

SEELOS CENTER

News



2030 Constance Street ❖ New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 525-2495 / 525-2499 ❖ www.seelos.org

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Volume XLV ❖ Number 10
October 2006

SEELOS CONTINUES IMMIGRANT MINISTRY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP

Founded in 1843, Holy Cross College of Worcester, Mass., is the oldest Catholic college in New England. With a history of academic excellence in the Jesuit tradition, it ranks #32 among the nation's 215 liberal arts colleges, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "America's Best Colleges 2007." Holy Cross is also the only Catholic college among the top 50 liberal arts schools on that same list.

A most generous and unassuming family, who wishes to remain anonymous, recently established a *Father Francis Xavier Seelos Scholarship* at Holy Cross College to provide full tuition support and make a Holy Cross education possible for first-generation & non-traditional college students from the Worcester area. The donor family offered responses to these questions:

Why a Scholarship in Honor of Father Seelos? We want to make a statement by the (f)act of our donation to establish

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COME ONE, COME ALL!

The Annual Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Memorial Mass

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2006
11:00 A.M.

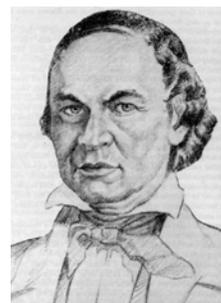
ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH
(CORNER OF JOSEPHINE & CONSTANCE STREETS)
NEW ORLEANS, LA

THE ELUSIVE DOCTOR DOWLER

*The sun sinks down o'er each death-crowded street,
Whilst dread, delirious screams the hearing greet;
Night settles o'er with awe and tear and gloom.
What means yon glaring blaze, yon cannon's boom?
Ha! Victory's tokens for the conqueror Death!
Who slays his thousands by the fever's breath!*
(Part of an unfinished poem written by Dr. Bennet Dowler, *Tableau of the Yellow Fever of 1853*)

Eyewitnesses of Father Seelos' death identify the attending physician only as "Doctor Dowler," who was reported to visit the Redemptorist community "three or four times a day." Research indicates that there were at least two Doctors Dowler associated with the treatment of yellow fever in New Orleans at the time of Seelos. Doctor Morton Dowler (died 1871) was a physician who maintained that the pestilence would cease when European immigration ceased, since the disease would lack new victims. He also believed

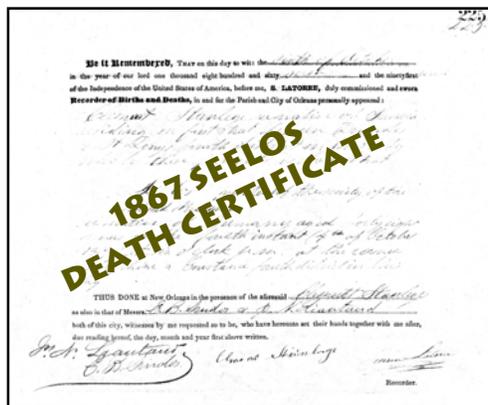
that unsanitary conditions alone could not account for the development of yellow fever. Doctor Bennet Dowler (1797-1878) was one of the city's notable authorities on yellow fever and a respected medical journalist. Whether it was either Dowler—or another practitioner who shared the last name—it may be said with certitude that Father Seelos was given the best treatment from the medical profession at the time.



Dr. Bennet Dowler, a native of Virginia & resident of New Orleans for 40 years, died at age 83 in 1878. His residence was on Constance Street. His brother, Dr. Morton Dowler, died in 1871 at age 61. Morton lived on Rousseau Street. Was either Dr. Dowler the one who tended to Father Seelos?

(Assistance with historical information provided by Doris Ann Gorman & Jo Ann Carrigan)

Excerpt from the soon-to-be released book, *Death, Where Is Your Sting? Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. & His Edifying Encounter with Yellow Fever*. Available in November 2006.



Recorder of Births and Deaths, in and for the Parish and City of Orleans personally appeared:

Clement Stanlege, a native of Prussia, residing on first street between Dryades & St. Denys, fourth district in this city, who by there presents [sic] declares that Seelos, president of the society of the Blessed Redeemer, a native of Germany, aged forty eight years on the fourth instant (4th of October 1867) at six o'clock p.m. at the corner of Josephine & Constance, fourth district in this city.

