

# SEELOS CENTER

## News



2030 Constance Street ❖ New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 525-2495 ❖ [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)

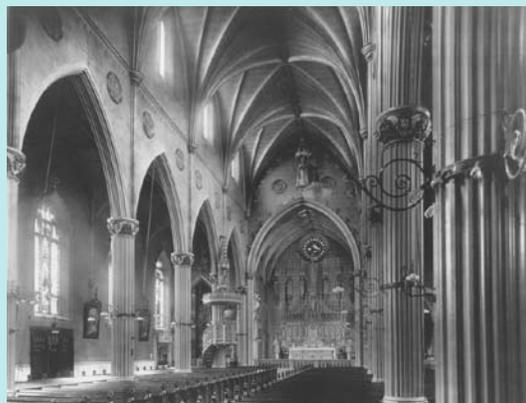
National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

Volume XLV † Number 6  
June 2006

### PASTORAL PRUDENCE IN PITTSBURGH



Courtesy of Ken White, Director,  
Pittsburgh Diocese Archives



Top & Bottom: St. Philomena's, Pittsburgh, PA, circa 1917; Center: St. Philomena's around time of Seelos' pastorship.

Seasoned with only eight months experience in the priestly ministry, Father Seelos was transferred to Saint Philomena Parish in smoky Pittsburgh [in 1845]. Here he had the good fortune to be appointed assistant to the future Saint John Neumann, who became his mentor and spiritual guide. John introduced Francis to the demanding life of a priest for the mostly German-speaking immigrants of the parish of Saint Philomena. In addition to celebrating daily Mass in the church, on weekends he often was appointed to minister in one of the many out-missions under the care of the Saint Philomena community. In one of his nine years, he officiated at seventy-four marriages and two hundred-three baptisms. Frequent calls at all hours, summonses to the parlor by the confused and the troubled, together with a rigorous schedule of confessions, left Father Seelos little time for himself. "No one can form an idea of how many demands are made on one the whole day here," he wrote to his family. In 1851, at the age of thirty-two, he became the first canonically appointed rector of Saint Philomena, a position he held until he was transferred to Baltimore in 1854.

In addition to the hardships of the pastoral work, Father Seelos and the community had to suffer the anxiety caused by strong and often violent anti-Catholic feeling in Pittsburgh. One day in his early years in the ministry, he was summoned on a sick call to a person across the river. Since he was carrying the Blessed Sacrament with him, he thought it proper to kneel on the deck of the ferry. This aroused the anger of some unsavory characters who began plotting to throw him overboard. But a lively-spirited Irish girl, aware of what was happening, came to his rescue with a vigorous tongue-lashing which brought the scoundrels to a more salutary frame of mind. Returning home, he related this to Father Neumann, who advised him that, in such company, it was better to be prudent than bold. ✠

Excerpt from "Father Francis Xavier Seelos: A Life of Complete Dedication," by Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R. in *Religious Pioneers: Building the Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans*, Dorothy Dawes & Charles Nolan, editors, 2004.

## Message from the Editor

### Intercessions of a 22-Year-Old

To make new friends and to rely on old ones is a reward beyond compare. The author of Sirach writes that “a faithful friend is a sturdy shelter,” and whoever finds one discovers “a treasure” beyond price (Sir. 6:14-15).

I recently stumbled upon an old journal of mine and was surprised to find these concluding words from an entry written when I was twenty-two years old: “*Father Seelos, please intercede for me. I know with your help, I can use it to your advantage. I love you. Mary, pray for me.*”

Seems Father Seelos has been accompanying me in my faith journey longer

than I had remembered. But is that not typical of all the saints? To accompany us in our relationship with the Lord, even when we are not always aware of their presence and intercession?

Decades ago I naively “bargained” for Father Seelos’ help so that I could “use it to his advantage” in furthering his canonization cause. But in reality, the saints use their vantage point in heaven to intercede for *our* advantage!

