

SEELOS CENTER

News



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

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Volume XLV † Number 4
April 2006

BL. FRANCIS SEELOS DAY IN NEW ORLEANS -- APRIL 30

The 18th Annual "Blessed Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month, April 30. A memorial Mass will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church (at Josephine & Constance streets in the Irish Channel) at 11:00 a.m. (*please note new time*). Redemptorist missionary, Reverend Paul Bryan, C.Ss.R., will be the principal celebrant & homilist. After the Mass there will be an opportunity to venerate a mission crucifix of Father Seelos and to view the National Shrine of Francis Seelos, where his mortal remains are permanently housed in a sacred reliquary. Parking for the Mass is available on the two adjacent lots on St. Andrew Street.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon will be held at the Hampton Inn Convention Center Grand Ballroom, a cherished landmark in the historic Warehouse District of New Orleans (1201 Convention Center Blvd., between Gaienne & Calliope streets). Entertainment is provided. A Parade of Prizes will support the canonization cause of Father Seelos. On-street parking & additional paid parking is available at the hotel &

the Fulton Garage across the Square. Tickets for the luncheon are \$29 per person. They may be obtained at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, or by calling (504) 525-2495.



Illustration by Mark Andresen of Metairie, LA

REST IN PEACE REV. JOSEPH ELWORTHY, C.SS.R. DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF FATHER SEELOS CENTER



Father Joseph D. Elworthy, C.Ss.R., a Redemptorist for 71 years, died on January 27, 2006, after a long illness. He was 90 years old.



In 1939, Father Elworthy was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Stritch at the Redemptorist seminary in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. After ordination he did post-graduate studies at Catholic University of

America in Washington, D.C. Shortly thereafter, he was chosen to become one of the first group of six Redemptorists to go as missionaries to the Amazon Valley in Brazil. He arrived in the city of Manaus in 1943. He was then appointed pastor of one parish on the Amazon River that had 25,000 people, and another parish that was as large as the entire country of Ireland.

After a little more than ten years of ministry in the Amazon jungle, Father Elworthy returned to the States in 1953, and was assigned to the Redemptorist Mission Office in Liguori, Missouri. During his 66 years as a priest he served also as pastor of parishes in Wichita, KS, San Antonio, TX, Corpus Christi, TX, and Saint Alphonsus Parish in New Orleans. He was appointed Director of the Father Seelos Center from 1970 to 1978, and again from 1984 until 1999. For 25 years, he was an ardent promoter of the canonization cause of Father Francis Xavier Seelos. Father Elworthy attended the Beatification ceremony of Father Seelos in Rome during the Solemn Jubilee Year 2000.

Declining health forced him to spend his final four years at the Redemptorist St. Clement Health Care Center in Liguori, MO. His funeral Mass and burial were celebrated there on January 31, 2006.

SEELOS CENTER SAYS GOODBYE TO FATHER ELWORTHY



A Memorial Mass for Father Elworthy will be held at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos in New Orleans on Saturday, May 6 at 11:00 a.m. All are invited. For a quarter of a century, Father Elworthy was the prime mover for the cause of Father Seelos. Donations in memory of Father Elworthy may be sent to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Message from the Editor

There was a time in New Orleans when local theaters were respectfully closed on Good Friday, but one distinctive local custom continues to this day to provide proper solemnity. "Making the nine churches," is a Good Friday Catholic tradition that requires participants to walk to nine designated churches to pray or perform a prescribed ritual at each one, such as abbreviated re-enactments of the Passion and recitations of the rosary. The uptown route of historic churches includes St. Mary's Assumption Church and ends at St. Louis Cathedral.

It is uncertain how the hallowed tradition began, but it was evidently practiced even at the time Father Seelos lived in New Orleans in the 1860s. One year after his death in 1867, a local Catholic newspaper reported on the custom: "The crowds of faithful who go from one church to another to worship at the different altars may be supposed to make amends for the negligence of the three chosen apostles who slept while their master agonized. It is a beautiful custom...."

In a post-Katrina New Orleans, it remains to be seen how many of the unique traditions that helped define the city will survive. For God's sake, let us hope the meaningful nine-church pilgrimage is not another casualty.



