

SEELOS CENTER

News

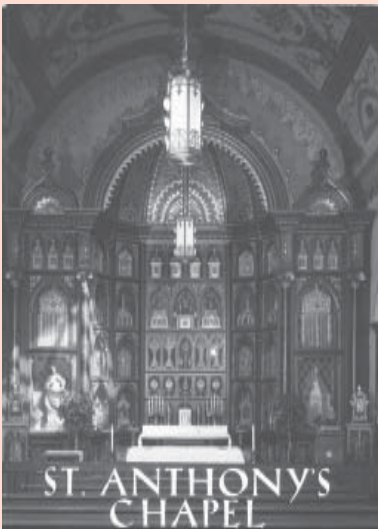


2030 Constance Street ❖ New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 525-2495 ❖ www.seelos.org

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

Volume XLIV † Number 8
August 2005

Father Seelos makes his presence known
in Pittsburgh area where he served



1700 Harpster St. Troy Hill
Pittsburgh, PA (412) 323-9504

While Father Seelos was stationed in Pittsburgh, his biggest construction challenge was the building of a new three-story orphanage for German children on Troy Hill. It was completed in the summer of 1852 and entrusted to the School Sisters of Notre Dame for administration.

Father Seelos' presence on Troy Hill is still experienced today in a unique way. His relics are part of an assortment of saintly artifacts surpassed in size only by the Vatican collection

itself! Saint Anthony's Chapel, the repository of 5,000 relics up the street from the H. J. Heinz pickle plant on Troy Hill, is the legacy of Father Suitbert Mollinger. His arrival in 1868 came many years after Father Seelos left Troy Hill in 1854, but their impact lives on in the area.

"People have always had a love for relics. Baby's first tooth, a lock of hair, and the ashes of the departed become treasured collections of millions. Relics of important people from presidents to movie, sports, and music stars are also treasured and take on commercial value. ... But religious relics go beyond sentimentality and admiration; they are called upon to bring us closer to God, to provide favors, to grant protection, to heal sickness, and in some cases even to perform miracles."

-- Steven Sora, *Treasures from Heaven*

YOU ARE INVITED!

Booksigning at National Shrine of
Blessed Francis Seelos



Sunday
September 25, 2005
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Assumption Church & National Seelos Shrine will provide a unique New Orleans setting for Eternal Word Television Network personality and author, Raymond Arroyo, to offer his anticipated biography of Mother Angelica. All are invited to meet the popular EWTN host as he shares insights and anecdotes, and autographs copies of his new book, printed by Doubleday. The hardcover book sells for \$23.95 and will be made available for purchase in the Seelos Museum by the co-sponsor of this event, Garden District Book Shop. If you cannot attend the event, but would like signed or personalized copies of the book please call (504) 895-2266 or email gdkrewe@aol.com



≠ MOTHER ≠
ANGELICA
The Remarkable Story of a Nun,
Her Nerve, and a Network
of Miracles
Raymond Arroyo



Raymond Arroyo

How the Redemptorists helped black Catholics

Although there were many holy people who assisted the black Catholic community, the first canonized person to do so was St. John Neumann. He was a native of Bohemia and a student in the seminary at Prague when he heard the call to minister to the German-speaking immigrants in America. He completed his priestly studies in New York and became a horseback missionary serving a frontier area of 900 square miles. In spite of his great success in building churches and evangelizing, Father Neumann wished to become a member of a religious order. He moved to Pittsburgh in 1840 and became a member of the Redemptorists.



St. John Nepomuk Neumann

After completing his novitiate, he ministered at St. James Church, Baltimore. He was later sent to complete the building of a church in Pittsburgh and was made vice-provincial of all the Redemptorists. Father Neumann returned to Baltimore to serve at St. Alphonsus Church. There he performed the greatest act of service for the Oblate Sisters of Providence, and in doing so strengthened the black Catholic Community of Baltimore. The year was 1847.

In 1843, Father James Joubert, the co-founder of the Oblate Sisters died. Unfortunately, no priest could be found to serve as the Oblates' spiritual director. Archbishop Samuel Eccleston could not see the value of having a community of women of color in his diocese. He suggested the order disband and return to the world as "good servant girls." The Oblates chose to remain religious women.

Hard times followed: financial problems grew and the student population diminished, but a light appeared at the end of the tunnel. The Redemptorists from both St. James and St. Alphonsus served the Sisters whenever possible. St. John Neumann appointed a young priest to approach the archbishop to ask permission to become the director of the Oblate Sisters. It wasn't an easy task, but in the end Father Thaddeus Anwander won out, and once again the Sisters were able to function as religious. The financial problems diminished; the student population grew.



