beloved Padre on the park bench (shown right).

“What are you reading there?” I asked, as I glanced down and read the title of the book that Fr. Seelos holds on his lap. In one of those rare moments of Spirit-led focus, I noticed that “The Glories of Mary” is engraved on the left panel of the book. “St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori” is engraved on the right.

“Wait. Is that a real book title?” I wondered aloud, as my husband Norris prepared the reliquary room for his assigned day of prayer ministry. We then headed to the book store in the Shrine Welcome Center.

And there stood Fr. Tim Watson, C.Ss.R., the Spirit-filled priest who had recently arrived from Baton Rouge. “Father, I have a question.” I pulled out my phone and showed him the photo of me sitting with Fr. Seelos on the bench. “Is this a real book title?”

“Why, yes, that’s a spiritual classic written by the founder of the Redemptorists, Saint Alphonsus Liguori.” The puzzle pieces started to fall into place. Fr. Seelos’ statute is depicted on the bench gazing with kindness toward us pilgrims as he takes a break from prayerfully reading the spiritual masterpiece of his order’s founder – a book about his beloved Mother Mary!

I held my breath as Fr. Tim asked the gift shop ladies if the book was in stock. One copy was found, and I grabbed onto it like a woman who had been handed the deed to a gold mine. And that’s what this book is – a spiritual gold mine.



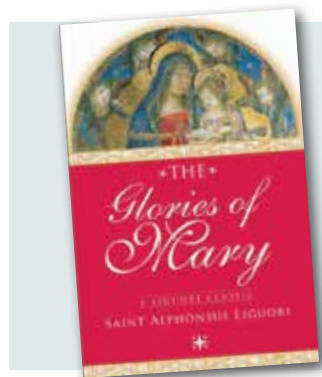
Here’s a quick summary of the book that you too can read along with Blessed Fr. Seelos. Part I is a powerful reflection on each line of the Hail Holy Queen prayer, also known as the Salve Regina. Part II is a collection of prayers penned by nearly twenty saints to the Mother of God. Part III contains sermons on the main Marian feast days. This treasure makes this collection a wonderful gift for a priest or deacon.

Part IV is a reflection on the Seven Sorrows of Mary. The insights here bring us into closer intimacy and friendship with Mother Mary, just as we become closer to our earthly friends who share with us the heartbreaks of their lives.

Part V is my personal favorite. It includes reflections on the ten Virtues of Mary. St. John Paul II wrote that when we contemplate the mysteries of the Rosary, we are sitting at the feet of Jesus’ mother, learning about the life of Christ from her maternal perspective. Likewise, this collection is like sitting with Fr. Seelos at the foot of his founder, learning about how we can grow in holiness by imitating the virtues of Mary.

Part VI is a reflection on Marian prayer practices, including the Hail Mary prayer; novenas; the rosary; the scapular and more. Finally, Part VII has testimonies by people whose devotion to Mary resulted in answered prayer.

In a world often plagued by fear and spiritual darkness, Blessed Father Seelos leads us to a treasure in this book that surveys what the Saints and sages throughout the ages have to say about the Woman clothed with the Sun.



## *The Glories of Mary Book by St. Alphonsus Liguori*

**\$32 ~ Get yours today! Call (504) 525-2495 or at [www.seelos.org/gift-shop](http://www.seelos.org/gift-shop)**

Widely regarded as St. Alphonsus Liguori’s masterpiece, this book has for two and a half centuries stood as one of the Catholic Church’s greatest expressions of devotion to the Blessed Virgin. It combines citations from the Fathers and Doctors of the Church with Saint Alphonsus’ intense personal piety to produce a timeless treasury of teachings, prayers, and practices.

## 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

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Amy Morel (504) 416-5018  
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073  
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

### OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

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

### OCHSNER (KENNER)

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Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677  
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

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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

Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

#### KATY, TEXAS

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### BROOKLYN, NY

I have been a faithful advocate of Blessed Seelos for many years. I have given his relic to many friends in need of healing. After the mercies and graces received, the relic was always returned to me, ready for its next healing adventure.

