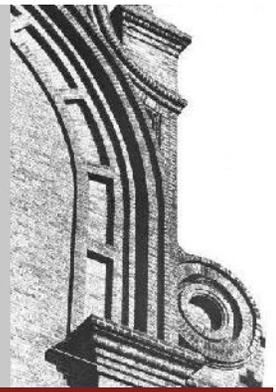


Seelos Center News

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



National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption

Volume XLVI
Number 5
May 2007

Soon after Hurricane Katrina struck in August 2005, the Seelos Shrine established itself as an outreach agency to help those in need, & the Shrine made an appeal to good people everywhere for assistance. Responses came from far away as Fr. Seelos' hometown of Fussen, Germany -- from Sheboygan, WI to San Antonio TX, and all points between. As a result, the Seelos Shrine has distributed nearly \$50,000 to those affected by the Gulf Coast storms. Below is a poignant letter from a true Katrina survivor:

October 23, 2006

I rode out Hurricane Katrina in my home in Oak Harbor of Slidell. It was very frightening ... but I had no choice (I am now 82!). I had my husband Eddie sick in a hospital bed as a result of hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain) and although I was listening to the news and was called by Eddie's home health service, I could not be responsible for handling him & myself at a shelter, bringing beddings, diapers, bed pads, medications, etc.

I was called on Sunday night and told it was mandatory that we leave immediately, but couldn't. Shortly after that all the electricity went out, and naturally the hospital bed was off. The gentleman who cared for my husband came earlier that evening and moved Eddie and his bed to an inner wall so he would not be shattered by glass from the windows. I begged him to go to take care of his own family. I have no one, no children, nieces or nephews, sisters or brothers to help us, so we stayed. By nightfall the wind had already started to damage the roof and I could see and hear things flying all around.

The next day I was catching water from the ceiling in my living room with buckets & pots. When I looked up at the front door, I saw the surge of water gushing in 2-1/2 feet high and in 10 minutes I had nearly 3 feet of water throughout the house. I walked through the water all day nearly to my waist and when it was dark, I [lit] two St. Joseph candles ... There wasn't a soul left in Oak Harbor. By this time, no air conditioning and the temperature was 97 degrees.

Dripping wet, I made my way to my sewing room and began saying my prayers to

Blessed Seelos asking him to stop the water from getting any higher. Just then I told my husband, if it did come higher, I would tie myself to him & the bed, and we would go together. I then shouted in despair and begged Bl. Seelos to stop the water right there, pointing to the middle of the mattress of Eddie's bed. It was like a miracle, the moment I begged, the water stopped! I stayed there until the next day. I had no place to sit or lay, so I cared for my husband, cooking eggs & toast for him the next morning on a gas stovetop.

We went through Day 2 in water. Nightfall came the 2nd day: we were still in water that hadn't gone down. The water went down on Day 3. I was drying things in the sun - helicopters were flying above our houses. I waved a white towel with no success.

I told Eddie Bl. Seelos gave us one miracle and we prayed for still another. I promised Eddie that when both of the candles burned down, we would get help. Surely, on Day 4 our neighbors on both sides had come home to check their houses, but had to go back out. They saw me walking in the yard and wondered why I had stayed! Immediately they went back to the blocked area...

We did get our 2nd miracle and our lives were spared. Of course, I did not get to rest my body for 11 days. We were flown to Kentucky to stay with my 85-year-old cousin - then Eddie spent 5 months in a nursing home. I drove 600 miles alone to repair our house (with no success). I'm still trying, living in a trailer, which I am grateful for. Eddie was flown back to spend time in a nursing home in Mandeville. I drove back & forth to visit him, then he ended up in the hospital there for a month. I stayed day & night and our dear Lord took him on June 2, 2006.

I miss him very much, but at least I tried my best and I feel blessed that we did not drown, thanks to Blessed Seelos. I also thank God for finding my cousins who housed me until I got a FEMA trailer in March.

God was good to send Blessed Seelos to help when Jesus was caring for those less fortunate than Eddie and me.

(Name Withheld)

Slidell, LA

Father Seelos once provided a practical guide of several specific things that could be done on a daily basis to be holy. Here is his partial list, slightly edited:

1. Go to Mass with deepest devotion.
2. Spend a half hour to reflect upon your main failing & make resolutions to avoid it.
3. Do daily spiritual reading for at least 15 minutes, if a half hour is not possible.
4. Say the rosary every day.
5. Also daily, if at all possible, visit the Blessed Sacrament; and toward evening, meditate on the Passion of Christ for a half hour.
6. Conclude the day with evening prayer & an examination of conscience over all the faults & sins of the day.
7. Every month make a review of the month in confession.
8. Choose a special patron every month & imitate that patron in some special virtue.
9. Precede every great feast with a novena, that is, nine days of devotion.
10. Try to begin & end every activity with a "Hail Mary."



