

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 5
May 2006

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

It's a story - everybody's story - a child is scared and runs to his mother and then is scooped up into her arms - almost losing his sandal in the process.

It's a story - everybody's story - a mother holding her child - calming him down - and then looking out to see if there is anybody else who needs help.

It's a story - everybody's story - hands that are held and hands that are held onto - the need to hold and be held by another - the need to stay close to each other.

It's a story - everybody's story - sometimes people have eyes that look right into our soul and sometimes people have eyes that are looking elsewhere.

It's a story - everybody's story - that there are angels - messengers who bring us cues and clues about life. In the picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help they are named Michael, on the left, and Gabriel, on the right. Who have been the angels in our life?

It's a story - everybody's story - the beauty and dignity of women and children.

It's a story - everybody's story - to be a strong wall of protection and security for all - especially children.

It's a story - everybody's story - to become holy, saints, bathed in halos of light, to become light to the world because of Jesus: The Light of the World.

It's a story - everybody's story - to read the handwriting on the wall - the handwriting on the pictures of our life, to study it carefully. It may be Greek to us, but in the famous picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, the writing tells us: Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is Mother of God - and Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One.

It's a story - everybody's story - to have their picture put in a prominent place - to be honored, respected, remembered and loved.

-- Father Andrew Costello, C.Ss.R.
St. Mary's Church, Annapolis MD (where Fr. Seelos served from 1862-65)



Illustrations: Boon Vong

Father Seelos once recalled that as a child he and his older brother, Ambrose, recited the Guardian Angel prayer their mother had taught them every night before bedtime. When Francis followed with a recitation of the rosary out loud, Ambrose pleaded for him to pray the beads in silence, so sleep could come quickly.

Similarly, Wenceslaus Neumann complained to his mother that his older brother, John, kept him from slumber at night with questions on astronomy. Their mother advised John to entrust the planets and the stars into God's hands and go to sleep instead.

Counting rosary beads and the number of the stars offers valuable insight into the personalities of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos and Saint John Neumann. Their prayerful and restless spirit - evident from an early age - would serve them well later in life as Redemptorist priests. As a young priest, Father Seelos would learn much from Father Neumann when they were stationed together in Pittsburgh. Even Wenceslaus learned from the example of his brother and followed him into the Redemptorist Congregation.

When we count our rosary beads during the month of May, let us offer a prayer that one day Father Seelos may be counted in the number of the 'stars' the Church calls saints!

SEELOS CENTER SAYS GOODBYE TO FATHER JOSEPH ELWORTHY, C.Ss.R.



Photo: Diane C. Garcia

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.



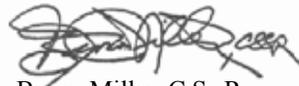
Message from the Editor

A provocative Chinese proverb reads, "If you want happiness for a day, go fishing. If you want happiness for a month, get married. If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. But if you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else." The citizens of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos' hometown in Fussen, Germany, obviously want happiness for a lifetime!

The parishioners of the church where Francis was baptized in 1819 wanted to help the people of New Orleans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Combining a German work ethic with typical Teutonic tastes, they organized a cookout in October 2005 that attracted nearly 200 people, and they offered a *Cello-Konzert* in the church that netted a total of over 2,000 Euros for the cause.

A provocative scripture passage offers us the secret to happiness for a lifetime, "Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then ... your wound shall quickly be healed; Then the Lord ... will renew your strength. ... Ruins shall be rebuilt for your sake, and the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; 'Repairer of the breach,' they shall call you, 'Restorer of ruined homesteads'" (Is. 58).

This scripture passage has a special significance for the people of New Orleans and for those who offer assistance.



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

2006 Annual Appeal - Statement of Intent

- Yes, I am able to support the Shrine and Canonization Cause through my prayers.
- Yes, Father Byron, I want to help support the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos with a gift of \$_____ for this Annual Appeal.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Visa Mastercard Discover

Exp. Date: ____ / ____

Last 3 digits on signature line: _____

Signature: _____

A gift of \$1,000 will go directly to the Canonization Cause of Blessed Francis Seelos because of our reliance upon a God-given volunteer staff.

Your gifts are tax deductible.

A gift of \$125 will continue to allow our hospital blessers to distribute complimentary rosaries, Seelos pamphlets, and other spiritual items to the sick & bedridden.

A gift of \$42.00 will help defray the monthly operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-A-Message, which averages 3,000 calls a year.

A gift of \$9 will help defray the cost of printing and postage of this newsletter for one year.

THANK YOU.

Please cut and return to:
National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

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

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

New Iberia/Berwick

Rachel Gonsoulin 337-224-7855

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-0039

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

Sulphur/Vinton

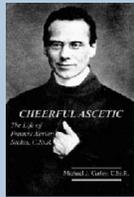
Warren Touchet: 337-527-2607

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

◇ **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:

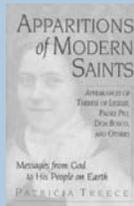


Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

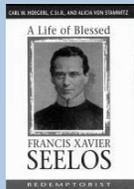
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



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)



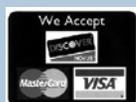
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

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

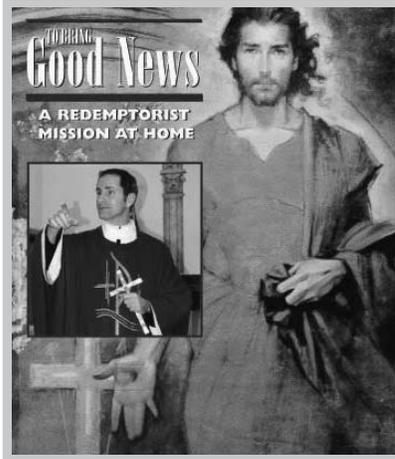
◇ **A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

◇ **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 Now on Video!