The day before Thanksgiving 2021, it was my turn to be the healing adventure. I was a 52-year-old, healthy non-smoker and out of the blue, I was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer which had metastasized to my spine and brain. I went down fast! Two days later, I was paralyzed on my left side.

I was told the brain tumor was inoperable, and things were grim. My family and I immediately called upon Blessed Seelos to intervene to our Lord for my health. My son called the Seelos Center asking for prayers. He was assured of them and was told my name would be placed on Blessed Seelos' grave site.

I believe miracles started happening! A talented young neurosurgeon said

he would take a chance on me, and successfully removed my tumor. Here is the incredible part of the adventure – Blessed Seelos was with me! I felt him accompany me to the operating room. I awoke hours after surgery, talking, opening my own water bottle and sitting up. I was released 19 days later and was no longer paralyzed!

It has been almost three years and after chemo, radiation, immunotherapy and lung surgery I am doing great. I continue to pray for Blessed Seelos' intercession. I feel I was granted the gift of extended earthly life because my job is not complete. I ask for continued prayers so I may continue to TRUST GOD and DO GOOD.

Thank you to the staff of the Seelos Center for lovingly answering the call that woeful evening. Your kindness and compassion meant the world to my children, my family and friends of whom so many have become devoted friends of Blessed Seelos.

### KNOXVILLE, TN

I would like to tell a story of what I believe is a miracle that happened on February 27, 1997. My nephew, Dakota, was born premature. He could not breathe on his own and had to be put on a breathing machine, which shook his tiny body as it ran.

It wasn't long before the doctor told the family that Dakota would not make it because his body had turned purple and then black. He invited the family to say their goodbyes. A friend of Dakota's parents came to the hospital and gave

them a relic of Father Seelos to put in his crib in the neonatal unit. Our entire family gathered around and said a rosary to ask our blessed Virgin Mary and Father Seelos for a miracle.

The next morning, I called my mom for an update. She told me that Dakota was doing fine and his body was beautiful and pink. The doctor and nurses couldn't believe that he was still alive. They had never seen a premature baby turn purple, and then to black, and do a 180° turnaround. Praise God!

## SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm



## ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI'S PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

O afflicted Virgin, O soul great in virtues, as in sorrows, both the one and the other spring from that fire burning in thy heart for God, the only love of thy heart!

Mother, have pity on me, who has not loved God, and who has so greatly offended Him. Thy sorrows, it is true, assure me of pardon, but that is not sufficient. I wish to love God.

Who could obtain for me the grace if not thee, who are the Mother of the holy love? O Mary, thou consolest everyone; favor me also, with thy consolations.

Amen.

Courtesy [www.ourladyssorrows.com](http://www.ourladyssorrows.com)

## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ MOTHER MARY



### GOLD & BLUE AGATE MIRACULOUS MEDAL NECKLACE – \$132

*This beautiful 18k gold-plated necklace features a blue agate stone surrounded by a ring of cubic zirconia.*



### BROCADE OUR LADY OF GRACE STATUE – \$69

*This 9½" hand-painted statue with gold detailing makes a wonderful gift for devotees of Mary.*



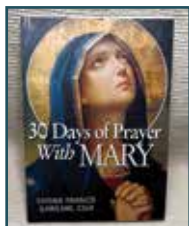
### "HEAVEN SENT" MOTHER MARY PRAYER CANDLE – \$47

*Features rosary beads with bronze Miraculous Medal and aquamarine stone.*



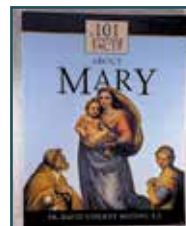
### BLUE CRYSTAL MIRACULOUS MEDAL ROSARY – \$23

*This silver-toned rosary features blue crystals and a Miraculous Medal as the centerpiece.*



### "30 DAYS OF PRAYER WITH MARY" BOOK – \$8

*These prayers provide the opportunity to seek the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*



### "101 SURPRISING FACTS ABOUT MARY" BOOK – \$27

*This walk through history will uncover the Church's Marian treasury and draw you closer to Mary.*

*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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## 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 from the mailing list: ☐ Change my name and address as follows:

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