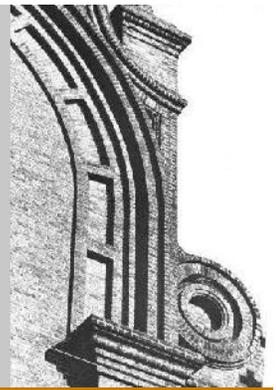


# Seelos Center News

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 11  
November 2007



German names and inscriptions reveal the heavy toll that the city's yellow fever epidemics had on its immigrant population.

Epicureans know it as the cemetery across from the renowned Commander's Palace restaurant, while aficionados of Anne Rice novels know Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 as the family burial site of the fictitious vampire Lestat. This New Orleans Garden District cemetery, with its distinctive tombs and wall vaults, is popular in many books and films, including the movie version of "Interview with a Vampire." According to the book *Germans of Louisiana* by Ellen Merrill, a visitor in the 1830s described the streets surrounding the cemetery "as being dotted with stores marked with the skull and crossbones, with elegant coffins and mortuary ornaments displayed in show windows." The number of graves bearing



**"WHERE THERE IS SORROW, THERE IS HOLY GROUND"**  
-- Oscar Wilde

Lafayette Cemetery No. 1: German tombs erected in 1866, the year Father Seelos arrived in New Orleans.

Located within proximity is St. Joseph Cemetery No. 1 & No. 2. The first was established in 1854 as a burial site for German orphans, their families, and fellow immigrants. Burial fees also supported the nuns of St. Mary's Assumption Church and school. The block behind the cemetery was annexed as St. Joseph Cemetery No. 2 in 1873. Merrill notes that when the city repaved the streets around these cemeteries and billed the School Sisters of Notre Dame, they appealed to Archbishop Joseph Rummel for assistance; he then "relieved them of this liability by accepting the cemeteries for the diocese." In addition, the original wooden structure that preceded the present St. Mary's Assumption Church was relocated to this graveyard in the 1860s, shortly after the new church was completed. It functioned there as a mortuary chapel until 1997, when it was moved to its present site on Jackson Avenue. †



Photo: Jude Theriot



Original St. Mary's relocated as a Mortuary Chapel in St. Joseph Cemetery.





Old Wolf  
Cheyenne, 1868

## A Thanksgiving Reflection

*In the 1880s, Old Wolf, a Cheyenne chief from Montana, told this story:*

In the land of the Cheyennes, there is a mountain higher than all the mountains around him. All the Cheyennes know that mountain; even our forefathers knew him. ... When far away, our hearts leaped for joy on seeing him, because he told us that our home came nearer.

During the winter, the snow covered all the earth with a mantle of white; we could no longer distinguish him from other mountains except by his height, which told us he was *the* mountain. Sometimes dark clouds gathered above. They hid his head from our view, and out of them flew fiery darts, boring holes in his sides.

The thunder shook him from head to foot; but the storm passed away and the mountain stood forever.

This mountain is the Black-robe. [*A Native American expression for a Roman Catholic priest.*] His heart is firm as a rock. He changes not. He speaks to us the words of truth. We are always sure of our path, when we look to him for guidance. He is the mountain that leads us up to God.

*As you look to the black-robed Father Seelos for guidance, may his prayers and intercession continue to lead you up to God, the summit of our journey, the apex of our longings.*

Story taken from *Parish Priest*  
by Douglas Brinkley & Julie Fenster  
(New York: Morrow, 2006)



19th-Century New Orleans  
Turkey Peddler

**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving*  
**ONE AND ALL**

## 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:

Kathryn Simms -- Springfield, KY  
Mrs. Joseph Dupuis -- Chalmette, LA  
Brenda & Karen Mollere -- Baton Rouge, LA  
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd J. Abadie -- River Ridge, LA  
Nina Assefi -- McLean, VA  
Eliska M. Barras -- Marrero, LA  
William C. Fichter -- Pittsburgh, PA  
Mr. & Mrs. David VanderMeer -- Abita Springs, LA

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Seelos Hospital Ministry  
Now Extended to NW LA!