To form a new friendship with Blessed Francis Seelos, or to continue your faithful reliance upon him from decades ago, is a treasure beyond bargain!



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

## 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.

## 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.

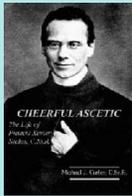
A gift of \$9 will help defray the cost of printing and postage of this newsletter for one year.

### THANK YOU.

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

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:

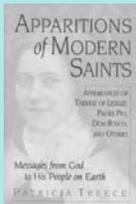


**Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos**, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

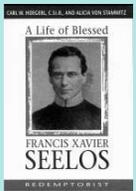
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



**Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story**, Introduce youth, ages 7 through 12, to Father Seelos in this book by Joan Stromberg, 110 pages, with illustrations. (Donation: \$11 - 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 Stammwitz. (Donation: \$11 - 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)



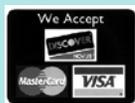
**Seelos Perpetual Mass League:** A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

◇ **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).



Handmade Ceramic Plaque of Blessed Francis Seelos

The monks at Saint Andrew's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery situated in the high desert of Southern California, have added Father Seelos to their unique collection of ceramic keepsakes. Each plaque is made entirely by hand with natural materials, twice fired, no two exactly alike. Each is an expression of the wonder of creation and the joy of the Divine Presence. The plaque measures approximately 10" long by 4" wide. The cost is \$36.50 (+ \$6.50 p/h).

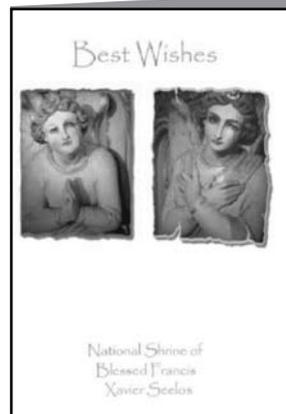


After Hurricane Katrina, letters destined for the New Orleans area, even if mailed locally, made a 540-mile loop through 3 cities to be processed. During that time in certain zip codes throughout the metro area, an embargo was imposed on magazines, catalogs & other second-class mail, which included this newsletter. In April 2006, the postal service began processing mail in New Orleans for the first time since the storm and the embargo on bulk mail was lifted thereafter. If you or someone you know is no longer receiving this newsletter, but would like to subscribe, please notify the Seelos Center of your new or existing address.

The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos Proudly Introduces 3 Deluxe Remembrance Cards



Healing



All-Occasion



One-Year League

Please contact the Seelos Center for cards. A gift of \$12 per card supports the ministry at the Shrine.

Special \$20 offering to enroll fathers, living or deceased, in Perpetual Mass League only during the month of June!

**Quotable Quote:**  
"Do not lose courage, but continue until you see prepared the crown for those blessed souls who have their Spouse in heaven and who will enjoy spousal love in heaven forever at the great wedding feast."

-- Francis Xavier Seelos, 1857

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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Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos  
Subscription is \$9 per year.

# TESTIMONIALS

Baton Rouge, LA

In April 2005 our 35-year-old son received a miracle when doctors in Houston found that his diagnosed aneurysms were only kinks in the artery in his brain. He did have an aneurysm in the right carotid artery that was fixed with a stent, and after six months, is 98.5% healed. We have been so blessed. Thank you Father Seelos for your healing powers.