Fr. Thaddeus Anwander

Thus, St. John Neumann performed a miracle before the process for his canonization had begun. When he appointed Father Anwander as director of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, he was, in reality, appointing Father Anwander as pastor of the black Catholic community of Baltimore City. It was the Redemptorists who served and nurtured the faith of the people of color during the turbulent times of the mid-1800s, when another Blessed Redemptorist came in.

In 1843, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, a native of Bavaria, came to America as a missionary. After a novitiate of over a year, Francis Xavier was ordained a Redemptorist in St. James Church in Baltimore.

Father Seelos was assigned to Pittsburgh, where his sanctity began to emerge. His sermons were meaningful, he spent hours in the confessional, prepared children and adults for the sacraments, visited the sick and was on call to help anybody, day or night.

In 1854, Father Seelos was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore. Although St. Alphonsus was a German-speaking parish with three missions, Father Seelos allowed Father Anwander to continue his service to black Catholics. Father Anwander's duties included: the spiritual direction of the Oblate Sisters; administration of the colored parish; giving instruction in the faith; supervising the activities and religious societies of the laity; fundraising; enlarging of the chapel and assisting in supervising the schools -- all while he was also pastor of St. Michael in East Baltimore.

The Oblate sisters are grateful to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos and his support of the black Catholic community during his tenure at St. Alphonsus from 1854 to 1857.

Sister Mary Reginald Gerdes, O.S.P. is historian & archivist for the Oblate Sisters of Providence. Reprint permission for this 5/26/05 article given by *The Catholic Review*, Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The Seelos Center offers the following services:

◇ **Pilgrimages** to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Shrine & Museum of Bl. F. Seelos in New Orleans. For details & appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.

◇ **Daily Spiritual Message.**
Call 504-586-1803.

◇ **Blessings of the Sick** with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans & other areas. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-482-4404
Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

Ochsner

Marie Giorlando: 504-288-9977

Uptown/Innecity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213
or 504-328-0648

Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432

Covington

Pam Crutchfield, R.T.: 985-892-6560
Dr. Ann Logarbo, MD: 985-886-0218

Houma/Thibodaux

Dan Montz, L.P.C.: 985-446-1805

Lafayette/Abbeville

Rita King: 337-984-4607

Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-0039

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

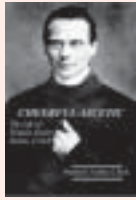
Sulphur/Vinton

Warren Touchet: 337-527-2607

◇ **Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** every Saturday after the 4 p.m. Mass & Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

◇ **Weekly Mass** celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos benefactors. Please list Special Intentions in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:

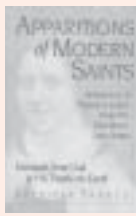


Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



Nothing Short of a Miracle, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two chapters feature Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$15 - includes p/h)



Apparitions of Modern Saints, a 293-page abridged & updated paperback version of the book formerly entitled *Messengers* by Patricia Treece on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography by Fr. Carl Hoegerl & Alicia von Stamwitz. (Donation: \$9 - includes p/h)



Seelos Medals: Made of nickel silver, round 3/4" dia. with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the U.S. (Donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5 + \$1 p/h)



Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

◇ **Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** of Bl. F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese.

◇ **A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

◇ **First, Second & Third-Class Relics** of Bl. F. Seelos. Contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495.

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



Father Seelos, writing to his own sister, Sister Damiana, describing an incident during his serious illness in 1857:

A Sister of Charity, whose cross I was able to lighten by some good advice, came to the house and said straight out that she absolutely had to see me once more, and asked the Father who was just then in the parlor to bring her to my room. The Father said, 'But Sister, that's not allowed. You know that we have clausura, and no one of the opposite sex can barge in. If you absolutely want to go in, you must first of all get rid of your white bonnet and put on a hat and dress up like a man, and then wait until the doctor comes and sneak in with him.' The Father said this in jest, and the Sister took it well. When she found out that I was somewhat better, she left the house consoled.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, October 2, 2005
at 11:30 a.m.

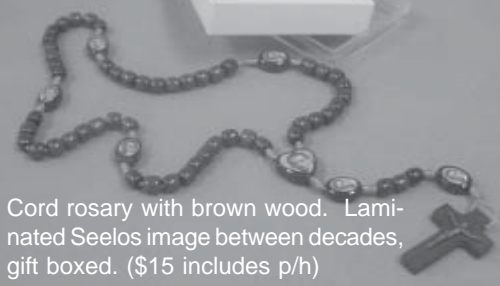
Annual Blessed Francis
Seelos Memorial Mass
in St. Mary's Assumption
Church

(corner of Constance &
Josephine streets)

& the 3rd Annual Blessed
Francis Seelos Gala
at Andrea's Restaurant,
Sunday, October 2, 2005
at 5:30 p.m.