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.

MOTHER'S DAY

SMILE-MAKERS

"I ask only this of you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord, wherever you may be."

— Last wish of St. Monica to her son, St. Augustine

What is different about the Seelos Perpetual Mass League?

As with all Perpetual Mass League enrollments, members are remembered in Masses and prayers through-

out each year in perpetuity for as long as the Redemptorists exist. Saint Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists, wrote, "One single Mass gives more honor to God than all the penances of the saints, the labors of the apostles, the sufferings of the martyrs and even the burning love of the Blessed Mother of God." Members also benefit in the ministry at the National Shrine carried on in the name of Father Seelos. An offering given in faith also assists the canonization process.

Bring the Seelos Shrine into your home!

Jesús went off to the desert or mountains to pray. In addition to retreats in sacred spaces, special, set-aside spaces can be created in your own home. The Mass League is a religious image for your home altar. Let it accompany your cross, relic, icon, candle, and other symbols that grace your personal shrine. If the enrolled name on the Mass League is a deceased loved one, your "altar of the dead" might also include photos & sentimental mementos.

Special \$20 offering to enroll mothers, living or deceased, during the month of May!

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.

Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

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Visit our Web site at www.seelos.org

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Subscription is \$9 per year.



Photo: Bill Coskrey

TESTIMONIALS

Cut Off, LA

In January 2005 I was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer. While taking treatments, I heard about St. Mary's Assumption Church and the Fr. Seelos Shrine in New Orleans. My wife and I started attending Sunday Mass there and praying to Father Seelos. After months of treatments the doctors told me that the cancer had shrunk enough to have surgery to remove my left lung. I returned to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston in January 2006 to get final testing and to get prepared for surgery to remove my left lung. After all the test results were in, I saw the surgeon who gave us the good news that he couldn't find any cancer cells left to justify surgery. Thank you Lord and Father Seelos. We praise you and love you.

Trenton, NJ

The doctors of my adult son arranged for him to go to the Mayo Clinic for a thorough weeklong examination, because he suffered periodically for fourteen years with a chronic vomiting syndrome, often as long as 18 hour sessions at a time. My son carried the relic and intercessory prayers of Blessed Seelos with him during all of his tests. Through Blessed Seelos, in the name of Jesus, his evaluation and prescribed medicine have been a miracle. We praise their kindnesses!

New Orleans, LA

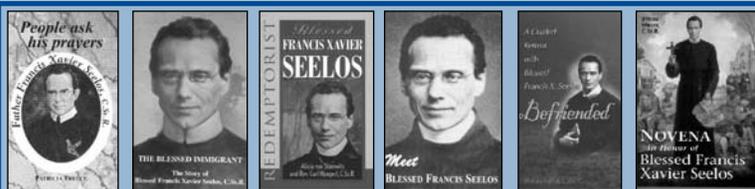
My sister discovered a lump in her breast. She saw a doctor and he told her that he was 99.9% sure the mass was cancerous. I gave her the Father Seelos cloth and she wore it every day from the time of her diagnosis, through every test and biopsy. All tests showed was a cyst, which was drained successfully without surgery. I prayed and promised Father Seelos that if this mass were not cancerous I would show my appreciation for this miracle and for the many, many favors received through Father Seelos. I will be forever grateful.

Gonzales, LA

Because of Hurricane Katrina, we left St. Bernard Parish within an hour and I took very few belongings with me. Our family finally made it to Baton Rouge and stayed with relatives for four months. We all endured living together! I found a job, a house, and a very good neighborhood with the help of many good people. But the very best thing I brought with me at the time of evacuation was my picture of Father Seelos. I truly believe that his powers brought all this together. Our houses were destroyed and our lives have changed dramatically. We still cry and think about all the years we spent in our neighborhood, but with prayers to our kind Father Seelos, we believe we will all persevere somehow. We have prayed to Father Seelos even in our younger days in sickness and health.

Cavencro, LA

Our youngest son is and was a Major in the 256th Mechanized Infantry Brigade of the Louisiana Army National Guard. When the Brigade was activated for combat duty in Iraq in 2004, my wife and I obtained a relic of Blessed Francis Seelos and also enrolled him and his family in the Perpetual Mass League. Our intentions in the Mass League were three-fold, for him to return home safely from his tour of duty in Iraq, for him to do honor to God, country and family, and for his wife and children to be given the strength to endure his absence until he arrived home. In April 2005 while he was leading a mission in northern Baghdad, an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded under his side of the vehicle. All of the occupants of the vehicle were injured, but thankfully, none were killed. Our son was in a military hospital for a month. His was the most serious injury with a concussion and a slight loss of hearing, which has been regained. In September he returned home with the Brigade, and is enjoying life with his family. Our prayers to Father Seelos' intercession were answered.



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (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) |

I'VE MOVED!

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or CALL 504-525-2495. Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.