



VOLUME 139

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026

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

Dear Friends of Blessed Seelos:

One profound grace serving at the Shrine is an opportunity to accompany and witness Seelos devotees in their faith journey. Their stories are, at times, heart-wrenching; many suffer with serious illness, financial struggle, family stress, etc. Other stories end on a happy note, having been healed from medical or personal setbacks.

Overall most devotees have experienced deep consolation with gratitude, knowing that they are not alone in their journey. One woman from New York wrote, "My cancer recently returned, causing much pain. Some days simple tasks for self-care are hard. I feel like the apostles on the boat of life, being tossed about by unexpected waves and winds. Thank God, besides my family and co-workers, Blessed Seelos has been my faithful companion, guiding me, strengthening me. Through them, I know that God is with me, holding my hands and speaking words of tenderness, 'It is I, do not be afraid.' Each day I pray and hope for healing. Yet, inspired by Blessed Seelos, I want to love and trust God more, more than my fears, more than even my health ... Please include me in your daily Mass at the Shrine. I offer my suffering and prayers for the staff and the ministry of Redemptorists."

What a beautiful faith this woman and many devotees have lived through and testified over the years! For this remarkable group, I thank God!

Friends, please be assured of our daily prayer and Mass at the Shrine – for you, for your extended families – through the faithful intercession of good Fr. Seelos.

Also, save the date – 4 p.m. CST, Saturday, October 3rd. Come to celebrate the feast day of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Archbishop of New Orleans James Checchio is scheduled to preside and preach at this Vigil Mass. Please invite others to join this celebration. All are welcome!



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



**Vietnamese Healing Mass
Sunday, October 4, 3:00 pm**

St. Mary's Assumption Church

This Breathtaking Louisiana Church Turns Silence Into Something Sacred

Abridged article by Dane Ashford, TRAVELMAG, May 20, 2026

New Orleans is a city built on noise, with brass bands on street corners, streetcars clattering down St. Charles Avenue, laughter pouring out of open doorways. But tucked into a neighborhood where the sidewalks are cracked and the oak trees are older than the houses, there is a building that asks for silence. You could walk past it a hundred times and never look twice. Then you push open the wooden doors and everything changes.

The first thing that strikes me at St. Mary's Assumption Church is the hush that lives just beyond the sidewalk, a purposeful calm that sets this place apart from nearby streets. Sound feels like a character in this building. The 1861 grand organ combines with high ceilings to give voice its own architecture. Even absent music, footsteps and whispers behave differently, decaying slowly enough that you become aware of how sound fills and frames attention. That lingering quality makes visitors lower their voices almost instinctively, as if the room itself teaches restraint.

The high altar and surrounding statuary have an artisanal warmth that a machine-made piece rarely achieves, and that handcrafted touch draws the eye to small details, from softened edges to expressive folds and faces. It makes the church feel less like a monument and more like a collective act of patience, faith, and craft.



THE SEELOS SHRINE

The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is integrated into the church in a way that feels both reverent and accessible, with relics, artifacts, and Father Seelos' original lead coffin on display for quiet contemplation.

The shrine invites visitors to pray near his remains, light a candle, and consider a life spent ministering to immigrants and caring for the sick. It manages to be both educational and profoundly intimate without theatrics or excess interpretation.



The volunteers and guides here are custodians of memory who offer context with a relaxed familiarity that makes history approachable. Free guided tours for both individuals and large or small groups can reveal hidden details like the provenance of the altar and relics.

PRACTICAL VISITING TIPS

If you plan a visit, aim for weekdays or Saturdays when the welcome center, gift shop and museum are open. Both the church and shrine feature ramped entrances and accessible restrooms.

Respectful dress and quiet conduct are appreciated. Allow at least an hour to absorb the architecture and exhibits without rushing.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

The parish community remains a living presence here, and the church functions as a neighborhood anchor rather than a static museum piece. Local culture and immigrant roots are visible in bilingual services, literature, and outreach.

Visitors who talk with staff or volunteers will find warm, grounded perspectives about the church and shrine's role in neighborhood life and the layered identities it represents. It is both a spiritual site and a cultural artifact.

