



VOLUME 85

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MARCH 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

Anyone who is familiar with Father Seelos also knows, perhaps without realizing it, the religious order to which he belonged—the Redemptorists. This is because he lived out the ideals of the community to an extraordinary extent.

The Redemptorists have been in the United States for 190 years, serving in many places and preaching parish missions throughout the nation. Many of you have attended parishes where Redemptorists have served, attended a Redemptorist parish mission or know a particular Redemptorist as a friend or family member. It is important to us to keep the ideals of the Order vibrant. This is a challenge that lives beyond the community house and needs the participation of associates who seek to integrate the values that they have learned from Fathers and Brothers in their history.

With this letter, we are sending those who are interested in developing their spirituality an invitation to become a Redemptorist Associate. These are men and women who choose to seek a “spiritual home” and environment in which they can be strengthened and empowered to live their deep seated love by instruction and the companionship of others who share their convictions.

You are invited to join the Redemptorists and the Redemptorist Associates as we seek to grow together in the charism of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation.

If you would like to learn more about participating in this adventure, please contact me here at the Shrine of Blessed Seelos and I will get information to you and answer any questions you may have. We look forward to hearing from you.



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



Here's what some new members had to say about becoming a Redemptorist Associate:

Now, I can connect my longings to help and the gifts God has given me with service to the most abandoned. Having found the Redemptorist Associates, a group with this same commitment to compassion, I can unite with others in the effort to provide some relief to a suffering World.

— Pamela Spencer

My faith in God has always been important to me. I want to develop a closer relationship with Jesus, which I thought the Redemptorist Associates would be a great inspiration. Also, I want to share my love for Jesus with others, as the Bible teaches.

— Bonnie Alberts



SEELOS SHRINE SPOTLIGHT

Shining a light on the superstars of the Shrine



At the Seelos Shrine, we greatly value the wonderful work of our staff and volunteers who keep this holy place running smoothly. Throughout future newsletter issues, we will take the opportunity to introduce some of them to you. In this first installment, we're talking a little about the benefits of volunteering.

VOLUNTEERING GIVES *AND* RECEIVES

The gift of volunteering goes far beyond the generosity of the volunteer. Research shows that it provides benefits to not only the places and people they serve, but to the volunteers themselves.

- 1. CONTINUING THE MISSION:** Whether you're praying with a sick pilgrim, leading a tour group, filling gift shop orders or coordinating a fundraiser, you're helping the Shrine continue the mission started by Blessed Seelos.
- 2. RAISING AWARENESS:** When you volunteer, you often mention it to friends and family—perhaps even without noticing you're doing it. That spreads the word about Blessed Seelos and encourages more people to get involved.
- 3. FEELING SATISFIED:** There's scientific evidence that volunteering positively affects your body. Studies show that when people donate to charity, either financially or through volunteering, the brain releases feel-good chemicals, spurring you to perform more kind acts.
- 4. MAKING NEW FRIENDS:** When you volunteer at the Shrine or for a Shrine event, you work with a team of like-minded people who all share a love of Blessed Seelos. You can't help but to make friends!
- 5. PAYING IT FORWARD:** If you've been touched by a story of a healing attributed to the intercession of Blessed Seelos or have experienced a healing yourself, volunteering is the perfect way to pay that blessing forward and spread the healing effect to others.



To volunteer from home or at the Seelos Shrine, please fill out our form at seelos.org/volunteer or call (504) 525-2495 today!



Looking for a deeper spirituality in your life? Consider becoming a Redemptorist Associate!

Redemptorists have been called to bring the good news to the people who are on the margins of society and those who want to grow in faith. The Redemptorist Family is much more than priests, brothers and deacons. We would not be able to accomplish the work of Jesus the Redeemer without the help of the laity. Lay Redemptorist Associates embrace this spirituality and share with one another and Redemptorists as they grow on this journey of faith. This is more than just making the mission possible, it is a way to live as disciples of Jesus.



For information about becoming a Redemptorist Associate in your area, contact Fr. Rich Boever at (504) 525-2495 or rboever@seelos.org.