Please consider the National Shrine of  
Blessed Francis Seelos for your  
employer matching gift program.  
Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

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

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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Subscription is \$10 per year.

## 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

### Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-925-9975

### Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999  
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

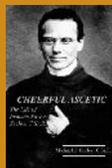
### St. Bernard/Arabi

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:



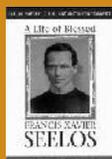
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.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: \$12, incl. p/h)



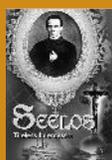
**A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos**, a 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$11 - includes p/h)



**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) **"In lieu of flowers"**



**Seelos, Tireless Intercessor**, a 68-minute documentary on the miraculous life of Seelos, as seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$35 DVD/ \$30 VHS - incl. p/h)



**Death, Where Is Your Sting?**, a tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details of his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$23 - incl. p/h)

◆ **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).



On the eve of All Saints, when I came home from the mission, I found the letter ...but could not open it right away because of the many things that had to be taken care of; I could only read it around eleven o'clock at night. The impression that the death notice of so dear a father made on me was more comforting than sad, when I read the way our dear father died, so beautifully and so resignedly. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his elect," and among these, without doubt, our deceased father is numbered. Just around the time he died, I dreamed of him, which is usually not the case, and I saw our dear father in the sacristy, dressed in the vestments of a priest, uncommonly beautiful and handsome, so that I was in a state of wonderment and was filled with great joy. Still I cannot recall the exact details of this dream any more, but have the consoling trust, that in the other world he will have a very honorable place, and that now he is in a position to obtain for all of us every great grace. Oh, that all of us might die like that, or in a similar way! ...

-- F. X. Seelos, in a letter to his family, reacting to the news of his father's death in Germany.  
November 3, 1853, Pittsburgh PA

This original cast iron coffin of Father Seelos is on display at the Seelos National Shrine in New Orleans. Votive lights alongside the casket will burn during the month of November for all the souls of the faithful departed who have been a part of the Father Seelos Cause.

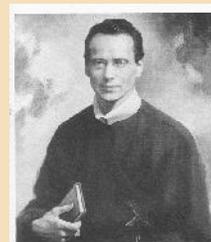


IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Nativity Scenes by Brother Max Schmalzl, C.Ss.R. on quality ivory card stock with religious message  
6-1/2" x 4-1/2" / matching envelopes  
\$9 per 20  
(incl. p/h)

**CHOICE PICKS**

NOW AVAILABLE! Printable Seelos Prayer Cards



Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. (1814-1864)  
Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.  
O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer, let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight. I offer you to You, for the grace You have bestowed on You, in this Redemptorist's missionary Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. May I have the same courage and strength that Fr. Seelos possessed during his earthly life to love You deeply and the faithfully Your gospel. Amen  
(bro. mention your cause in intention)

Use as Funeral Memorial Cards or for Anniversary & Special Occasions

4-color image & prayer on front; blank on back for printing;  
size: 2-5/8" x 4-1/2"  
\$9 per 100  
(incl. p/h)

Please send request & payment to:  
Seelos Center  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

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# TESTIMONIALS

## ALBUQUERQUE, NM

I had a total knee replacement some 14 years ago. As the surgeon was ready to begin, she discovered a serious infection involving both legs between the ankles and knees. The replacement was canceled and I later learned that this could have caused catastrophic consequences for me and for my family. I'm ever so thankful to God. I know Father Seelos must have been there. I had worn his pendant relic and prayed to him often before all this happened.

## LAFAYETTE, LA

My two recent requests were granted. First, that my brother would not need more foot surgery. He has two complete ankle replacements. Second, that at my age (92), I had no major heart problems. It turned out minor and can be treated with medication. I have great devotion and much thanksgiving to my "friend" Blessed Seelos.

## OCONOMOWOC, WI

Known as Transverse Myelitis, toxin from a bee sting, tomato, honey, or seafood, goes into my spinal cord and causes swelling and paralysis from the waist down. The use of my hands is affected and I cannot feel or move my legs at all. I never know if it is permanent or temporary. On June 19, I felt my legs get weak; twenty minutes later, my left leg was dragging like a stroke patient. After another ten minutes, it felt like

quicksand going down my legs and I had no movement in them whatsoever. I was given a steroid shot at the emergency room. Father Chuck Beierwaltes, C.Ss.R. anointed me and prayed to Father Seelos for guidance and healing. I felt such peace after this anointing and prayer. When I awoke, I realized I could move both legs and feet. I cried and cried, thanking Jesus. I then stood up and called all my family!