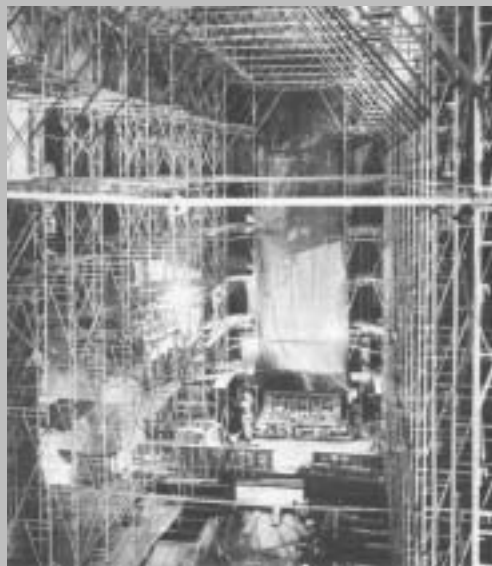
Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

You will gain more by receiving scorn peacefully than if you fasted for a week on bread and water. It is good to humble ourselves; but it is much more worthwhile to accept the humiliations that come to us from others.

- St. Alphonsus Liguori



Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans on August 29, 2005. Forty years earlier, almost to the day, Hurricane Betsy hit the city on September 9, 1965. While the center of Katrina was to the east of New Orleans, the center of Betsy was 35 miles southwest of the city. Both storms had winds in excess of 150 miles per hour. Betsy produced tidal surges that overtopped levees in the lower sections of the city; Katrina not only overtopped levees, but undermined them as well. Betsy's death toll was fortunately light, but she wreaked havoc on more than 13,000 homes and businesses in the city, flooding some to a depth of seven feet or more, at a cost of over \$121 million. Forty years ago, Saint Mary's Assumption Church had the integrity of its roof compromised due to Hurricane Betsy. A 10-year project of fundraising and restoration resulted in the church's reopening in 1975.



Top: The ornate ceiling of St. Mary's is carefully restored by a worker on a platform hundreds of feet in the air.

Bottom: Elaborate scaffolding in St. Mary's to repair the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

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 area hospitals. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-554-1912

Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

Ochsner

Mark/Monica Surprenant 504-895-5371

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

Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

Covington

Pam Crutchfield: 985-626-8823

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: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

Sulphur/Vinton

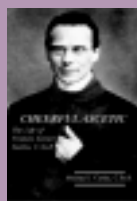
Warren Touchet: 337-527-2607

◇ **Veneration of Bl. F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets). Contact the Seelos Center for details.

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

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for your employer matching gift program.
Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

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)

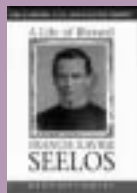
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



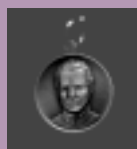
Nothing Short of a Miracle, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two chapters feature Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$15 - includes p/h)



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.

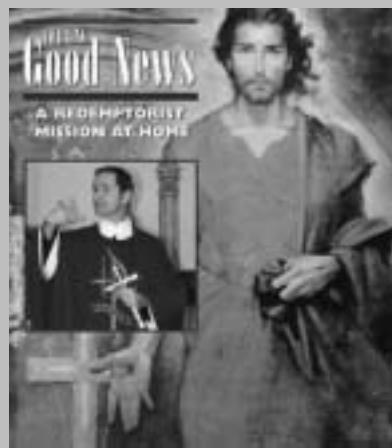
◇ **First, Second & Third-Class Relics** of Bl. F. Seelos. Contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495.

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



Redemptorist Mission on Video!

JUST ARRIVED



Over 2 hours of preaching & teaching, plus striking footage of symbols and rituals, this new professional video was filmed before a live congregation for 4 nights and preached by 4 Redemptorists.

Bonus tracks include a Bereavement Ritual for those who have Lost a Loved One and a "Prayer for Inner Healing." An ideal gift for the homebound in your parish who cannot attend an actual mission or for your own spiritual edification!

- Introduction: Very Rev. Patrick Woods, C.Ss.R.
- Sunday: Baptism "You are God's Beloved" Rev. John McGowan, C.Ss.R.
- Monday: Eucharist "Nourishment from a Loving God" Rev. William Maggs, C.Ss.R.
- Tuesday: The Cross "God's Invitation to Love Deeply" Rev. Philip Dabney, C.Ss.R.
- Wednesday: Mary "Model of Courage" Rev. Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.

This video is in DVD format only and can be purchased for \$29.95 (includes s/h). Contact Seelos Center to place order.

