VOLUME 134

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

APRIL 2026

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

During my recent visit to Füssen, Germany, the birthplace of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, I hoped to visit his family's graves and offer a prayer of thanks to those who shaped his faith. Unfortunately, it was not possible. The cold January weather had made the cemetery entrance icy, preventing us from going in.

When I stood outside those gates, I thought of the Gospel of John, where Mary of Magdala visits the tomb early in the morning. Like Mary, we all have tombs we visit. Tombs at which we weep, remember, grieve, and give thanks. Sometimes these tombs are not made of stone, but are moments and places in our everyday lives: a job we have lost, a relationship that has grown distant, a loved one's illness, or the burden of unrealized hopes. In these moments, we, too, find ourselves at the threshold, longing for light.

Yet, as Easter proclaims, the tomb is not the end. The Resurrection reveals God's life breaking into the world and marks the dawn of a new day.

Death, despair, and darkness do not have the final word.
Life breaks in. Mercy rises up. Hope prevails.

For people of faith, cemeteries become reminders of God's promise: life is stronger than death, mercy stronger than sin, and hope stronger than fear. Every day at the Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, people come looking for prayer, healing, and hope. What is on your heart today? This Easter season, I invite you to share your prayer requests with us, so we can bring them to the Lord with Blessed Seelos's help.

In Füssen, the frozen gates may have kept us from entering the cemetery that cold winter day. But Easter assures us that no gate, no stone, no tomb can keep Christ's life from breaking into the world. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

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

APRIL SEELOS HEALING MASS

Sunday, April 12, 2026

English ~ 10:30 am
Tom Donaldson, C.Ss.R., Presider
St. Mary's Assumption Church
& live on facebook.com/SeelosShrine

Spanish ~ 12:30 pm
Manuel Chávez, C.Ss.R., Presider
St. Mary's Assumption Church

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

A Walk in Your Footsteps

I walked in your footsteps today, Father Seelos.
To St. Mary's Assumption I did go
so I could be where you had worked, preached, and prayed.
The "Cheerful Ascetic" I wanted better to know.

I knelt before the altar where you'd spent countless hours.
Inspiring words faintly echoed in my ears.
I peeked in the confessional and saw a multitude in heaven -
former sinners who'd gone to you without fear.

I marveled at the beautiful statues in the church.
Such time and talent went into each one!
Then I heard you say, "Look at each person you see.
Can God's craftsmanship ever be outdone?"

I gazed at the organ in the choir loft above
and for a moment thought I truly could hear
the voice of a man singing loudly and joyfully.
All too soon did it suddenly disappear.

I also saw your Rosary today, Fr. Seelos,
and thought of the many "Hail Marys" you had prayed.
Then I heard you say to me, "Always trust in Our Lady.
She helped me more than mere words can say!"

I held your mission cross in my unworthy hands.
How hard for you at times it must have been
to carry the Cross as you labored both day and night
to bring God's love to a world hurt by sin.

Finally, I saw your statue, Fr. Seelos.
One look and I couldn't help but smile!
How nice to see a man so holy and so happy!
We just gazed at each other for a while.

I thanked you for your powerful intercession in my life,
and for the healing which I will never forget.
If I live to be a hundred, of one thing I'm sure:
I will still be so grateful to you yet!

I tried to walk in your footsteps today, Fr. Seelos,
but before I left St. Mary's I knew
that just being where you'd preached,
heard confessions, and prayed
hadn't made me more like you, it's true.

When I left the church and walked down the street
would I treat others the way I know that you would?
Would I be cheerful as I went about my duties in life,
and help the sick and poor as much as I could?

Would I be willing to let others think poorly of me
as long as God's Will I knew had been done?
Would I take shoes off my feet as you did, Fr. Seelos,
to give to someone I passed who had none?

Only then could I say that I walked in your footsteps.
Is that possible for this sinner to do?
Yes, for with your help even miracles can happen.
Now that's one thing I already knew!

Written by Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Seelos Shrine volunteer and recipient of the 2025 Order of Seelos Witness.

