

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 11
November 2006

SEELOS & THE SAINT-MAKING PROCESS

Since a formal procedure was established in 1588, the 1,338 beatifications and 482 canonizations by the late Pope John Paul II outnumbered those of all his predecessors combined. According to Father Richard P. McBrien of Notre Dame University, "Many Catholics regarded that as one of John Paul II's greatest achievements because it highlighted his emphasis on spirituality. Others were less enthusiastic about the late pope's penchant for making so many new saints." What kind of mark is Pope Benedict XVI now putting on the saint-making process?

Unlike his predecessor, the new pontiff has already made a much clearer distinction between beatification and canonization. Consequently, Benedict XVI has decided to forego presiding at the Mass at which candidates for beatification are elevated. Moreover, Benedict has insisted the candidate must "truly enjoy a firm and widespread reputation for holiness" that transcends boundaries of ethnic or national groups. Father Gabriel O'Donnell, O.P., the Postulator for the cause of Knights of Columbus founder Father Michael McGivney, says that Benedict's direction "is less about slowing things down and more

about being very careful and precise about the process." Others have similarly remarked that because Benedict is a scholar, this careful precision is of the utmost importance to him.



In the short time since Seelos was beatified in 2000, two cases have been submitted for review.

The Holy Father also clarified the need for a candidate to be credited with "a physical miracle, since a moral miracle does not suffice." The Pope himself is looking for a "signal from God" in the form of a miracle to confirm the Church's judgment that the virtuous life of the candidate is authentic.

How does all of this affect the one miracle needed to canonize Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos?

For Redemptorist Postulator General, Reverend Antonio Marrazzo, C.Ss.R., due to "the present state of things," any case must "present an immediate, complete and lasting healing in an evident and clear manner," in order for it to be declared "unquestionably inexplicable." He adds, "I am convinced that Blessed Francis Seelos will not lack 'making himself alive' in a case that is truly incontrovertible." In the short time since Father Seelos was beatified in April 2000, two cases have been submitted to the Redemptorist Postulator General for review.

Quickest Canonizations After Death

- St. Anthony of Padua, 1 year
- St. Francis of Assisi, 2 years
- St. Thomas of Canterbury, 3 years
- St. Josemaria Escriva, 27 years*
- St. Therese of Lisieux, 28 years
- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, 29 years

*His was the quickest under current procedures; Escriva died in 1975 and was canonized in 2002 by Pope John Paul II.

Length of Time Between Beatification & Canonization

- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, 8 years
- St. Mother Theodore Guerin, 8 years
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 12 years
- St. Katharine Drexel, 12 years
- St. John Neumann, 14 years
- St. Martin de Porres, 125 years

Select U.S. Beati Seeking Canonization Miracle

- Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, beatified 1980
- Bl. Junipero Serra, beatified 1988
- Bl. Francis Seelos, beatified 2000



The Newest "American" Saint!

Through the intercession of Mother Theodore Guerin, an Indiana man's inexplicable healing of his right eye was deemed a miracle, according to the Vatican committee of medical experts and theologians in 2005. Mother Theodore Guerin is the founder of the Sisters of Providence in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. This final miracle in the nearly century-long process culminated in the canonization of Guerin in October 2006, making her only the eighth saint who has done work primarily in the U.S. and the first saint from Indiana.

Guerin was a French-born nun who went to the Indiana wilderness in 1840 to establish a religious order and Catholic schools on the frontier. One of her early friends and benefactors to the Community was Father Joseph Kundek, the first resident pastor of Jasper. Kundek was an Austrian priest endowed with energy and skill in construction and organization. It was he who established Guerin's Sisters of Providence at Jasper in 1842.



Mother Theodore Guerin
(1798 - 1856)

In an interesting bit of connected history, Father Peter Czackert was the first Redemptorist to begin the parish community of Saint Mary's Assumption in New Orleans in 1843. Czackert had acquired a plot of land on Josephine Street near Constance and the building materials for a church, when he was recalled to Baltimore that same year. It so happened that Father Joseph Kundek from Jasper, Indiana, had left his German congregation for several months to convalesce in New Orleans from an illness. He was commissioned by the bishop of New Orleans to oversee the construction of the church, with the stipulation that the appointment was temporary and that the church and property would be handed over to the Redemptorists upon their return to the city. Thus, Kundek had the distinction of not only building the first German Catholic church in New Orleans, but also the first in the entire state of Louisiana! In 1847, when Father John Neumann (canonized, 1977) replaced Czackert as Vice-Gerent of the Redemptorists in the U.S., he was responsible for allowing Czackert to return to New Orleans and for permanently establishing the Redemptorists at St. Mary's Assumption Church.