Contact the Seelos Center
504-525-2495 for Gala
Dinner Reservations

THIS JUST IN!



Cord rosary with brown wood. Laminated Seelos image between decades, gift boxed. (\$15 includes p/h)



Seelos Rosary Ring,
made in Italy. (\$2.50
offering includes p/h)

Please contact the
Seelos Center
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA, 70130
504-525-2495



Seelos Center News

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

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

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TESTIMONIALS

Atascadero, CA

My son was a drug user for many years. My husband said that I wore the paint off my rosary beads. I truly was so depressed that I did not want to wake up in the morning. I sincerely prayed for Fr. Seelos' help and promised that if ever help came to my son, I would report this. The change was not immediate; it was a gradual, but wonderful miracle. Thank you, my Blessed Fr. Seelos -- thank you!

Emmitsburg, MD

We are very grateful for a healing of severe foot pain while our son was at the Gregorian University in Rome as a seminarian. A first class relic of Blessed Seelos was placed on a picture of our son and healing resulted from prayer and the relic. We hopefully ask for Blessed Seelos' healing of our son's entire body and mind, so he can return to his priestly studies. We keep a first class relic on the picture of our son. Hugs to Blessed Seelos.

Baton Rouge, LA

In March of this year I was very ill in the hospital. I went into cardiac arrest. My heart stopped pumping and I was drowning in my body fluid. The doctors asked my daughter and son to call family members that I would not live longer than an hour. My daughter had a first class relic of Fr. Seelos. As soon as this was placed on me I began to improve. Needless to say, I beat all odds and recovered, to the surprise of the cardiologists. I wore that relic for 3 days and recovered with record speed. Four doctors, unknown to me, came in my room and said they wanted to see the "Miracle Lady." My pulmonary doctor called me the "Female Lazarus!" I believe Divine Mercy worked through Father Seelos to cure me. It is not often that doctors claim a person is healed by Divine Intervention and I want the credit of my healing to go to God and Father Seelos.

St. Rose, LA

I am writing to let you know about the wonderful news my friend just received from the doctor. She was admitted last September for a mass on one of her ovaries. They couldn't operate because her thyroid count was too high. The doctor told her it didn't look good because the mass had grown dark. But the mass has dissolved and is no longer there! I have been praying for months to Father Seelos for a cure and he has intervened on our behalf. We had originally received the prayer from another friend who also had prayed to Father Seelos and was healed of a cancerous tumor. Miracles happen.

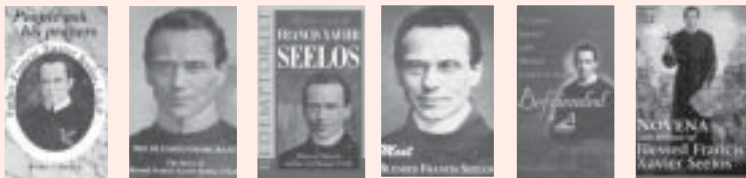
Placentia, CA

I am very grateful for the help we received through the intercession of Bl. Francis Seelos. My sister-in-law had a massive heart attack and the cardiologist indicated she was not expected to live. She was revived five times. She is now walking, talking, and even driving. Her doctor calls her his miracle patient. Recently, my brother (her husband) suffered a severe stroke. The prognosis was very bad. We placed a relic of Bl. Francis on his pillow and prayed to him. My brother has gone from being in a wheelchair to slow walking on his own. He also has some communication ability. I continue to include Bl. Francis in my daily prayers for his canonization and in thanksgiving for the favors granted.

Austin, TX

In 1991 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. After radical surgery, the surgeon informed the family that the cancer had metastasized and there was nothing that could be done. He gave me 9 months to live. My brother, who is a Redemptorist priest, gave me a relic of Fr. Seelos. I attached it to my bed and the family began to pray to Fr. Seelos for my recovery. For 14 years, all of my tests have been clean with no sign of cancer. My wife and I believe that this miracle is a result of the prayers of Fr. Seelos.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SHOPPING CART ON "WWW.SEELOS.ORG"!



(1) 24-pg. "People Ask His Prayers"
\$2 (includes p/h)

(3) 24-pg. "Bl. Francis X. Seelos, Redemptorist"
\$2 (includes p/h)

(5) 48-page Guided Retreat with Bl. Francis Seelos
\$5 (includes p/h)

(2) 27-pg. "The Blessed Immigrant"
\$2 (includes p/h)

(4) 36-pg. "Meet Bl. Francis Seelos"
\$2 (includes p/h)

(6) 32-page sturdy cover Seelos Novena
\$3 (includes p/h)

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CALL 504-525-2495.
Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.

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