



VOLUME 129

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

At my grade school, there was a second-grade tradition where students dressed up as a saint of their choosing. Like many of my classmates, I chose St. Michael the Archangel, requiring a minimal wardrobe—a bed sheet for an angelic robe, and a plastic toy sword completed the look. My mother, wise beyond her years, decided a cardboard sword was more appropriate. I was none too happy to discover I was the only cardboard-sword-wielding devil slayer in the room. Every year on the Solemnity of All Saints, I remind her of this great disappointment from thirty-some years ago. Perhaps I'll forgive her one day.

The saints provoke our imagination. Not because they carry swords or dress in angelic robes, but because at heart they are relatable. They speak to something deep within us, inviting us to walk the path of discipleship and holiness amid our imperfections and struggles.

*The call to sainthood is not some distant achievement,
but an everyday journey of waking up, loving God and neighbor,
and then doing it all over again.*

Blessed Seelos, while not a canonized saint (yet), embraced that same call. He lived a daily rhythm of faithfulness and joy, humility and zeal, service and compassion. His holiness was found not in perfection or grand gestures, but in his openness to love boldly.

It's unlikely that Blessed Seelos dressed up as a saint in second grade. And I highly doubt his mother made him a cardboard sword. Yet being a saint isn't about dressing up. There are no props or disguises. Rather, it's about being authentically who God made us to be: a people of forgiveness and mercy, a people of hope and love.

(Mom... I forgive you.)



Aaron L. Meszaros C.Ss.R.

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

DECEMBER DAY OF PRAYER

SOLEMNITY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Monday, December 8

St. Mary's Assumption Church

Join us on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception for a day of prayer, reconciliation and fellowship.

10:45 am - Confessions

11:00 am - Rosary

11:30 am - Mass

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

All You Need to Know about All Saints' and All Souls' Days

Excerpts from an article by D.D. Emmons, simplycatholic.com

It seems unusual that our Church liturgical calendar schedules two major celebrations on days that are back to back. But that is precisely the situation with the solemnity of All Saints on November 1, and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) on November 2. During these celebrations, we unite our hearts with, and in a special way remember, the faithful departed.

ALL SAINTS' DAY

All Saints' Day, which began most likely as All Martyrs' Day, can be traced to the earliest Christians. By the third century, the followers of Christ annually honored individuals who gave their lives while witnessing for and defending Jesus Christ. On the anniversary of a martyr's death, the living would gather to remember and offer prayers at the tomb or place where the deceased had died.

In those first centuries, there were more and more Christians who accepted death at the hands of the Romans rather than worship false gods or the emperor. Those who had publicly confessed their Christian faith and survived the Romans were also honored. Thus the number of martyrs and confessors became greater than the opportunities to give each one an anniversary celebration, and the need for a common feast day was recognized.

In 609, the Emperor Phocas gifted a temple in Rome to the Holy See. The temple, still standing today and known as the Pantheon, was a public place to worship Roman gods. Pope Boniface removed all pagan embellishments and buried the remains of hundreds of martyrs beneath the Pantheon. The pope then consecrated it as a Christian church to the Blessed Mother and all the Holy Martyrs on May 13, which became the feast of All Martyrs for the next 125 years.

On November 1, 735, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory in St. Peter's Basilica to house the relics of the apostles, martyrs, saints and confessors. Thereafter, that day became the feast of All Saints. Eventually, Pope Gregory IV assigned November 1 as the feast of All Saints and proclaimed it a holy day of obligation.

ALL SOULS' DAY

The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls' Day, evolved onto the Church calendar long after All Saints' Day. Sometime between 998 and 1030, St. Odilo, the abbot at the Benedictine Monastery in France, encouraged all the monks to pray for the souls of those who had died, those waiting the joys of heaven. He instituted this commemoration on the day after All Saints' Day, and soon other religious orders and churches began to annually remember all who had died.

On All Souls' Day the Church prays for all those in purgatory, people who were much like us. By pleading for them, we are inspired to lead purer lives. On that day, and during the entire month of November, we remember our departed brethren as we go to cemeteries where they are buried, attain indulgences for them, give alms, do good works, and ask for Masses to be said in remembrance, all on behalf of those close to us.

We also light candles, and in some parishes the faithful display pictures of their deceased loved ones in the church. Church bells are sometimes rung to remind everyone to pray for the poor souls in purgatory. Priests are authorized to say three Masses on this holy, somber day.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."



POPE LEO'S MONTHLY PRAYER

"That all may be one" (John 17:21). Lord, how difficult your word is for me today! It is a call to fraternity and therefore a call to openness to your Father who is the Father of all.