Father Joseph Kundek erected churches in several locations. He built the courthouse in Jasper, laid out the town of Ferdinand, IN, and was a friend to St. Theodore Guerin, who said of him, "We indeed owe a great debt to the one who is almost our first benefactor in Indiana." Kundek also constructed the first wood-frame St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans.



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1852, Father Joseph Kundek brought the Benedictines from Einsiedeln, Switzerland to Indiana. Saint Joseph Abbey in Covington, Louisiana belongs to the Swiss-American Congregation of Benedictines. Saint Joseph's heritage goes through St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, to Einsiedeln, a monastery with a continuous history of more than a thousand years.

In this Season of Thanksgiving

We thank the Lord each day at the Seelos Shrine for all our benefactors. Below is a partial listing of our helpers in ministry, especially in the year following Hurricane Katrina:

Mary Jane Drndak -- Dallas, TX
Stella Fritcher -- Baton Rouge, LA
Ronald Hotstream -- Metairie, LA
Rudy & Kathy Klein -- San Antonio, TX
Carol Iacobucci -- Springdale, PA

James & Vicki Middleton -- Dallas, TX
Capt. John C. Rice, Jr. -- Metairie, LA
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New Orleans, LA
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San Antonio, TX
Msgr. Karl Knebel / St. Mang Church Community
Fussen, Germany
The Catholic Churches of Sheboygan, Wisconsin

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

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
Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

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

St. Bernard/Arabi

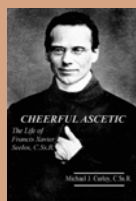
Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

◇ *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:



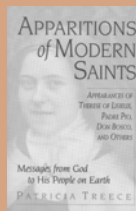
Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)



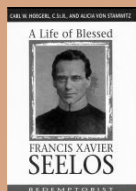
.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$52 - includes p/h).



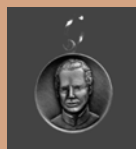
Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$11, incl. p/h)



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)



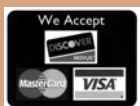
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

◇ **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).

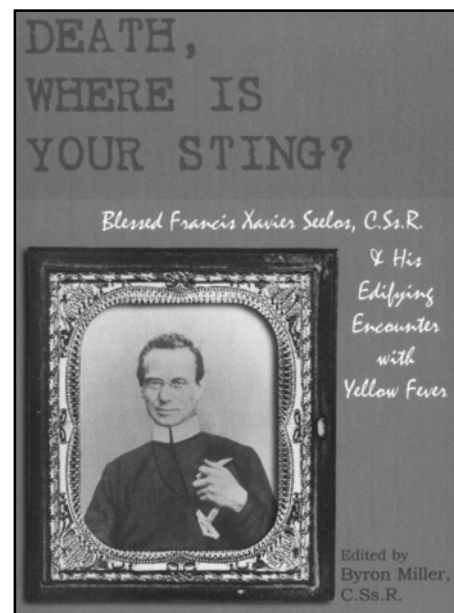


New Book Now Available!

DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. & His Edifying Encounter with Yellow Fever is a tender account of Father Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his heroic death. Seldom revealed details surrounding his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr.

- ❖ Read how Father Seelos foretold his own death.
- ❖ Learn why the attending doctor was so amazed.
- ❖ Discover the irony of the person who spoke last into Father Seelos' ear.
- ❖ Meet the one who was cured with a touch to Father Seelos in the casket.

“**If [a priest] comes to a sickbed, into the poisoned air and walks toward the contagious disease -- it is repugnant to him, yet only he will succeed to approach the glowing wick and to straighten out the crushed reed.**”
 – F. X. Seelos



Hardcover, 175-pages, with photos Edited by Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Donation: \$19.00 each. Postage & Handling: \$4.00 per book (\$7.00 for quantities greater than one.)

