

Seelos Center News

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National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption

Volume XLVI
Number 6
June 2007

YOU ARE FELLOW CITIZENS OF THE SAINTS & MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD (EPHESIANS 2:19)

The recitation of the Apostles' Creed at Mass reminds us of our belief in a "communion of saints." Father John Dietzen, in his book *Catholic Life in a New Century*, notes how the ancient tradition of invoking the saints' intercession is essentially "another facet of our request for prayers from each other," because as members of God's family, "we can approach him together to strengthen our own faith and increase our desire for the good things that God can give to us."

An honored custom exists to better facilitate this coupling of our prayers with that of the saints when the Church attributes particular causes to specific holy men and women. How various saints have become patrons of certain occupations and causes is due to a number of factors, including the life and ministry of the holy person and the efficacy of their prayers. Some patrons may have become associated with their causes by pure accident, or pure providence, depending on one's perspective! For instance, Saint Anthony is the patron of lost things; Saint Jude, of lost causes; and Saint Hedwig, of lost hair (bald people)! Saint Fiacre is the patron of cab drivers, but who is the needed patron of cab patrons? Saint Clare (1194-1253), was named the patron saint of television in 1958 when TV was still in its infancy, because she reportedly possessed the gift to see distant places and events.

It remains to be seen if Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos will ever become a patron affiliated with a specific cause. Perhaps his cheerful nature will accord him the title of "Patron Saint of Holy Hilarity," for those suffering with clinical depression or anxiety. Possibly his strong reputation of powerful prayers for cancer patients will allow him to be a patron for those with terminal illnesses. Perhaps his own heroic death to yellow fever will identify him with those suffering modern-day tropical diseases like Avian Flu or West Nile. Regardless of any official or unofficial patron status eventually bestowed on Francis Xavier Seelos, he and the saints are with God. Therefore, as Father Deitzen states, "it is most natural and profoundly Christian that we ask their help and prayers for anything important to us, just as we ask the help and prayers of the people who are still with us on earth."



Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787) is patron of confessors and moral theologians. He is also invoked by those suffering with arthritis. This outdoor sculpture of a wheelchair-bound Alphonsus is located on the grounds of San Alfonso Retreat House, West End, NJ.



'Saint' does not mean merely dedication, or selflessness, or generosity, though it subsumes all those. Nor does it mean the apogee of religious devotion, though it can subsume that too -- sometimes. There are many pious people who believe themselves to be saints who are not, and many people who believe themselves to be impious who are.



A saint is a person who practices the keystone human virtue of humility. Humility in the face of wealth and plenty, humility in the face of hatred and violence, humility in the face of strength, humility in the face of your own genius or lack of it, humility in the face of another's humility, humility in the face of love and beauty, humility in the face of pain and death. Saints are driven to humbling themselves before all the splendor and horror of the world because they perceive there to be something divine in it, something pulsing and alive beneath the hard dead surface of material things, something inconceivably greater and purer than they.

"Making the nine churches" is a solemn Good Friday Catholic tradition in New Orleans that requires participants to walk to nine designated churches to pray or perform a prescribed ritual at each one. On Good Friday 2007, Seelos Center blesses Geraldine Heigle & Anthony Catalano prayed with pilgrims at the Seelos Shrine & Jesuit High School students re-enacted the Passion.

Tony Hendra, *FATHER JOE* (New York: Bantam Books, 2005)

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.

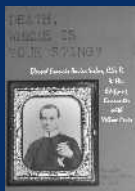
A gift of \$1,000 will go directly to the Canonization Cause of Blessed Francis Seelos because of our reliance upon a God-given *volunteer* staff. Our gift to you in return is the new documentary on the life of Fr. Seelos.



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.
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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
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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

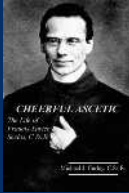
St. Bernard/Arabi

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).

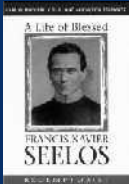


Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$11, incl. p/h)



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).



The 19th Annual Seelos Day in New Orleans Luncheon



Special guests at the April 29, 2007 Mass & Luncheon included Dorothy, Elizabeth & Oscar Borda (above), Brother Clem Furno, C.Ss.R. of Baton Rouge (right), Jack Pitkin, Gayle Batt & Alma Weilbaecher (bottom left), Jackie & Jack Guidry (bottom right). Fr. Henry McKeever, C.Ss.R. of Liguori, MO received the Eagle's Wings award for his outstanding promotion of the Seelos Cause.



Luncheon Sponsors: Freeport-McMoRan Foundation, Cynthia & Joseph Molyneux, Ethel & Hilaire Lanoux, & Jackie Daigle (in Ken Daigle's memory).



