

NEWS Seelos Center



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Seelos Images in Demand



Rev. Monsignor Crosby W. Kern, V.F., pastor of St. Angela Merici Church in Metairie Louisiana, and some of his parishioners had attended the beatification of Blessed Francis Seelos in Rome last April. Upon returning, Msgr. Kern set into motion the plans to have an image of Father Seelos added to an outdoor meditation walk alongside the parish church. Father Seelos joins an august company of holy women already enshrined on the meditation walk who have a connection to New Orleans, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Katharine Drexel, Henriette Delille, Mother Rose-Philippine Duchesne, Mother Frances Cabrini, and Angela Merici. The Father Seelos image – created in distinctive enamel tiles on copper — was commissioned by the same artist who designed the earlier works, Ruth Goliwas.

The donor for the project was Cynthia M. Molyneux.

By November 19th, 2000 the completed artwork was ready for a blessing. Very Reverend Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R., Superior of the Vice Province of New Orleans, was invited to celebrate a Sunday parish Mass and perform the solemn blessing. In attendance was a crowd of proud parishioners happy to have Blessed Francis Seelos added to their inspiring and venerable Walk of Sanctity.

Throughout the country, there is an increasing interest in commissioning statues, stained glass, and other devotional objects depicting Father Seelos. We are grateful to Msgr. Kern and the parishioners of St. Angela Merici Church for helping to foster the cause and emulation of Blessed Francis Seelos.

Photo Credit: MARY TORTOMASI



November 19, 2000. Cynthia M. Molyneux, donor of the Blessed Francis Seelos artwork, and Rev. Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R., Redemptorist Superior of the Vice Province of New Orleans, at the formal dedication ceremony.



Reverend Monsignor Crosby W. Kern, pastor of St. Angela Merici Church, Metairie Louisiana, was instrumental in having Father Seelos added to the outdoor meditation walk.

Rev. Msgr. Crosby Kern, Rev. Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R., & Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R. at the blessing ceremony of the Father Seelos image.



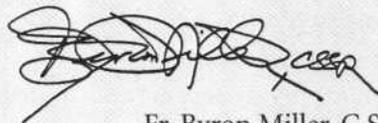
A Message from the Editor

When athletes and their agents got ready for the Olympics last year, they must have been delighted to know the results of a survey conducted by the London-based Sponsorship Research International. According to a survey of 7,000 people in six countries, the U.S., Australia, Germany, India, Japan and the United Kingdom, 92% of those polled could correctly identify the Olympic games' symbol of five linked rings. Eighty-eight percent accurately identified the golden arches of the McDonald's restaurant chain and the Shell Oil Company's fanned seashell logo. Moreover, in these six countries – some of which are identified as Christian – only 54% of those polled were able to correctly identify the Christian cross.

During this Lenten season we are reminded of the words of Christ: "If anyone would come after me, deny yourself and take up your cross daily and follow me" (Lk. 9:23). But how can we daily "take up our cross" when we even have difficulty identifying it? Fasting-prayer-almsgiving are meant to help us identify with the Cross of Christ, but Lent isn't necessarily about an exterior change in our behavior; it's about becoming more like Christ.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori stressed a love for "crib-cross-sacrament" as a means to help us become more Christ-like. Before each station of his Way of the Cross, those favorite words of Alphonsus are invoked: "We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you; Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." Christ has "set before us life and death. Choose life!" For Alphonsus, only by dying to our old selves do we actually choose the life God has promised.

This holy season calls for much more than an exterior change in our behavior. We are challenged to identify correctly with the Christian Cross of Christ by the Who we strive to become. Our very lives become a logo, if you will, an easily recognized symbol of the One who has "set before us life and death." CHOOSE LIFE!



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

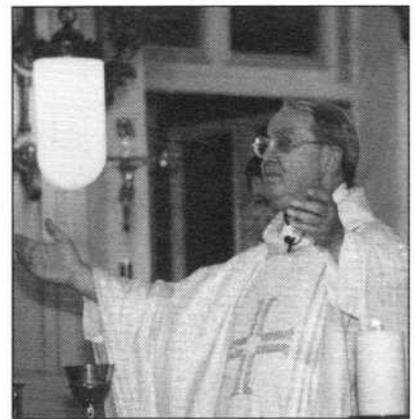


Photo Credit: Diane C. Garcia

“It is most appropriate that we dedicate the shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos here in this church of Saint Mary of the Assumption. His presence in this church, his burial here where he served God during his last year of life, was a gift from his Mother Mary... Those who come to his shrine to seek his intercession will be coming into Mary's church, and probably, we hope, will send up a word of praise and thanksgiving to his beloved Blessed Mother.”

