



Seelos Center News

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National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
In Saint Mary's Assumption Church

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Number 2
February 2007

Seelos Portal Dedicated in Hometown Church



The Church of Saint Mang where Francis Xavier Seelos was baptized in Fussen, Germany, dedicated a portal in his honor on his feastday, October 5, 2006. Monsignor Karlheinz Knebel of Saint Mang's presided over the blessing.

The other portal is dedicated to Saint Magnus, the 8th century monk who chose the strategic location of Fussen to facilitate Christian evangelization. In 840 the Augsburg bishops used the cell of this monk to found the Benedictine monastery of St. Mang, which in the 18th century was turned into an impressive baroque complex that still dominates the town to this day.

Seelos' own father, Mang, was a faithful sacristan of this church, when Francis Xavier was a child.

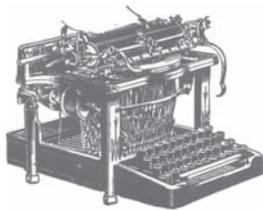
When the state-paid sacristan of Saint Mang's church, died in the summer of 1830, Mang Seelos, seeing an opportunity to stabilize his finances quickly, promptly applied for the sacristan's post. It paid no great salary, but at least it guaranteed a safe income. On November 2, 1830, he took the oath of office as sacristan, receiving the keys of the church as well as the custody of its ecclesiastical ornaments.

Mang's life thereafter was to center around that great baroque church. He would attend it and pray in it for hours on end with a devotion that never wavered. He would get up at 3:30 a.m., go over to the church, prepare the sacred vessels and vestments and hear at least two Masses. "Holy Mass brings a blessing on the home," he would say. ...

The sacristan's house on Sankt Mang Platz was directly across from the church. Three stories high, it was topped by an attic; behind it was a little garden where his small children could play. The family was delighted that they were nearer the church when they wanted to go to Mass. Happiest of all was young Francis, who loved to roam around the church helping his father, admiring the inspiring paintings around the building and the cherubic angels hanging beneath the pulpit. Mang Seelos' new occupation as sacristan resulted in a definite turning point in the life of young Francis. The church became almost literally a part of his life. He served Mass frequently and led a devout life. He often went there with his mother to recite the rosary with her.

-- Michael J. Curley, C.Ss.R., *Cheerful Ascetic*





Message from the Editor

A priest attempting to create a unique marketing "edge" for his Catholic school was advised: "Claim that one hundred percent of your graduates go to heaven! Then have them prove you wrong!" Saint Alphonsus Liguori aimed equally as high! He believed we could all graduate to heaven, but it was far easier if we were prepared for death.

To that end, his book *Preparation for Death* has had several hundred editions since he wrote it in 1758. Many are quick to dismiss the work -- even before reading it -- as a book of fear. Admittedly dated, it presents one macabre meditation, which Alphonsus used as an opener, but in fairness, it is only one meditation out of thirty-six! A biographer of Saint Alphonsus notes that *Preparation for Death* was a "written mission" intended for the faithful in general, and for the clergy in their preaching. It "treats the brevity of life, death itself, the value of time, sin, the last judgment, and hell -- all the realities which serious persons want to call to mind regularly."

Perhaps, then, it is not farfetched to make the claim that Francis Xavier Seelos' own preparation for death may have been inspired by these written meditations from the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation to which he belonged. An eyewitness to Seelos' death in 1867 simply stated, "It is impossible for me to describe all the acts of virtue practiced by him on his deathbed. To say that he was always patient is too tame and inadequate an expression; it was heroism in the fullest sense of the word."

No better time than during the season of Lent to call to mind such realities as life and death, heaven and hell! And there is none better than Saint Alphonsus Mary Liguori & Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos to intercede for us! After all, one hundred percent of earth's graduates enter heaven with the saints' intercession ... now, prove this wrong!

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 last year:

Robert & Marilyn Lobrano -- Braithwaite, LA
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*"When you are insulted,
bear it with patience,
and love even more the one
who scorns you.
That is the touchstone for
knowing whether a person is
humble and holy;
if he becomes angry,
even though he performs
miracles, you may say that
he is a hollow reed."
-- Saint Alphonsus Liguori*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the 19th Annual

BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS DAY IN NEW ORLEANS MASS & LUNCHEON

on

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007

A monthly newsletter for friends of Bl. Francis X. Seelos

Seelos Center News

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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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www.seelos.org
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The Seelos Center offers the following services:

♦ *Pilgrimages* to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. For details & appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495 or 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

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Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

Covington

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Mandeville

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Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

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Rachel Gonsoulin 337-224-7855

Fred Roy 337-380-0646

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-0039

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

St. Bernard/Arabi

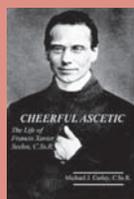
Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

♦ *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: \$23.00 + 6.95 p/h)



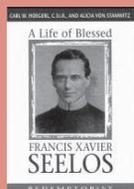
.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$52 - includes p/h).