Please send request and payment to the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Seelos Center News

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

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**GREAT GIFT IDEA!
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Do you wish to sponsor a copy of *Death, Where is Your Sting?* to any U.S. library, campus, or seminary of choice in a personal way and/or loved one's memory? Contact the Seelos Center or kindly designate your intentions on the enclosed envelope. A book plate on the verso of the book's front cover will inscribe your name as donor and the person(s) in whose honor or memory this cherished book is given. Sponsorship per book is \$30. Please consider a unique and useful legacy that will inspire future generations of readers.

TESTIMONIALS

NIAGARA FALLS, NY

I had two tumors. One as large as a football and the other on my appendix. I began praying to Father Seelos immediately when I learned that I needed surgery. After being blessed with the cross, I felt at peace and very sure that all would be alright. The surgery (removals, etc.) went very well. My *big* miracle was that I did not have cancer. I did not require chemo or radiation treatments.

TOPEKA, KS

A month ago, I started a Novena to Father Seelos asking for new jobs for five people. Because of Father Seelos' intercession there was a transfer, a promotion and a new job for three members of my family. I am very grateful for the answered prayers.

BELLINGHAM, MA

My 85-year-old mother was recently diagnosed with colon cancer. The surgeon said the tumor was large. We were devastated. Immediately, I prayed to Father Seelos and anointed Mom with his first class relic. Surgery was performed and we begged Father Seelos not to let the tumor spread and that she would be spared of chemo. Her report stated that the tumor had not spread and that her lymph nodes were cancer-free! No need for chemo and her doctor said Mom can expect a full recovery and can resume driving in one week! Thank you, dear Blessed Francis Seelos!

I have today made a decision to make this my last effort to get help in a last attempt to get things right in my life! I do believe I will ... become a Catholic! I am Lutheran, living in Norway, and after many days (2 years) of looking for a true Saint to help me, I found Blessed Seelos yesterday, and I told myself this is the last one I try! Would you please bring a copy of this mail forward to the coffin of Blessed Seelos for my prayers to him. New Orleans is a long way from me in Norway, but I want to ask with my whole heart for help.

My last wish & hope,

-- Name Withheld
NORWAY



DID YOU KNOW

that a gift of \$42 to our Annual Appeal will help defray the operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-a-Prayer, which averages 3,000 calls a year?

AND a gift of \$9 will help defray the costs of printing & postage of this newsletter for one year?

DEAR READER

You receive this mailing at your own request, or because it was somehow suggested over the years that you were interested in the Seelos Cause. However, during the time that we have been mailing to a number of you, we have not heard whether you are still attracted to our Shrine and its ministry. Please let us know **ONLY** if you **NO LONGER** care to receive mailings from us. (Complete information box below.)

NEW ORLEANS, LA

We were given a subscription to the Father Seelos newsletter as a wedding gift. Through all the years, our devotion has remained very deep and strong and I want to thank Blessed Father Seelos. In 1978 at Baptist Hospital, a devoted priest and volunteer brought the crucifix to our son the day of his leg amputation due to bone cancer. As soon as they left, he refused a shot for pain and wore the Father Seelos relic until his death years later. Our son remained close to Jesus and Father Seelos. The pain was constant but he endured it all.

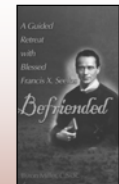
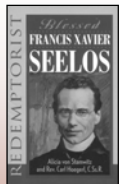
UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

A few months ago our son left his wife for another woman. I prayed the Novena to Father Seelos diligently. Within two months he returned to his wife and family and broke off the relationship with the other woman. He is happy being the husband and father he needs to be. He and his wife are still going to counseling. Many thanks to Father Seelos for this wonderful favor granted.

OCEAN VIEW, DE

I prayed to Fr. F.X. Seelos for many special favors which he granted. His prayers, on my behalf, to the Lord Jesus, has helped me with my diet, my toothaches, and now, shortness of breath. I wear his relic and will continue to offer prayer cards with his relic to others in need of his intercession. I thank you Father Seelos, and ask for your prayers always.

ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FATHER SEELOS!



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