Mary Statue, Seelos Courtyard

Photo: Jude Theriot

2007 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 \$125 will continue to allow our hospital blessers to distribute complimentary rosaries, Fr. Seelos pamphlets, and other spiritual items to the sick & bedridden.

Our gift to you in return is a one-year subscription to *Liguorian* magazine, recognized for excellence by the Catholic Press Association for its guidance & inspiration

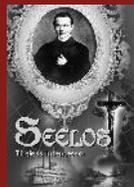


to Catholics of all ages. (A cover price value of \$29.50)

A gift of \$45 will help defray the monthly operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-A-Message, which averages 3,000 calls a year.

A gift of \$10 will help defray the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter for one year.

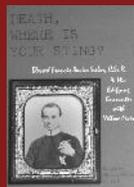
A gift of \$1,000 will go directly to the Canonization Cause of Blessed Francis Seelos because of our reliance upon a God-given *volunteer* staff. Our gift to you in return is the new documentary on the life of Fr. Seelos.



68 min. DVD

68 min. VHS

(Please specify format preference)



A gift of \$500 will directly support the ministry at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos. Our gift to you in return is the new book on Fr. Seelos' edifying encounter with yellow fever.

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

Seelos Center News

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

Seelos Center / Shrine 2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130-5004
504-525-2495/2499 FAX 504-581-9181

www.seelos.org

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THANK YOU!

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

Your gifts are tax deductible.

**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 services:

Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. 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

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

Lacombe/Abita Springs

Billy Bachemin: 504-232-0349

Lafayette/Abbeville

Rita King: 337-984-4607

Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394
Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

New Iberia/Berwick/Baldwin

Rachel Gonsoulin 337-224-7855
Fred Roy 337-380-0646

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-9313

Slidell

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

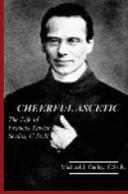
St. Bernard/Arabi

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.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



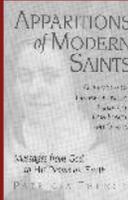
Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$23.00 + 6.95 p/h)



.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).

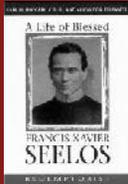


Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$11, incl. p/h)



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 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)



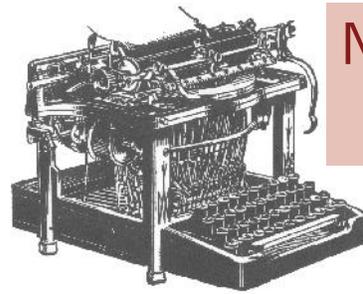
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

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

U **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.

U **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).



Message from the Editor

A Homesick Seelos

A delayed childhood illness finally caught up with me during my senior year in high school. The itchy rash and blisters were unmistakable symptoms of chickenpox. Similarly, a few years later when I pursued studies far away from home for the first time, the unmistakable symptoms of homesickness were a rite of passage to leave childhood behind. Saint Paul writes: "When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside" (1 Cor. 13). Sometimes, the homesickness associated with moving into adulthood can be much more scarring than pockmarks in a senior photo!

As a first-year theology student away from home at the University of Munich in 1842, twenty-three-year-old Francis Xavier Seelos described his smallpox infection and hospital experience in a letter to his family in Fussen:

"Today I was freed from my captivity and I am now again, thanks be to God, fully recovered... To my and the doctor's great surprise, smallpox showed itself in full bloom ... My whole face was covered with pocks, as well as the other parts of my body, especially my chest, arms, and legs. The care was exceptionally good; the doctors there, uncommonly humane and helpful; the food left nothing to be desired. This is really a very vicious sickness. I spent several whole nights without sleep and was constantly being troubled with the most frightening and terrible dreams. My face was all distorted and it seemed that my head would split open. But this lasted only until the pocks were all exposed. Yes, and during my hallucinations, I got great comfort and pleasant relief from seeing now this one, now that one of my brothers and sisters; from talking now with father, now with mother; from seeing how all my loved ones suffered with me, and visited me often. Yes, I often thought I saw you and welcomed you, talked to you, and then said goodbye to you again ... I was far away from you, was not allowed to have any visitors, for fourteen days did not see any relatives, any friends, and yet I was not alone, but at home, with you my loved ones."

During this season of student graduations and life transitions, of "empty nest" syndromes and homesick symptoms, may the tender words of Francis Seelos remind us that to be "at home with loved ones" is a state of mind during painful separations.

Special \$20 offering to enroll mothers, living or deceased, in Perpetual Mass League only during the month of May in honor of Mother's Day!