Homer Glen, IL

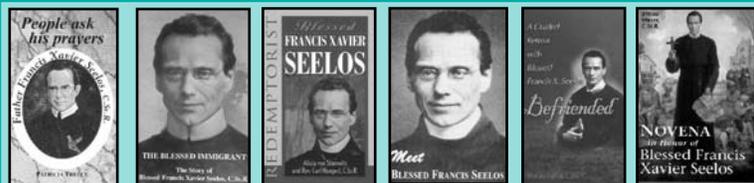
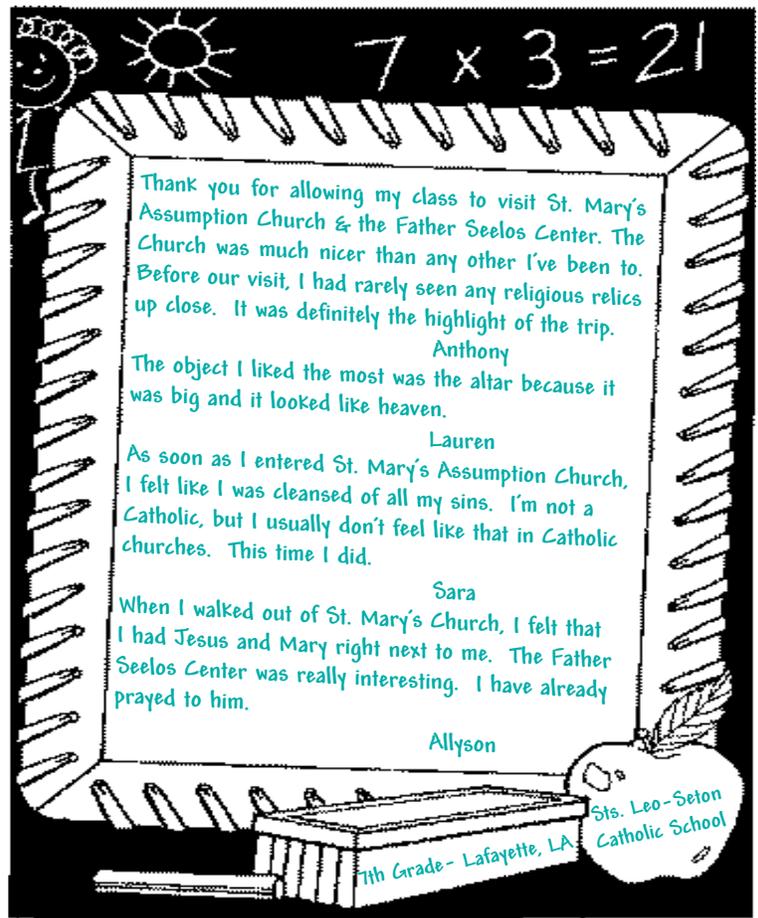
A year ago, on a trip with my sister to St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh, PA, Sister Margaret Liam gave me the blessing and healing prayer in the name of Jesus and Father Seelos. I remember like it was yesterday, how I felt an electric surge go through my body! I felt the hair on my arms stand up as we held the reliquary and I knew in my heart I was healed. (I found out later that my sister felt it too! That's some pretty powerful stuff!) Two weeks after my visit I had surgery to remove another tumor from my colon and they told me I had to go back on chemotherapy or I would be dead in 6 months to a year. I laughed to myself because they didn't know what I knew! They were trying to guess what only God knows! I am happy to report that I have just received a new round of tests, including PET & CT scans and there is *not a trace of cancer* anywhere to be found, praise God! All my blood and lab work came out great too. I can't tell you how grateful I am and I thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Metairie, LA

In January I fell and sprained my ankle. Three weeks later I started having hip problems. An X-ray confirmed that I had a broken hip, and I was told to go home and rest so that it could continue healing. Then I placed a Father Seelos relic on me when I went to have an MRI. After the scan test and MRI, I was informed that there was no fracture, nor even a broken hip! I am sure it was the prayers to my friend, Father Seelos, that a miracle was performed.

Scott, LA

My sister quit her job in December 2005, and in January 2006, I found out I was losing my job of ten years. I was given several Seelos votive candles. When the first candle burned, my sister received a call to interview for a job that fit her qualifications. We continued to pray and read the Seelos prayer. When the second candle burned, she received a fantastic job offer. The third candle was in thanksgiving for her new job and for my job search. As the final candle burned, I received an offer and will begin my new job in March. Thanks to God and Father Seelos for his help. My family is spreading the news about wonderful Father Seelos!



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

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

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

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

(5) 48-page Guided Retreat with Bl. Francis Seelos  
\$5 (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.