Seelos: Saint of the Missions

From 1863 to 1866, Francis Seelos was assigned the task of giving parish missions. He wrote, "I love the work of the missions more than all other labors; it is completely apostolic employment in the Lord's vineyard." His missionary ministry took him from Missouri and Illinois in the Midwest through Michigan and Ohio to Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island in the east. The missions were given in high & low places, in small isolated parishes like Shelby Settlement, Ohio, or in small, poor edifices as in Morris, IL; in great churches like Saint Patrick's in Joliet, in the cathedral of bustling Chicago, Saint Mary's in fast-growing Cincinnati, Saint Peter's in teeming New York, and in solidly Catholic Providence.

The accommodations for the missionaries in smaller places were often primitive. At Hartland, IL, they lived a mile from the church. They carried their breakfast with them so that they might have some nourishment after the morning services; at noon they utilized a lumber wagon to take them to lunch, and again, when the day was done at 9 or 9:30 p.m., they took the same lumber wagon to have supper, sometimes after a shivering ride in cold rain. Hard though it was, Seelos & his companions rejoiced to see Catholics making the sacrifice to come 10, 20, and even 30 miles to make the mission.

To Father Seelos' credit, during his term as superior, the prestige of the Redemptorist missionaries in America reached new heights and the demand for their missions was great.



.999 FINE SILVER SEELOS MEDALS

Round (3/4" diameter) with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and polished edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. \$39 (+ \$3 p/h). Great gift idea!

TESTIMONIALS

Hanceville, AL

I wanted to acknowledge and thank Father Seelos for his prayers in the healing of my eyes. About one year ago I had white floaters going around in my eyes. I received his relic and placed it on my eyes and prayed. The problem left and never returned. I know it was God working through him!

Kenner, LA

For about a year I experienced an unexplained eye disorder. I had numerous tests by reputable eye surgeons who believed that I had some sort of tumor on the optic nerve. After months of conducting every test imaginable, they said there was no explanation for the problem. I continued to experience the eye disorder for many months after. One day my husband and I saw the Seelos Shrine sign on Magazine Street. While in the shrine I was blessed with the mission crucifix as we prayed. A few weeks later, I was amazed to realize that the problem was gone when I read the morning paper. It has been many months now and the problem has not returned. What a miracle! Thanks to Blessed Seelos for his help.

Metairie, LA

This is in thanksgiving to my beloved Blessed Seelos. For months I have been very sick with stomach trouble and I've been in and out of the hospital. The doctors were very concerned that I may have had cancer of the colon. I have always prayed to Blessed Seelos and burned his candles in my home. When the doctor spoke to the family after the surgery, they were told everything was fine and there was no cancer! I had acute diverticulitis that affected the colon. I pray for Blessed Seelos to be canonized a saint of the church, for truly I am a miracle.

Bordentown, NJ

I had an abnormal mammogram and needed a biopsy, but was unable to undergo one due to another problem. The doctors decided I could wait and get another mammogram in six months and an ultrasound. I waited and prayed to Blessed Seelos. I am a nurse, so this was hard, but I put my faith in him. After the tests, the doctor came in and said, "It's gone." Nothing in the biopsy!

Lafayette, LA

I recently had shingles, which caused a problem with my sciatic nerve. Your Seelos Center representative, Rita King, came and prayed with the crucifix on my leg. She also gave me a relic of Blessed Seelos. I am doing much better and I know it is because of the blessing. Thank you Father Seelos!

Carencro, LA

In July 2002 I was admitted to the hospital with a severe electrolyte imbalance as well as arterial fibrillation of my heart. During the course of my month-long stay, I sustained a full cardiac arrest, was successfully resuscitated, and had an Automatic Internal Cardiac Defibrillator (AICD) implanted in my chest. The device is both a defibrillator and a pacemaker. One month after I was discharged from the hospital I sustained a dangerous cardiac rhythm and the AICD "zapped" me back to normal. Then when I was attempting to sweep leaves off my patio I sustained ventricular fibrillation – a very deadly heart rhythm – and again my AICD "zapped" me. Two weeks later my wife and I visited the Blessed Seelos Center and while we were on tour, each of us was allowed to hold a Father Seelos crucifix and say a silent prayer. I touched his crucifix to my chest and asked for my cardiac rhythms to be regulated. Since that time to this very day, I have not sustained an irregular rhythm and neither of my AICD functions have been activated. In fact, the expected time for its replacement has gone from 5 years to more than 12!

Did You Know? The *Novena in Honor of Blessed Francis X. Seelos* is now in its 3rd printing since August 2001 with over 27,000 copies distributed.



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|--|---|---|
| (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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