Thus done at New Orleans in the presence of the aforesaid Clement Stanlege as also in that of Messrs. E. B. Snidor & J. N. Liautaud, both of this city, witnesses by me requested so to be, who have hereunto set their hands together with me after, due reading hereof, the day, month and year first above written. ””

“Be it Remembered, that on this day to wit: the Sixth of October in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven and the ninety first of the Independence of the United States of America, before me, S. Latorre, duly commissioned and sworn

"I just wanted to say that I was touched by the garden dedication to Father Seelos. I have carried a relic of his in my wallet since high school and it has never left my wallet [in over 20 years]. ... There truly is something to this wonderful and altruistic being who lived and died here. I owe him much more thanks and would like to come over one day to pray and worship in the garden. I subscribe to the Seelos newsletter and I believe the testimonials that are printed. He truly is a saint." — Jason P. Knobloch

"It was so beautiful ... so spiritual!" — Tim Orchard

"Thank you so much for having us! The ceremony & the party were wonderful ..." — Stephen Folse (Chef)

"I was so touched by what you two have done for Father Seelos. The Memorial Garden is a wonderful, wonderful tribute to a fine man. Let us hope that one day he will be declared a saint." — Nell Nolan (*Times-Picayune* society columnist)

"What a wonderful reason to have a party." — Jeri Landry

"Your garden party for me was fantastic! What a wonderful idea to dedicate the garden to Father Seelos!"

— Jackie Brechtel Clarkson (former City Councilwoman of New Orleans)

"What a wonderful party to celebrate Father Seelos' saving your homestead from harm. I enjoyed seeing so many people I had not seen in years and meeting some new people. It was truly a mixed group and plenty of fun." — Coy Landry



A guest of "Sun Oak" wrote to the residents of this unique city landmark, "Your home & gardens are a true New Orleans treasure!" How appropriate that Sun Oak gardens now bears the name of another New Orleans treasure: Father Francis X. Seelos! This Greek Revival Creole cottage, built circa 1836, is a gallery/studio and home for architect Eugene Cizek, Ph.D., FAIA, Professor & Director of the Tulane University School of Architecture Preservation Studies Program, as well as Lloyd Sensat, artist, educator, historian and local tour guide. These well-known and respected owners dedicated the garden to Father Seelos because they attribute his intercession in protecting the historic Sun

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Oak during Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. The www.sunoaknola.com website offers an enticing description of the gardens: "To the rear of the house is a series of lushly landscaped patios and subtropical gardens dominated by the ancient Sun Oak. This exciting and sensuous environment is Creole New Orleans at its best." Likewise, dedicating a garden to Father Seelos and to his intercession is Catholic New Orleans at its best!

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 or 504-525-2499.

◇ **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

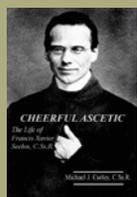
Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

◇ **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:

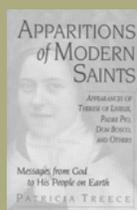


Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

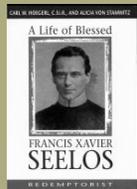
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



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)



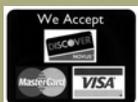
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

◇ **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. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

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



a scholarship under the auspices of the new "Saint of Immigrants," and provide Father Seelos as a model at a point in time in our country's history when people seem confused about the issue of immigration.

The U.S. Catholic Church has a proud history of being founded by and for immigrants. Can you say more about your reference to Fr. Seelos as the "Saint of Immigrants"? Father Seelos left his home and loving family, despite the heartbreaks on all sides, in order to answer the call for service to the immigrants in America – in his case, fellow Germans. Moreover, Seelos was given the name Francis Xavier by his parents. It is obvious that his family held the Jesuits and missionary work in high esteem and his early ambition was to be a Jesuit. But when the time came for him to make a decision, the call for missionaries came from the Redemptorists and Father Seelos went where he was needed, and never looked back.

Recipients of the Seelos Scholarship will come from Latin American, Southeast Asian & West African immigrant populations in the Greater Worcester community. What plans are there to get the word out to these respective communities? Holy Cross will publicize the Seelos Scholarship in various outlets to include minority and neighborhood development organizations,

church outreach centers, adult education and English as a second language programs. It is good to recall that English was Father Seelos' second language, and he struggled greatly to master it. He continued all his life to minister in German to German-speaking immigrants, but his English became so proficient that people traveled for miles to hear him speak.

College President, Reverend Michael McFarland, S.J., said, "For many years, Holy Cross has had difficulty attracting first-generation and non-traditional students, largely because of the financial barriers," and added, "The Seelos Scholarship will ... make an important contribution to our mission of building a more just and compassionate society." Can the school's mission of building a more just and compassionate society also be applied to what Father Seelos stood for? The purpose of the Seelos Fund is to publicize the example of Father Seelos' life and promote the values he held dear. We feel this money was a gift in many ways, so we are very happy to give some of it back and create a scholarship fund at Holy Cross. We are grateful to be able to spread the meaning and work of Father Seelos. We feel a special "kinship" to him, because of our similar travels and paths, and because of the connection with New Orleans where our family has been associated with his "cause" for generations.