Blessings for the Sick

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

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)

Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

Mark / Monica Surprenant (504) 895-5371
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

UPTOWN / ORLEANS PARISH

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK

Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213
Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515
Tori Winters (504) 237-2962

LOUISIANA

ABBEVILLE / ERATH / LAFAYETTE

Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

ALEXANDRIA

Deacon Bill / Joan Travis (318) 664-7069
Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545

BALDWIN / FRANKLIN

Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

BATON ROUGE

Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON

April Mayo (985) 892-1828
Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

HOUMA / THIBODAUX

Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096
Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056
Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450
Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807

IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

David Fauchaux (504) 908-4120

MANDEVILLE

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 / HAMMOND

Gaspar Corpora (225) 294-5938

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES

Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY

Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

SLIDELL

Billy Bachemin (985) 288-7006

OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

KATY, TEXAS

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

THE SAINTLY CORNER



ST. CLEMENT MARY HOFBAUER

St. Clement was born in Moravia (Czech Republic) in 1751. In his youth, he was an apprentice baker in an abbey in Vienna. This gave him the opportunity to follow the call to the priesthood by completing his seminary studies in the city. During this time he made pilgrimages to Rome, where he met and joined the Redemptorists. Clement was ordained a Redemptorist on March 29, 1785. Clement founded the first house of the Redemptorists in Warsaw, Poland in an era when the Church was attacked by intellectuals, society, and government. He was surrounded by enemies but continued to love and forgive them. Through his gifts of spiritual direction, preaching, confession, and works of charity, he converted and helped people of every social class. He died in Vienna on March 15, 1820 and was canonized by St. Pius X on May 20, 1909. His feast day is March 15.

Adapted from redemptorists.net



ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick was born in Britain and when he was sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. His captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family. A few years after returning home,

Patrick saw a vision which prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was eventually ordained a bishop and was sent to take the Gospel to Ireland in 433. There, he converted many people and built churches across the country. He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity. Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, with love and total devotion to and trust in God. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died on March 17, 461. His feast day is March 17.

Adapted from catholic.org



ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph was born in the line of King David, but in his time the descendants of David no longer held power or wealth. When he was a carpenter in Nazareth, he met Mary and was betrothed to her. When she became pregnant before their marriage, he decided to quietly break off the engagement in accordance to the Law. An angel then appeared to him and explained that God Himself was the father of Mary's child. Joseph accepted His will, married Mary, and raised Jesus as his own son. The Gospels call Joseph a just and righteous man, and his righteousness can be shown in his acceptance of God's will, despite inconvenience and public scandal, and the care he showed to his family. His feast day is March 19.

Adapted from schoolworkhelper.net

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.

HOT IN THE SHOP

Visit SEELOS.org to view all of the items available for sale in the Gift Shop.



“HEAVEN SENT” SEELOS DISK NECKLACE – \$40

This chunky chain necklace by New Orleans artist Heidi Groat is an adjustable 10.5” in length and features a cross, crystal, a medal of Blessed Seelos and an ornate gold disk.



RISEN CHRIST CRUCIFIX – \$46

Instead of an image of the crucified Christ, this handsome 10” oak and pewter crucifix depicts Jesus rising from the dead in all His glory.



SLEEPING ST. JOSEPH STATUE – \$44

A 4” statue of St. Joseph resting with the Lord in prayer. The Pope advises leaving a note under this image of the sleeping saint, asking for help when there is a problem.



ST. PATRICK COLLECTION – \$26

This gift set includes a 4” statue of St. Patrick, a prayer card featuring a Prayer of Protection, and a pewter pocket token with a clover and a wish for good health, good luck and happiness on it.



“SOME BUNNY’S FEELINGS” BOOK – \$15.50

This 6” x 6” book, with its fuzzy bunny on the cover, thick pages and rounded corners, is perfect for little hands ages 0-5.



“CARROT” BUNNY PLUSH – \$24.50

This “punny” bunny plush holds a soft carrot with your choice of “I really CARROT about you” or “I CARROT live without you” and a little pink heart.

Quantities are limited. Prices listed above **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-\$4. Please visit SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle.



REQUEST A RELIC: 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



SHOP ONLINE: Items in the Gift Shop are available at SEELOS.org/gift-shop.

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 (\$12)

☐ Other: _____

Make checks payable to “National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos”.

Please ☐ remove ☐ change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____
