

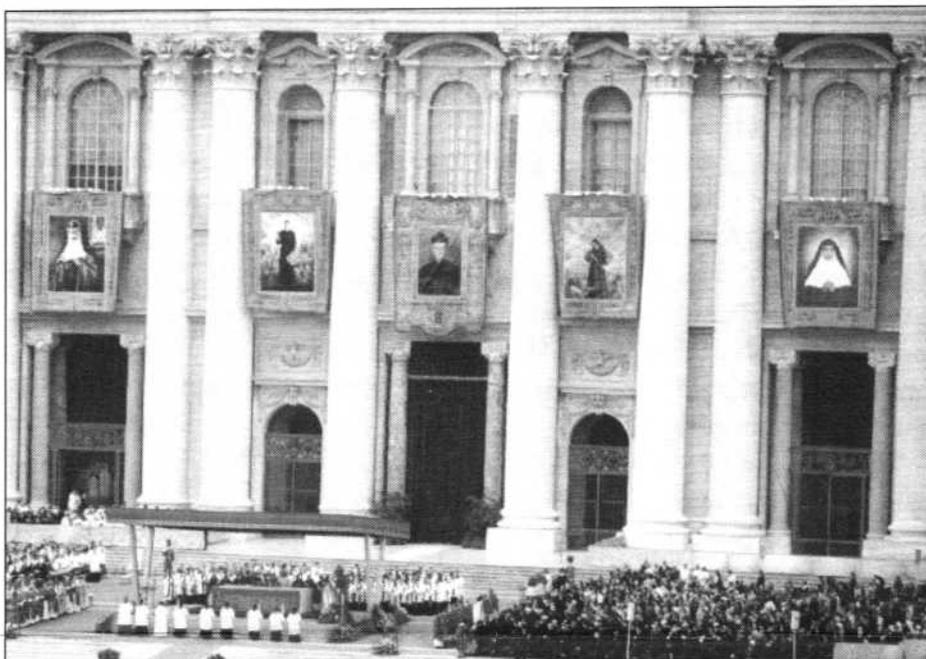
NEWS

Seelos Center



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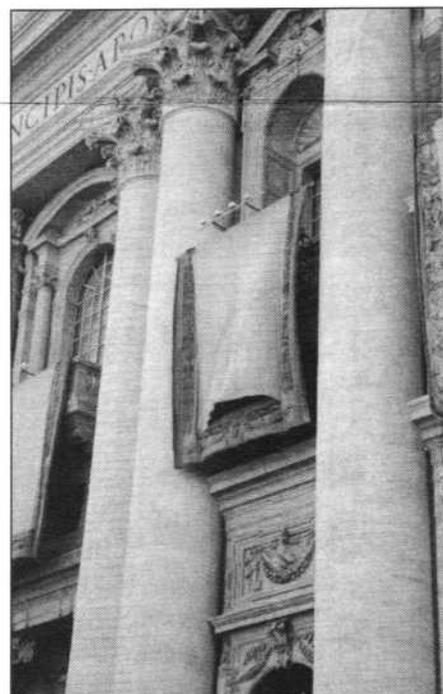
Shrouded Tapestry Revealed at Beatification Ceremony



Five shrouded tapestries depicting the five Servants of God to be beatified hung from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica during the ceremony on April 9. After Archbishop Francis Schulte of New Orleans read a brief biography of Fr. Seelos before the Holy Father, all eyes turned to the facade to view the tapestry, the second from the left. The veil covering was then drawn to reveal an inspiring portrait of Blessed Seelos.

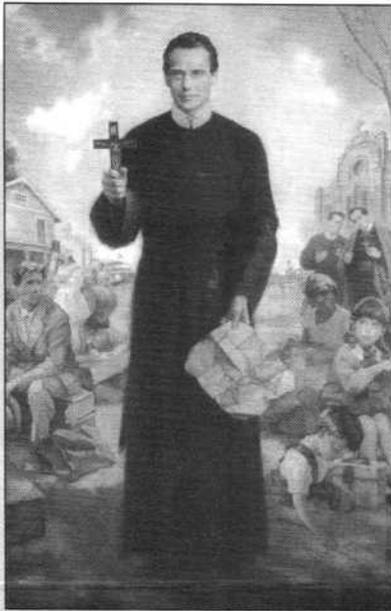
While the other four portraits were

impressive head shots, the tapestry of Blessed Seelos was not only historically symbolic but represented the character and spirit of the man himself. Portrayed prominently in the center of the artwork was Blessed Seelos, imposing and dynamic. In one hand was his Redemptorist missionary cross, and in the other, a map of North America. Figures depicted in the background included Saint John Neumann, superior and mentor to Blessed Seelos, young and old



immigrants with whom Blessed Seelos ministered, and a child sketching the seal of the Redemptorist Congregation. Behind the familiar landmark facade of St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans sat a steamboat on the Mississippi River. Even the architecture of a typical Irish Channel home in New Orleans was represented, modeled after the actual dwelling where a Redemptorist priest was raised.