—Excerpt from the homily preached by Fr. Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R., author of the Seelos *Positio*, at the October 8, 2000 Seelos Mass, New Orleans

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Seelos Center NEWS

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

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Vice Provincial - New Orleans

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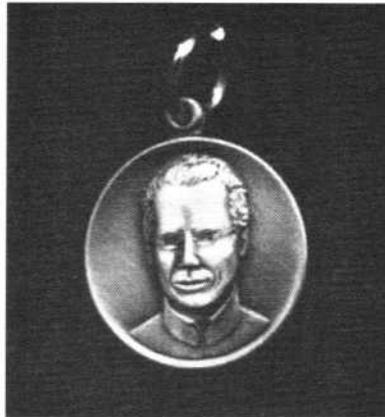
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS



for the 13th Annual
BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS
DAY
IN NEW ORLEANS
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2001
11:30 a.m. Mass,
St. Mary's Assumption Church
2:00 p.m. Dinner at
Jefferson-Orleans South

CONTACT
THE SEELOS CENTER
FOR DINNER TICKET
RESERVATIONS
504-525-2495



SEELOS MEDALS NOW AVAILABLE

We are pleased to offer an exclusive Blessed F. Seelos medal, made of nickel silver. Round (3/4" diameter), with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the United States. A donation of \$3 each or 2/\$5 (+\$1p/h) supports the canonization cause.

"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 F. 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 a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in the Greater New Orleans area, please call:
Gerry Heigle (E. Jefferson) 504-482-4404
Jack Pitkin (Uptown/Innecity) 504-524-6591
Teresa LaCour (E. Jefferson) 504-887-0214
Rita Kaul (Arabi) 504-271-4520
Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423
Jim Howard (St. Bernard) 504-277-7949
Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213
Peter Lukinovich (N.O. East) 504-241-2746
Ethel Kuhn (Ochsner) 504-837-3957
Bill and Sunny Schulz (Northshore) 504-792-5394
- Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 am Mass in the historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine and Constance Streets).
- 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:

(Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s) requested):

- "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," an informative documentary on the life of Blessed F. 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.)
- Messengers: After-Death Appearances of Saints & Mystics*, a 343-page hardbound book on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos; photos included. Autographed by author, P. Treece. (Suggested donation: \$21.50 - includes postage.)
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Audio cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father and Blessed F. Seelos, given by Father Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Suggested donation: \$6 - includes postage.)
- A Blessed F. 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 F. Seelos. Please contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495

Testimonials

Slidell, LA

A wonderful thing happened to my 8-year-old daughter during a recent pilgrimage with her second grade class to St. Mary's Assumption Church and the Seelos Shrine. My daughter has juvenile diabetes and has had trouble in recent months maintaining good blood sugar control despite our best efforts. My daughter asked me if she could wear the first class relic of Fr. Seelos on her class pilgrimage that we had previously acquired. I put the relic on a chain and put it around her neck. During her visit, she was blessed not once, but twice with Blessed Francis Seelos' cross. My daughter's blood sugar counts were in the normal range the entire day. I know that through this amazing event, Blessed Seelos was telling my daughter that he is watching over her and is with her through her everyday struggles with diabetes. She believes Blessed Seelos was reaching out to her too.

Deltona, FL

I had my regular eye checkup in December, which was a six-month routine because of increasing eye pressure, the forerunner of glaucoma. I had been tested for two years with an ever-increasing eye pressure. This time I was concerned that I would finally be put on medications, which would be required for life. I began prayers to Blessed Francis Seelos requesting his help and I placed his relic on my eyes frequently. The exam done by a specialist was normal and he indicated that there was no indication of glaucoma. Needless to say, I am very grateful to Blessed Seelos because the problem had been with me for several years and now my eyes are within the normal range. I feel certain that it is due to my prayers to him. I will always be thankful to my gentle saint.

Pittsburgh, PA

Several months ago, "On Q Magazine" – a program on our local public television station – aired a segment on Blessed Francis Seelos. It was the first I had ever heard of him. I had a cyst on the tip of my right hand index finger that was very painful. I went to a specialist who said the fluid was coming from between the bones and suggested I do nothing if I could withstand the pain. I started to pray to Blessed Francis Seelos and I truly believe he performed a miracle as the cyst is gone and the skin is normal. I would welcome any suggestion to further Blessed Francis Seelos' cause.

Wexford, PA

Nine months ago, I was diagnosed with Stage 3B Lung Cancer – inoperable and a year to live. A week later, a bone marrow biopsy revealed I also had non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. I desperately needed help, so I fled to Jesus through the intercession of Father Francis Seelos. I had chemotherapy shrinking the cancer tumor but harming the good tissues too. My hair fell out and my joints were attached with terrible pain. In May, I listened to the lung surgeon say I could have surgery – the cancer tumor had shrunk. It was an Intracostal Thoracoscopy with a partial lobectomy. The operation was a success and the tumor was removed. The cancer was gone! It was Jesus and Father Seelos – you see, it was all in their hands.

From the www.seelos.org website

On November 28, my stepdaughter accidentally left a burner on the stove at my house. A pan of grease caught on fire and the flames started to build. My son tried to put it out with a sodium bicarbonate fire extinguisher; however, that only spread the flames. He ran outside, connected the hose to a faucet, and proceeded to put out the grease fire with water. My stepdaughter had dialed 911 but the fire was out by the time the firemen got there. While this was occurring at my house sixty-five miles away, I had logged on to the Seelos website, said the few prayers, and left his picture on my screen. I had never done this at work before, so you can see why I consider this a miracle, since my son put out a grease fire with water and saved my home. There was only \$10,000 damage in the kitchen area. Blessed is Father Seelos for protecting my son and my home that day.