## NEW ROADS, LA

I am very pleased in the name of Jesus to have found such spiritual love, peace, and divine strength in Fr. Seelos' prayers. I was in the hospital last week with full-blown pneumonia and I thought I wouldn't make it. I prayed Fr. Seelos' prayer and the doctor told me my lungs were clear enough to go home!

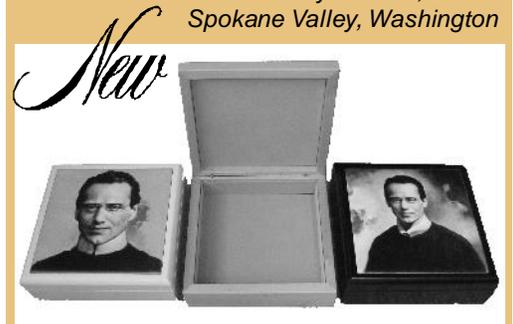
## DUNMORE, PA

My 39-year-old son went to the hospital for a routine test and was told of suspicious findings on his lungs. He was admitted to the hospital because he was suffering from TB or melanoma, a deadly cancer. At this time, Marilyn & Larry Ahern of Scranton gave us a prayer & info on Bl. Seelos. For 5 very traumatic weeks, we were told our son needed surgery and there was a 95% chance of malignant cancer. We prayed devoutly to Bl. Seelos every day, and we received the news that the condition was not cancer but a treatable anti-immune system disease.

## VETS RECOMMEND SEELOS

One night, our chihuahua puppy came down with a bad eye problem. The lower lid of his right eye was swollen and hanging down, appearing like a large red gel sac. We immediately took him to the pet emergency clinic. The vet did not give a very good prognosis: the eye could be lost. We prayed & prayed to Fr. Seelos. His eye was saved, but he would have to take steroids & eyedrops to bring the swelling down. Having had bad reactions to medicines in the past, we begged Fr. Seelos to cure his eye by morning. The next morning his eye was completely normal. When the clinic called the next day for a check up, they were astounded that his eye was normal. They took Fr. Seelos' name, and said that they would start recommending the sick pets to his care. While at the pet emergency clinic, I was approached by a lady, distraught at the condition of her cat who was dying of kidney failure. She asked me to pray that he would be cured, while her husband was trying to get her to accept the fact that their pet would have to be put down. I called a friend of mine, and had her post the request in the Seelos.org guestbook. Twenty minutes later the vet called the woman in, who shortly came back out crying, "It's a miracle, he's o.k." Thanks to Fr. Seelos, there was no more sign of kidney failure.

Sr. Mary Michael, C.M.S.S.  
Spokane Valley, Washington



**KEEPSAKE BOX** features a profound ceramic image of Father Seelos. 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 set in natural, white or black wood box with excellent craftsmanship! Measures 7" x 7" x 2.25". Specify wood color. \$26 (incl. p/h)



While  
Supplies  
Last!



Seelos Rosary Ring  
Made in Italy  
\$3 (includes p/h)

Featured cover  
story by Mark  
Regis on "Bl. F.  
Seelos, Powerful  
Intercessor" in  
the *Garabandal  
Journal* (Sept/  
Oct 2003 Issue).  
\$5 (incl. p/h)

## "Seelos Window"

Inspired by the lifetime works of artisan & iconographer, Fr. Norbert Hess of Notre Dame University, this Seelos Window brings beauty & spiritual power to everyday settings. A timeless treasure featuring 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 to create a three-dimensional effect and 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.

Specify black, brown or dark green wood frame color.  
Limited holiday price of \$80 includes certified P/H (was \$95).

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

Kindly return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or CALL 504-525-2495 or 2499 Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.

## I'VE MOVED!

NAME

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CITY

STATE

ZIP