.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. \$49 (+ \$3 p/h). Great gift idea!



DID YOU KNOW?

The long-awaited *U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults* is now available. Published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the adult catechism

provides comprehensive & authoritative church teaching, but with a view to the unique American culture and experience. Each of its 36 chapters opens with a brief story about a biblical figure or exemplary Catholic, most of them American. Saint John Neumann & Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos are included in that number!

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

CHARLESTON, SC

I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Charleston. I'm approaching diaconal ordination on October 5 with my classmates at the North American College. My entire formation program was marked by several serious medical problems, from thyroidism to gallbladder surgery, etc. Many people were raising questions about my health and ordination. Last summer (right before Hurricane Katrina hit), two priests of my diocese took me to the Seelos Shrine in New Orleans and dedicated my health and vocation to Fr. Seelos. Since that dedication, I have had no medical problems. I am in good health (I'll even be running a 5K in a couple of weeks), and will be ordained a deacon. I thank Fr. Seelos' prayers and protection for my health. I didn't know the ordination date when I visited Fr. Seelos. Only later was the date set for October 5, Fr. Seelos' feast day. He chose me before I chose him.

GIBSONIA, PA

When my daughter had her check-up she was told that her white cell blood count was down. She had to wait thirty days to have the blood work again. During that time I prayed to Blessed Seelos every day for her blood count to be normal. She just had it done, and thank God, it came back normal! I thank Blessed Seelos, the Blessed Mother & Jesus with all my heart, and I hope the votive candles that I burned went right up to them in heaven.

SEDRO WOOLLEY, WA

I circulated a prayer for the intercession of Blessed Francis Seelos that my grandmother would have a successful hip replacement operation. He not only answered my prayer, but my grandmother made it through her operation and recovery without the use of painkillers. The doctor said it was a miracle!

JUNCTION CITY, KS

In February my grandson became very ill and was diagnosed with hepatitis. I prayed for Father Seelos' intercession to heal my grandson. Thanks to Father Seelos, he does not have hepatitis. Instead, he had gallbladder problems and had surgery to remove it.

METAIRIE, LA

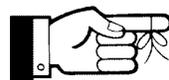
My friend's daughter was in a very serious car accident in October 2005. She was in a coma for over a month and was not expected to live. I called [Seelos hospital blesser] Teresa LaCour to bless her with a cross of Father Seelos. I am very happy to report that she is out of the coma and is currently in physical therapy. It was through the miracle of prayers, Father Seelos' intercession, and the blessing with the cross that she is on the road to recovery.

CORTLANDT MANOR, NY

Father Seelos is such a wonderful "family friend." My mother was stricken with blindness in one eye on Mother's Day. She had been suffering with a bad headache and facial pain and the doctor simply diagnosed it as sinusitis. Unfortunately, it was Temporal Arteritis, which usually causes sudden and permanent blindness, as well as aorta damage. Thank God it was diagnosed quickly and she was placed on massive doses of Prednisone. We were told that there usually is little hope of saving the other eye and that the affected eye would be permanently blinded. We asked Father Seelos for his prayers and we let my mother hold his first class relic. There is always such a wonderful feeling of God's healing power whenever we pray holding onto the relic. My mom felt this power as we all prayed earnestly for her sight, confident in God's mercy. After several days, we received news that her good eye was saved, and even more miraculously, her blinded eye regained some sight! The ophthalmologist said it was amazing because he had never heard of an occluded vein recanalizing the way my mother's did! Praise God for all of his loving kindness and Father Seelos' powerful intercession.

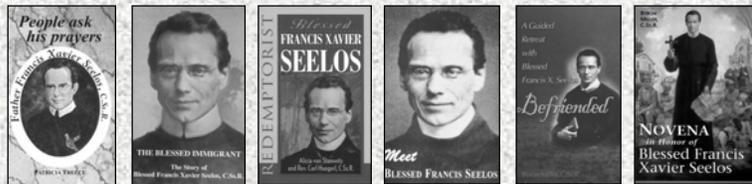
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

I have a Seelos relic that was given to me several years ago by a priest who is a healer in the San Francisco area, Father Richard Bain. I do believe that Father Seelos intervened for my niece who was at high risk of a birth defect, but was born with no problems!



DID YOU KNOW a gift of \$9 to our Annual Appeal will help defray the costs of printing & postage of this newsletter for one year?

ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FATHER SEELOS!



Reacquaint yourself with Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos through a Novena, Self-Directed Retreat, & four other inspirational pamphlets.

**ALL SIX ITEMS FOR ONLY \$13 (INCLUDES P/H)
MENTION PROMO CODE "OSP"**

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