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 Stamm-witz. (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)



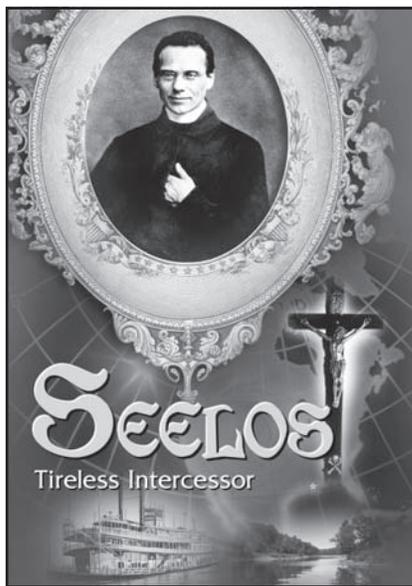
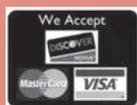
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

◆ **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).



SEELOS, Tireless Intercessor is a documentary that chronicles the heroic & miraculous life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Father Seelos possessed great mystical gifts due to his intense prayer life. His ability to minister with cheerful holiness made him a spiritual father to tens of thousands. Despite his early death, so profound was his missionary zeal that sickness, persecution, and even the upheaval caused by the Civil War, could not stop him.

If you believe in healing, hope & miracles, order today!
Please send request and payment to:
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68 min. DVD (\$29.00 + \$5.50 p/h)

68 min. VHS (\$24.00 + \$5.50 p/h)
(\$8.50 p/h for any 2 or more)

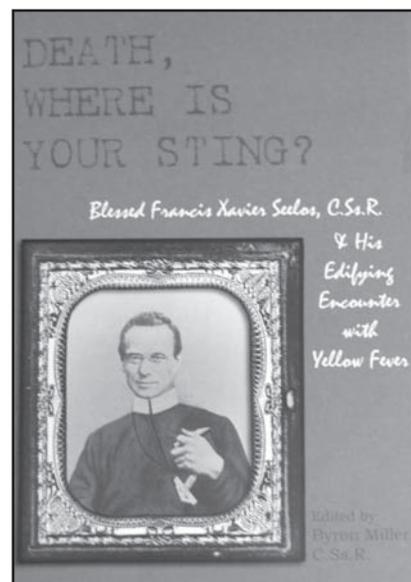
Death, Where Is Your Sting?
Hardcover, 175 pages, with photos

(\$19.00 + \$4.00 p/h or \$7.00 p/h for 2 or more)

1 VHS video & 1 *Sting* book (\$50 including p/h)

1 DVD video & 1 *Sting* book (\$55 including p/h)

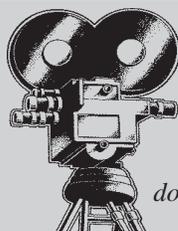
NEW BOOK & VIDEO



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 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.

EARLY REVIEWS!



"I saw the tape and found it altogether impressive, interesting & enlightening. Great job and so well done!" -- Brooklyn, NY

"I wish to tell you how moved I was as I watched this wonderful DVD. Please communicate my gratitude to those responsible for this professional, inspiring and historical production." -- Minneapolis, MN

DID YOU KNOW?



The entire book, "Death, Where Is Your Sting?" will be read incrementally on New Orleans WRBH 88.3 FM, Radio for the Blind & Print Handicapped, the first full-time reading service on the FM dial in the United States. WRBH translates the printed word into the spoken word.

TESTIMONIALS

PEARSALL, TX

I am writing to praise God and to give thanks for the intercession of Bl. Fr. Seelos. When my grandson was born in October, he could not breathe on his own, and his heart valves were not pumping properly. He was in ICU and a heart specialist was prepared to operate on him. Monica Surprenant [Seelos hospital blesser] came and prayed over him and five hours later, the specialist said that an operation was no longer necessary. The valves in his heart had opened and his heart was pumping on its own. He continues to improve and we truly believe God granted us a miracle through the intercession of Father Seelos.

MAHOPAC, NY

My mom had been suffering from severe depression and had to be hospitalized twice. We turned to Blessed Father Seelos for his intercession, as we have done many times in the past. Although there were many days we despaired as a family, we always had hope and trust in God's will. Our family had a miracle in that my mom's mental health was restored. We praise God and thank Father Seelos once again for his intercession.