The artist commissioned by the Redemptorists for the official Seelos portrait was Giuseppe Antonio Lomuscio of Italy. The original oil painting and the tapestry will be housed at St. Mary's Assumption Church.



N • E • W !

Official Portrait of Blessed Seelos

Long Awaited First-Class Relics Now Available!

Joan Carroll Cruz in *Relics* writes:

Since the early days of the Church the remains of a saint or holy person were called relics, from the Latin "Reliquiae" meaning remains. Relics are divided into three categories. First-class relics are parts of the bodies of saints and the instruments of Our Lord's Passion. Second-class relics are objects sanctified by close contact with saints, such as articles of clothing, objects used in life, or, in the case of a martyr, the instruments of his torture. Third-class relics are objects or cloths touched to either first- or second-class relics. Material benefits obtained through relics of saints have often included miracles, as is witnessed not only by the history of the Church and the lives of the saints, but also by Sacred Scripture.

All three categories of Blessed Seelos relics are now available at the Seelos Center. Please call 504-525-2495 (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) for more information.

Seelos Center NEWS

Statement from Novelist Anne Rice

New Orleans author, Anne Rice, provided the means for a dozen parishioners of St. Alphonsus Parish / St. Mary's Assumption Church to attend the Fr. Seelos Beatification in Rome:

Being a current resident of St. Alphonsus Parish — and having been baptized and educated here — I am privileged to be permitted to assist many hardworking devoted Catholics to participate in the Beatification of Fr. Seelos in Rome. These dedicated people have worked very long and tirelessly for this worthy cause. Without their devotion this day might not have come.

Fr. Seelos is especially dear to me because my ancestors include both Irish and Germans who lived in St. Alphonsus Parish, people who no doubt had to cope with the scourge of Yellow Fever, and some who may even have known Fr. Seelos personally.

The records of my poor ancestors are lost in time. But we have the warm, glowing image of Fr. Seelos, transcending time and bringing glory to our parish and our city through his miracles.

When we so often think of saints as being from far away, it is exciting to realize that this holy man worked here,

and died here, and was buried here in our beautiful St. Mary's Church in New Orleans.

That my birthday is October 4, and that Father Seelos died on that very day also adds to my special feelings.

The story of St. Alphonsus Parish is indeed great, including as it does the history of immigrants from two lands, and the construction of two magnificent churches whose stunning beauty generously rewards eager pilgrims.

Now with the Beatification of this holy man, Fr. Seelos, we see the further development of a new and marvelous chapter both in the history of the parish, and in the history of the Redemptorist Order.

Fr. Seelos is a saint for us. And I am happy to be of some small service to those who are working so hard for his canonization.

Anne Rice

Seelos Center NEWS

A monthly newsletter for friends of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R.

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A Century of Prayers!

The official cause for Fr. Seelos was begun in April, 1900. A century later to the exact month, a part of the text on Fr. Seelos that Archbishop Schulte read before Pope John Paul II on April 9th is as follows: "The enduring renown for his holiness which the Servant of God enjoyed occasioned his *Cause for Canonization* to be introduced in 1900 with the initiation of the *Processo Informativo*. On January 27, Your Holiness declared him Venerable, decreeing the heroism of his virtues."

That "enduring renown" for Blessed Seelos' holiness was true during his life and after his death. It continues to spread around the world, as evidenced by this recent article that appeared in Japan:

レディンフトール会のシーロス神父の肖像・CNS II は、ドイツ南部バイエルン地方で生まれ、米国に移住して、一八四四年、ボルテイモアで司祭に叙階され、主にドイツ人移住者の司牧に献身した。

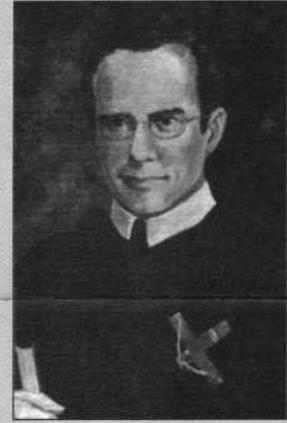
シーロス神父は、その謙遜さでも知られ、ビッツバーグ教区司教の後任として指名されると、当時の教皇ピオ九世に書簡を送り、司教任命を固辞した。

また、南北戦争発生時には、ユーフラム・リンカーン大統領に直接掛け合

い、神学生たちの前線派遣を免除させた。

教皇は列福式ミサの説教で、「福者シーロスは、教会のメンバーたちを、ゆるしの秘跡と聖体のうちにキリストとの一致を深めるよ

つ招いています」と、牛の熱意あふれた司牧姿勢たたえた。



"With Him is Plentiful Redemption"

(Psalm 130:7)