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

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

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

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Deacon Bill & Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

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Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096
Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056

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LAKE CHARLES
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

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

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE
Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

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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
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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

PATTERSON, LA

Our journey began August 5, 2025. My husband Mike started the morning with frequent bathroom visits and bloody urine. The short trip to see his urologist became the longest ride. On the way, we prayed the rosary and held a Seelos relic. He saw his doctor and tests were ordered to see what the cause of the bleeding was. Soon it was decided that Mike would need surgery that same afternoon.

We went to the hospital fearing the worst but praying for surgery that would clear up everything. After surgery, the doctor gave me the bad news I never wanted to hear – Mike had aggressive bladder cancer. The doctor assured me he had removed it all but further biopsies would be needed to be sure. We would have to wait a few days for the results to come back, so we waited and prayed.

All biopsies were negative. Mike is now cancer free and needs no chemo but will have to be checked often to be sure the cancer does not return.

We are so grateful for the intercession of Fr. Seelos. We believe we have witnessed a healing that cannot be explained except by divine action. Mike had cancer one day and did not have it the next day. This was a sign of God's powerful presence.

MIDDLETOWN, MD

I had a broken hand and after the cast was removed, I was in a good amount of pain. I wasn't able to bend my fingers into a fist, which I needed to be medically cleared for my job. I also was having stomach problems post-colonoscopy – a painful gas buildup that wasn't going away even with medication.

I prayed the novena to Blessed Seelos and asked for the pain in both my stomach and hand be taken away. I awoke the next day to no stomach pain and the ability to eat without pain returning. My hand was also able to make a fist and I could move it with zero pain or stiffness. The physical therapist for my hand was shocked by how fast it had healed.

I still have stomach discomfort but not the pain I was dealing with for so long. My hand is back to full working order. I'm not sure if this constitutes a divine healing, but I see it as one because it began the day after I finished the novena.

TUCSON, AZ

I am 69 years old and I was recently having trouble and pain with excessive bleeding gums. I was doing everything I could with no success, and a trip to the dentist would be too expensive.

When I received a Blessed Seelos holy card in church, I knew he was going to help! I asked him to intervene for me. I was inspired to use a water pick on my gums and the condition was healed within three days.

I have had gum problems before, but they never got better that fast or to this extent. A week later, my mouth had no pain or bleeding. Thank you Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos!

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 12, 2026

The Divine Mercy, celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, honors the revelations to St. Faustina regarding God's mercy, offering special graces, including a plenary indulgence.

The image is a depiction of Jesus based on a vision that St. Faustina had in 1931. Jesus raises his right hand in blessing, and points with his left hand to his chest from which flow forth two rays. The rays symbolize red for the blood of Jesus (the Life of Souls), and pale for the water (justifies souls). The image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness and love of God.

~ Excerpts from ncregister.com and dolr.org

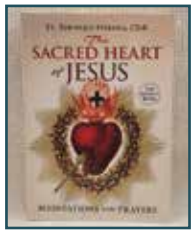
HOT IN THE SHOP

NEW! DIVINE MERCY CANDLE – $19

This 10" glass-encased candle burns for up to 124 hours and features the beautiful image of the Divine Mercy and the inscription "Jesus I Trust In You."

"IAM THE LAMB" BOOK – $31

Iam (pronounced EE-um) the Lamb points children to the true meaning of Easter.



"THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS" BOOK – $30

The 30 meditations in this book dramatically illustrate our need to turn to the heart of Jesus.

SEELOS ESSENTIALS PRAYER KIT – $17

Includes holy water, holy oil, a 2nd class Seelos relic, and all four Seelos paper prayer cards.

PRAYING MOM GIFT SET – $24

Includes "The Power of a Praying Mom" book and a lavender bookmark with gold inscription: "Have courage and be kind."

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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Director: Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.
Vice-Postulator: Stephen T. Rehrauer, C.Ss.R.
Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman, Heidi Groat, Andi Koenig, Patricia Norman, Marilyn Olivard, Beau Perrault

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Reverend Kevin Zubel, C.Ss.R.

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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 ($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: _____

_____