PRESERVATION AND FUTURE

Historic buildings like this need constant attention, because humidity, storms, age, and heavy visitor traffic can quietly create expensive problems over time. The church's National Historic Landmark status brings recognition but not unlimited funds, so community support remains essential to long-term care and emergency interventions.



When you visit, consider modest financial support or spreading awareness about conservation needs; small donations collectively enable expertise, materials, and climate control improvements.

The future of the church and shrine depends on public interest and informed stewardship, so mindful visitors become part of an ongoing preservation story. ■

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
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 HOSPITALS

Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK HOSPITALS

Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA

Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545
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 / THIBODAUX

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

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

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

ALTOONA, PA

In February of 2022, I was stricken with an autoimmune disease called Thrombocytopenia. It caused my blood platelets to hover around zero and I had black blotches on my tongue and face. A risk of a brain bleed was present.

It was at this time that I discovered Father Seelos. I never knew or heard about him before. With the combination of medical treatment and Father Seelos' healing prayer/intercession, I recovered from this severe and unusual disorder.

DESTREHAN, LA

In 2023, I was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Initially, this diagnosis was devastating, but I soon learned that there was a new drug awaiting FDA approval. This was the beginning of my Hope journey – hope and faith that this disease would not destroy me.

2024, I began 18 months of infusions.

I attended Healing Masses in October 2024 and January 2025. I began making amazing progress. I had no side effects and the doctors were pleased that the drug was slowing progression, which was all it was supposed to do. But some biomarkers were actually showing improvement, as did my cognitive tests.

As I went through the multitude of tests and appointments that year, I began to realize that every appointment I had fell on the exact date of every stage of the drug's approval. This was beyond coincidence and I knew that God was in control of every detail of my disease!

On October 2, 2025, after completing the required 18 months of treatment, a pet scan revealed that there was no Alzheimer's disease in my brain. I was officially declared in remission, which is unheard of.

Fast forward a year... I was told I may not qualify for the drug because I was potentially at high risk for side effects. A friend offered to take me to a Seelos Healing Mass in January 2024. I began praying regularly to Blessed Seelos to intercede for me to be able to get the drug that I was certain was meant for me. Soon after, I was approved, and in April

The power of prayer is immense! "With God all things are possible!" and we know Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is with God, interceding for me. I attended Healing Mass in January and I thanked God and Bl. Seelos and asked for his intercession for continued remission/cure. God bless our soon-to-be saint!

JEFFERSON, LA

5-year-old Blaise was in critical condition with pneumonia caused by an infection in his trach. The doctors told his parents that there was a very slim chance that they would take their baby boy home. We started asking for prayers and I immediately prayed to Blessed Seelos.

After 7 days, Blaise started to show improvement. His pneumonia started to clear, then they took him out of the induced coma and he was able to speak and sit up and play a little. I feel blessed Seelos came to Blaise's rescue.

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



SEPTEMBER SAVE THE DATE



Join us on Tuesday, September 15,
2026 as we reflect on Our Mother of
Sorrows in a Day of Prayer.

SALE: PRICES DISCOUNTED & QUANTITIES LIMITED



#891

SEELOS WOODEN MEDALLION NECKLACE – \$9

*Black cord with embossed
oval featuring Seelos on the
front and “Bl. Seelos Shrine
New Orleans” on the back.*



#5860

JUBILEE HOLY TRINITY CROSS – \$11

*This 6" pewter cross
features the Holy Trinity
on the front and a loop on
the back for hanging on the
wall or as an ornament.*



#5601

RUBBER CROSS STRETCH BRACELET – \$9

*Colorful bracelet with small
rubber disks and a matching
cross. Choose from teal, pink,
purple, green or blue.*



#4733

CRYSTAL EXPRESSIONS CROSS – \$15

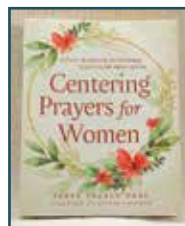
*A 7.5" sparkling faceted
acrylic cross on a
pedestal base.*



#5594

“PRAYERS TO CALM YOUR HEART” BOOK – \$14

*Offers practical step-by-
step advice for facing such
worrisome topics as health,
finances, and family matters.*



#5152

“CENTERING PRAYERS FOR WOMEN” BOOK – \$17

*A collection of 365 daily
prayers for moments of deep
quiet, to draw closer to the
love of God.*

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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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 (\$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: _____