The Seelos Center offers the following services:

- Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Assumption Church, the Shrine and Museum of Blessed Seelos in New Orleans. For details and appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.
- A Daily Spiritual Message. Call 504-586-1803.
- Blessings of the Sick with the Mission Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in the Greater New Orleans area, please call:
Gerry Heigle-504-482-4404
Jack Pitkin-504-524-6591
Teresa LaCour-504-887-0214
Rita Kaul-504-271-4520
Rosary Stoltman-504-393-9423
Jim Howard-504-277-7949
Elaine Freeman-504-341-2213
- Veneration of Blessed Seelos' Mission Crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 am Mass in the historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine and Constance Streets, New Orleans).
- Weekly Mass celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos Center. If you have Special Intentions, please list them in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center / Seelos Foundation Office offers the following devotionals:

- "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," an informative documentary on the life of Blessed Seelos; 30-minute VHS cassette. (Suggested donation: \$20 - includes postage.)
- "A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos," a new 108-page paperback biography by Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R. & Alicia Von Stamwitz. (Suggested donation: \$8.50 - includes postage.)
- Nothing Short of a Miracle*, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece; on the healing power of the saints; two of the chapters feature Father Seelos. (Suggested donation: \$12.50 - includes postage.)
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed Seelos, available in English and Spanish (soon to be made available in Vietnamese).
- Audio cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father and Blessed Seelos, given by Father Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Suggested donation: \$6 - includes postage.)
- A Blessed Seelos vigil candle will burn near his tomb or in the Seelos Museum at St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans for an offering of \$3.00.
- First, Second and Third-Class relics of Blessed Seelos. Please contact the Seelos Center

Testimonials

Falls Church, VA

This letter comes to report a favor received by invoking Blessed Seelos. I regret how long it has taken me to send it. In January of 1998 when my wife and I came to New Orleans to negotiate a court case seeking reparations to her for injuries suffered, I asked Fr. Seelos at St. Mary's to intercede for a just outcome for her case.

Within ninety minutes after submitting my petition to be placed at his shrine at St. Mary's, and invoking him myself, a just settlement was offered to my wife. This offer was by no means a foregone conclusion.

Although a temporal benefit may seem less noteworthy, I did not want it to go unreported and be ungrateful. In all honesty, the resulting stability afforded our household and improvement to our domestic life was providential. Many legitimate debts could be satisfied, and a great cause of worry and tension was lifted from our house. Blessed Seelos has my gratitude. May God grant that he be raised to the altar.

Lynn Haven, FL

I want to give thanks to God's Servant, Fr. Seelos, for his presence in my life during a difficult time. In February 2000 I was diagnosed with a pituitary microadenoma which was confirmed by an MRI. I was told to schedule a consultation at the University of Alabama Medical Center for treatment. Several days before leaving for Birmingham, my mother sent me a cloth touched to the relic of Fr. Seelos. I prayed to Fr. Seelos and had the cloth on me the next day when I had a follow-up MRI. The results of that MRI showed that the pituitary adenoma was *gone*. For me, I know that Fr. Seelos brought me peace and comfort during a dark time in my life.

Norco, LA

My mother prayed to Fr. Seelos to ask that she not lose her eyesight or her remaining leg. She died twenty minutes before the surgery to remove her leg and she still had some vision when she died. Her prayers were indeed answered. She asked that I write to let others know. The timing was miraculous, and her prayers to Fr. Seelos were answered just as she asked.

Magnolia, MS

In October 1979 my daughter-in-law had a kidney transplant that failed on the day of surgery. The following day I called to ask someone at the Seelos Center to bless her with Fr. Seelos' cross. A few hours after that, her kidneys moved and lasted quite a few years. While she died in 1995, I still feel and always have that it was a miracle.

Harvey, LA

This letter is sent in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for receiving word that an MRI given to my husband was found to be negative. He was hospitalized for one week when spots were found on his liver. I prayed to Fr. Seelos together with friends. The surgeon called tonight; no malignancies. I will always be devoted to Fr. Seelos and will help spread devotion to him.

Metairie, LA

On February 11, 2000 I was due for my annual echocardiogram. During this procedure, it was determined that it would be dangerous for me to continue with the stress test. The aortic valve had closed to a point where it was critical. I went home that night and prayed to Fr. Seelos. An angiogram was scheduled for March 10 to determine if I needed a valve replacement.

On March 8, I attended a regular Mass at Owen and Barbara Brennan's home. The celebrant was the new director of the Seelos Center. I asked if I could come to the Center the next day, the day before the angiogram. At the Center I was blessed with Fr. Seelos' crucifix and we prayed over his tomb in St. Mary's Church.

The angiogram went well, much better than anticipated. I was informed that all my vessels were clear and a valve replacement was not necessary. The miracle was real. I feel that prayers to Fr. Seelos had something to do with the favorable results given to me.