Lord, give us the understanding in our hearts that only with the awareness of being children who are not orphans can we live in peace with one another.

You are one God, living and active in the world... But how hard it is for us to find agreement among those of different religions! We need your grace to recognize and value the many things we have in common and to realize that it is possible to find a way of living together in serenity, order, and peace.

You are the starting point, the gaze of God, your gaze, because you look with the heart and love each person regardless of their religion.

We bring before you our desire to work together for the common good, to accompany life, sustain hope, and be signs of unity. Lord, make us artisans of peace!

Amen.



Blessings for the Sick

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

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Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

KATY, TEXAS

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

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

CHALMETTE, LA

I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in December 2024. A good friend gave my wife and I a Blessed Seelos scapula, a novena book, a candle and holy cards. I pray a novena every morning and keep the scapula on me every day. Two months later after a small spot was removed from

my liver, and four chemo injections, I have no cancer in my colon or liver. From stage 4 to no cancer in two months! I'm still undergoing chemo, but after three scans there's no cancer anywhere. Thank you God and Blessed Father Seelos.

ARABI, LA

Thank you Jesus and Blessed Seelos! A dear friend experienced a severe cardiac event. Halfway through his 11-hour emergency surgery, the doctor informed the family to prepare for the worst, as he was bleeding internally from an unknown source. Thanks be to God, the doctor decided to re-open him and the bleeding was located and stopped.

While in ICU post-op, my friend was blessed with the Seelos Relic Crucifix. He then began slowly improving.

Today, my dear friend is home, and getting better every day. The doctor has since told him that people in the condition he was in have a 3% survival rate. Thank you Jesus and Blessed Seelos!

SLIDELL, LA

In 2012 I was diagnosed with stage 4 Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. My cousin took me to visit Father Seelos's Shrine,

where I kissed his cross and prayed. That year, my spleen was removed and I have had no further treatments.

PONCHATOULA, LA

I was diagnosed with bladder cancer, and was referred to a cancer center in New Orleans. On the way there, I was blessed by the Seelos Cross. Although my cancer

had been diagnosed as positive on more than one occasion, I was healed thanks to Fr. Seelos. It has been about two years and I'm still cancer free.

METAIRIE, LA

In January, my 9-year-old grandson was diagnosed with Burkette's Lymphoma. We were devastated, but turned to prayer for God's healing. A Blessor from the Seelos Shrine prayed over my grandson in the hospital. He also wore a first-class Seelos relic during multiple rounds of chemotherapy, and we blessed him daily

with holy oil. Towards the latter part of his treatment we visited the Seelos Shrine where he was prayed over holding the crucifix belonging to Blessed Seelos. After the conclusion of his treatment, scans and biopsies revealed that he was cancer free. Praise be to God, and thanks to Blessed Seelos for his faithful intercession!

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

REDEMPTORIST 2026 DAILY DEVOTIONAL



This leatherette book features daily scripture readings, inspirational reflections, notes on the saint of the day, prayers, psalms, the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Redemptorist novenas and devotions. This book is a collaborative effort from Redemptorists around the world which brings a unique spirituality into your everyday life.

\$35 ~ Call (504) 525-2495 or visit seelos.org/gift-shop to order

HOT IN THE SHOP



ROUND LAST SUPPER PLAQUE – \$49

This 10" resin plaque was hand-painted in Columbia by widows who lost loved ones due to violence.



CLEAR ACRYLIC OUR LADY OF GRACE STATUE – \$83

Handmade in New Orleans, this 6" statue is available in 10 colors (color shown: Maris).



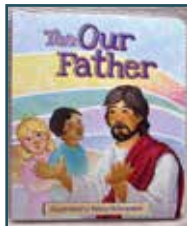
SEELOS COLLAGE CANDLE – \$30

Handmade in New Orleans with 100% soy and holy oil, this candle is wrapped in a collage of Seelos images.



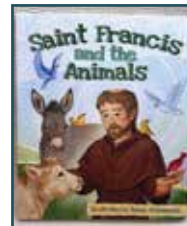
SEELOS SOCKS – \$25

Made in the USA for the Shrine, these socks feature an image of Seelos on the ankles and a Seelos quote on the sole. Adult one size fits most.



"THE OUR FATHER" BOARD BOOK – \$10

Children will learn the world's most famous prayer, taught by Jesus Himself.



"SAINT FRANCIS AND THE ANIMALS" BOARD BOOK – \$10

Teach children to praise God in nature, just as Saint Francis did.

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 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: _____