Photo Credit: Bill Coskrey

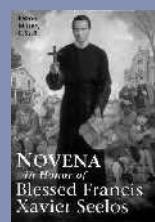
FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

I was first introduced to Father Seelos by my aunt over 35 years ago. She gave me prayer cards and said, "Pray to this wonderful priest; he will be a saint one day." Over the years, I have had my ups & downs, and Fr. Seelos was always there. I made a pilgrimage to the Seelos Shrine and found it very rewarding. A first class relic of Fr. Seelos is a treasured possession of mine. My daughter & her 2-1/2-year-old son, Nathan, also have a devotion to Father Seelos. Nathan has been brought up with a love of "Seelos" as he calls him. This is three generations of devotion! I began receiving

the Seelos newsletter many, many years ago. I have kept all of them & re-read them from time to time. Fr. Seelos' message is timeless. I look forward to the day when Fr. Seelos will be declared a saint.

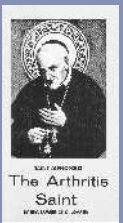
-- Joy Migliore, Reserve LA

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



ENJOY THE COMPANY OF REDEMPTORISTS!

Treat yourself to a Novena and Self-Directed Retreat in the special presence of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, and a Novena to St. Alphonsus, the Arthritis Saint



Nearly 30,000 Novenas Distributed!

ALL THREE ITEMS FOR ONLY \$10 (INCLUDES P/H) MENTION PROMO CODE BNJ

TESTIMONIALS

FROM VIRGINIA

I am a native of Louisiana but moved to Virginia due to Hurricane Katrina. I'm the former "Mrs. New Orleans" and "Mrs. Louisiana." I had breast cancer in 2004 at which time I visited and prayed before the crypt of Father Seelos and continued to ask his prayers through my complete recovery. Then in February 2007 I again turned to him for intercession due to a close call with blood work, and I was cured. I asked God what I could do to make my life more meaningful in exchange for my healing -- and so I share "My Story" on <http://marywest.com/story.html>

FT. WORTH, TX

Our daughter has survived MRSA pneumonia and ARDS. Her kidneys are coming back; a thoracotomy on her other lung to prevent its collapse was performed and her breathing has improved. She is still being fed through her stomach, but she is making progress. We have heard her speak for the first time in almost two months and it is very exciting. We have relearned so much: blood donors are priceless, organ donation is critical to so many, healing Masses bring peace to those whose loved ones are sick or dying, community is comforting, family is important, there is so much good in humanity ready to help. In February, Father Richard encouraged us to pray to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, a German Redemptorist missionary to the USA in the 1800s. Upon reading a story of his life, we were surprised to discover that we had visited his hometown, Fussen, Germany with our daughter when she was in kindergarten. We have always enjoyed visiting his last assignment, New Orleans, which is home to his shrine. So now we will have to make a pilgrimage! There is great comfort in prayer to Father Seelos.

ALTMORE, AL

In November 2005 my doctor wanted to remove two bulging discs in my neck and replace both with cadaver bones. I opted for physical therapy first. My mother and I prayed to Father Seelos to let the therapy work. I did not want surgery, especially since it would have to be redone every 8-10 years. The therapy worked 100%. My doctor told me I could have the surgery when the pain returned. This is 2007 and I am still pain-free in my neck. I know this is only due to Father Seelos' prayers. God bless all his followers.

HALLETTSVILLE, TX

I promised I would write if my check-up results were fine. I prayed and prayed when it was thought that I had an aneurism, just as before. Nothing was found! Thank you Father Seelos! Through the mercy of God, Father Seelos helped and healed me of back pain too. I know he is great and performs miracles. I pray to him twice a day. I love him.

BOGALUSA, LA

I like to tell about having Mary Haaga having the Seelos cross put on me. In September 2004, six of us went to church in New Orleans; we were heading back to Bogalusa when a drunk driver hit us head on. Everyone was hurt, but I was hurt the most. I had a broken neck and the seat belt cut me. I was transported via helicopter to the trauma center at Charity Hospital, and was there for two months. Then I was taken to Jackson, MS where I was in the hospital until December 2004. I have had surgeries through August 2005; since then I have been doing well. I was blessed by the Seelos cross and I am very much a prayer miracle.

RUTHERFORD, NJ

My husband had a blood test which necessitated a biopsy to check for possible prostate cancer. I called the Seelos Center to ask for prayers and my husband took the Seelos prayer with him when he went for the biopsy. A week later the results came back negative for cancer. We are very grateful for Father Seelos' intercession.

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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