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Did You Know?

The Old Ursuline Convent in New Orleans' French Quarter is hosting the exclusive Vatican Mosaic Exhibit through June 1. www.vaticanmosaics.com 504-569-1401 Please visit!



Photo: Diane C. Garoia

TESTIMONIALS

MT. PLEASANT, SC

Our novenas have been heard and answered by Blessed Francis Seelos. One of our parishioners had colon cancer and had surgery twice. She is in remission and is now taking care of her ill husband. Thanks to Bl. Seelos for his part in the intercession to God for this great miracle.

METAIRIE, LA

I noticed a very large lump in my left breast. I was very concerned about it and began wearing Mary's Green Scapular and also a relic of Blessed Seelos and asked for their intercession to the Lord. As weeks went by, I noticed that the breast lump had diminished in size. By the time I saw my doctor it was practically gone. He said it was a benign cyst and was no cause for worry. He also said it was very unusual for the cyst to go from such a large size to a small size in such a short period of time. I was very relieved, and I attribute my good news to the miraculous intercession of Blessed Seelos.

MINOOKA, IL

I am seventeen years old. I love the Mass and my faith is very important to me. The first time I heard about Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos was at the rectory of a local church. One of my brothers and I were spending time there helping a priest friend of ours. He had a first class relic of Bl. Seelos. Months later my family received numerous religious articles; among them was a book about my new friend, Father Seelos. I was very much impressed with his humility, and was delighted to read that he too played violin, and sang, like me. I would like to foster devotion to him and share him with my friends.

LA QUINTA, CA

A year ago, my son-in-law was on a dune bike with a friend. They hit a hole in the road and the cart rolled over my son-in-law's hand. He was transported by helicopter to a hospital in L.A. and went through many surgeries to save his hand. My sister sent me a bottle of Fr. Seelos oil and Novena. My son-in-law prayed the Novena and I applied the holy oil on his hand daily. After many months of rehabilitation and praying to Bl. Seelos, he didn't lose his hand. I will never stop praying to Blessed Seelos for this miracle.

PONCHATOULA, LA

We visited the Father Seelos Shrine in February 2007. I prayed for my 19-year-old daughter who had been away from home for 1-1/2 years. Within the week, my daughter had moved back home. My husband and I had been praying for this intention for a long time and we couldn't believe that it happened so soon. We are sharing our story with others. Hopefully, there will be many more pilgrimages to Father Seelos' Shrine. I really felt a holy presence there. It was a visit we won't ever forget.

METAIRIE, LA

In February, I noticed a large blister on the back of my leg. For three days the wound continued to get larger and more infected. I went to the emergency room and was told that it was due to a brown recluse spider and that it could be very dangerous. Antibiotics, ointments and hot compresses three times a day were prescribed, and I was told to follow up with my own doctor. My doctor had the same diagnosis and prescribed additional medications. When the wound did not get any better in three weeks, I was taken off all medications and set up for surgery to open and drain the wound. If it did not heal, plastic surgery would be necessary to remove the entire area and replace with a possible skin graft. That same day I spoke to a friend who gave me a relic of Fr. Seelos and said to pray to him and rub the relic over the bandage. I did this continually. On March 1, after all these weeks, for the first time, I saw an improvement that has continued to the point of the surgery being called off!

4 - Seelos Center

NEW ITEMS!

Through a special arrangement with Edward Vesely of Excelsis Creations, the Seelos Center is proud to offer these creations to excel your spirit!

Inspired by the lifetime works of artisan & iconographer, Fr. Norbert Hess of Notre Dame University, the **Our Lady of Lavang Window & Vietnamese Martyrs Window** brings beauty & spiritual power to everyday settings. These timeless treasures feature a profound ceramic image: the tile print is not a decal – the ink actually permeates the tile to ensure a vivid, long-lasting image. This is an expensive process but with dramatic results. Tile mounted on raised panels creates a three-dimensional effect; set in a natural wood frame that is finished front-to-back. Excellent craftsmanship! Measures 15.5 x 16.5 in.; weighs approx. 6 lbs. \$95, includes certified p/h. Specify Black, Dark Brown or Deep Forest Green wood frame color.

KEEPSAKE BOXES

Specify Natural or White wood color, Lavang or Martyrs image
7" x 7" x 2.25" / \$24.50 (incl. p/h)

MAIL / NAPKIN HOLDER

Two Ceramic Sides -- Lavang only
6" x 6" x 4.25" / \$22.50 (incl. p/h)

PEN / PENCIL HOLDER

White wood -- Lavang image
5" x 5" x 1.75" / \$18.50 (incl. p/h)

Created with hardwood & finished with protective enamel, each gift piece is suitable for any occasion!



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