LIBERAL, KS

A 35-year-old parishioner who recently died of cancer made a cherished visit to the Seelos shrine, and the family celebrated a Mexican custom, the one-month anniversary of death on the feast of Blessed Seelos. One of the highlights of her struggle with cancer was going to the Seelos shrine, and her final days were a testimony of faith. She received communion daily for the last month, and one day I invited the family to have a Mass in her hospital room. We feared that she would not make it through the Mass, but after the final blessing, she asked me if I wanted her blessing. It was one of the most moving moments of my life as a priest.

JOPLIN, MO

[Written by an M.D.] My wife recently visited your shrine. When I had my aorta resected at the Mayo Clinic in August she asked for help from Blessed Seelos. Well, I am still here and

I suspect he helped. I was pretty beat up for two days, was out of the hospital in five days, and back to work in three weeks. I don't know much about Father Seelos except I just like the way he looks. My wife got me a book on him and I hope to be reading it soon.

NEW ROADS, LA

On the morning of our granddaughter's surgery in November 2006, we pinned the Fr. Seelos scapular on her. She had a brain tumor and has made miraculous strides since then. We've all been truly amazed, as are her doctors, thanks to Fr. Seelos. I acknowledge my deep appreciation and love to Fr. Seelos for his intercession to God. He is truly a "saint" to me and my family.

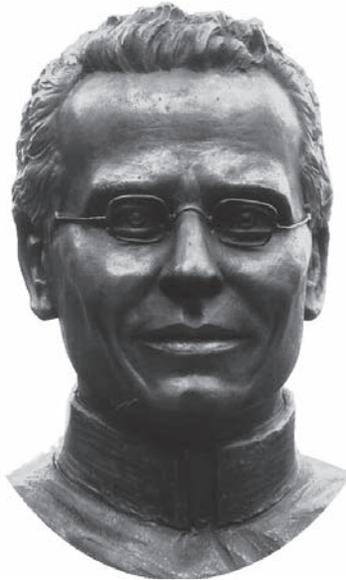


Photo Credit: Mary Ellen Heibel

blood tests and found nothing wrong with his blood. He has also started to gain weight again and the depression is much better. I promised Father Seelos that if he granted this request I would let the Shrine know about it, so I am fulfilling my part, since he did his.

ALGIERS, LA

In September 2006 I was hospitalized for a TIA, and at the time of admittance, I could not remember my own last name. However, during this frightening experience and treatment, I was able to keep the face of my precious lifetime friend, Father Seelos, in mind, begging him to help me. He did, because I was discharged three days later with no residuals, even though my internist said all of my tests confirmed the TIA. Elaine Freeman [Seelos hospital blesser] gave me a very beautiful blessing, and prayed with me in the presence of my family. We were impressed with her faith, dedication and generosity of her time.

HARVEY, LA

My husband is a diabetic. He came down with an attack of pancreatitis. The CT scan showed that he had some heart problems. After praying very hard to Blessed Seelos, the cardiologist said that he felt at this time there was no need for further testing. We thank Blessed Seelos for praying to our Father in heaven that this was not as serious as they thought.

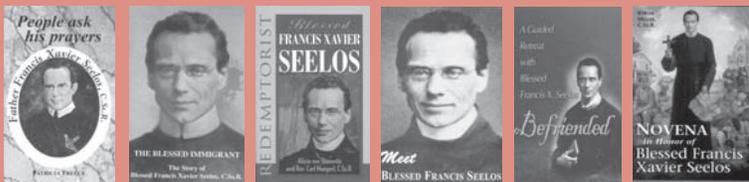
BATON ROUGE, LA

I was diagnosed with fatty liver disease three months ago. My triglycerides were 630; one-hundred or below is normal. We recently went to New Orleans on a field trip. My husband and I and our children opted to go to the Seelos Center, instead of the Imax theater. I acquired some Blessed Seelos Oil and rubbed it on my stomach, in the liver and pancreas area every day. I have also prayed the Novena to Blessed Seelos. Last week the doctor said my triglycerides have gone down to 200. They went down 400 points altogether! I am scheduled for another check in one month. I pray to Blessed Seelos before I eat anything and I ask him to guide me so I can become a healthier person.

UNDISCLOSED LOCATION

In August 2006 my son started graduate school in Austin, Texas. By the end of October, he had lost thirty pounds. They tested his blood for different things and found an unidentifiable virus. Nothing seemed to help. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for his physical healing and depression. The doctors recently ran multiple

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