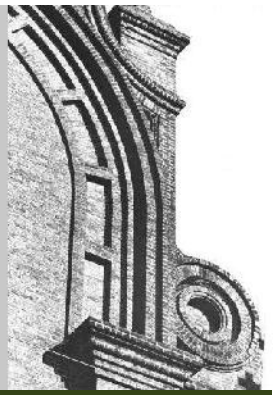


Seelos Center News



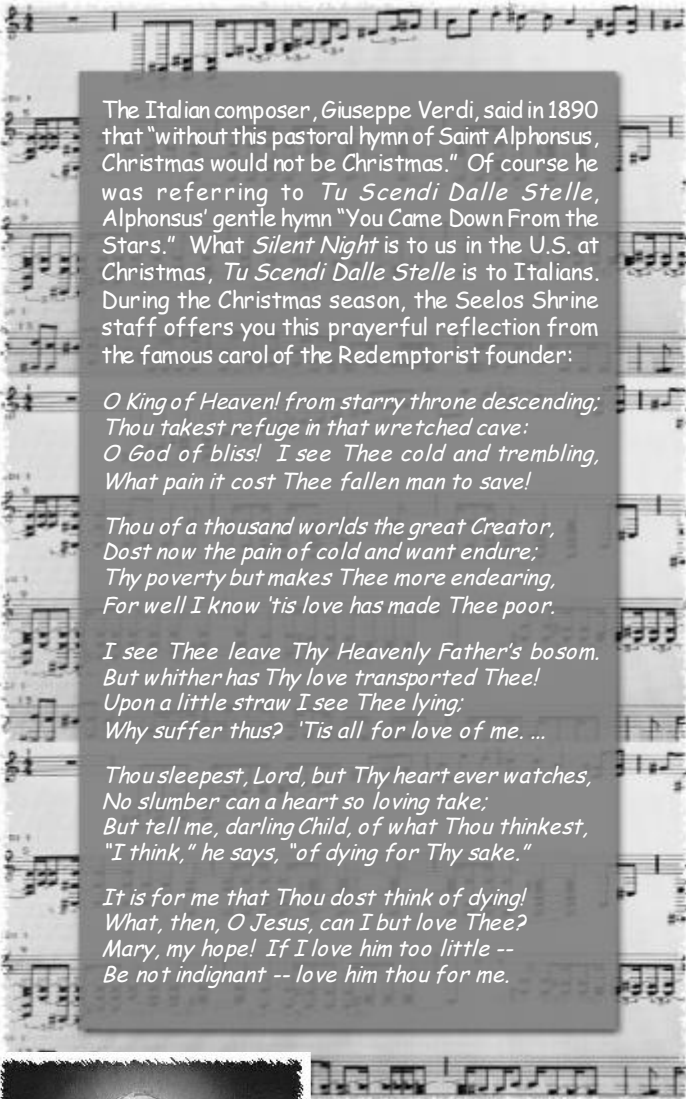
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(504) 525-2495
(504) 525-2499
www.seelos.org



National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption

Volume XLVI
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The Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi, said in 1890 that "without this pastoral hymn of Saint Alphonsus, Christmas would not be Christmas." Of course he was referring to *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle*, Alphonsus' gentle hymn "You Came Down From the Stars." What *Silent Night* is to us in the U.S. at Christmas, *Tu Scendi Dalle Stelle* is to Italians. During the Christmas season, the Seelos Shrine staff offers you this prayerful reflection from the famous carol of the Redemptorist founder:

*O King of Heaven! from starry throne descending;
Thou takest refuge in that wretched cave;
O God of bliss! I see Thee cold and trembling,
What pain it cost Thee fallen man to save!*

*Thou of a thousand worlds the great Creator,
Dost now the pain of cold and want endure;
Thy poverty but makes Thee more endearing,
For well I know 'tis love has made Thee poor.*

*I see Thee leave Thy Heavenly Father's bosom.
But whither has Thy love transported Thee!
Upon a little straw I see Thee lying;
Why suffer thus? 'Tis all for love of me. ...*

*Thou sleepest, Lord, but Thy heart ever watches,
No slumber can a heart so loving take;
But tell me, darling Child, of what Thou thinkest,
'I think," he says, "of dying for Thy sake."*

*It is for me that Thou dost think of dying!
What, then, O Jesus, can I but love Thee?
Mary, my hope! If I love him too little --
Be not indignant -- love him thou for me.*



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

An unknown author wrote "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as a catechism song for young Catholics during a time in England (1558 until 1829) when Roman Catholics were not permitted to openly practice their faith. Each element in the carol had a hidden meaning for members of the church and for children to remember.



Jesus Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge who feigns injury to decoy predators from vulnerable nestlings; "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you as a mother bird collects her young under her wings ..."



Two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.



Three French hens stood for the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity.



The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



The five golden rings were the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah.

The six geese-a-laying represented the six days of creation.



The seven swans-a-swimming stood for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids-a-milking were the eight Beatitudes.



The nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness & Self-control.



The ten lords-a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful Apostles.



The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.



Message from the Editor



The falling snowflakes inside a snow globe in the 1941 movie classic, *Citizen Kane*, remind the

main character of a painful incident that occurred when he was riding a sled as a child. By contrast, perhaps a reason why Francis Xavier Seelos loved Christmas so much is because it reminded him of pleasant childhood memories in his alpine German homeland. And while Kane's final word in the movie leads the viewer to conclude that life can be a quest to satisfy unresolved issues in our youth, the life of Francis Seelos leads one to conclude that life's quest is for a different "homeland." "Dying is returning home," wrote Fr. Henri Nouwen, but "even the most appealing images of the afterlife cannot take away the fear of dying. ... Still, Jesus came to take the sting out of death and to help us gradually realize that we don't have to be afraid of death, since death leads us to the place where the deepest desires of our hearts will be satisfied."

The holidays bring out the best in the young-at-heart; it is a blessed season to celebrate nostalgia and fond memories of our youth. But like Kane's painful separation in the movie, it can also be a time of melancholy for those who are departed from us. Nouwen writes, "When Christmas, the new year, a birthday or anniversary comes, we feel deeply the absence of our beloved ... We sometimes have to live at least a whole year before our hearts have fully said good-bye and the pain of our grief recedes. But as we let go of them they become part of our 'members' and as we 're-member' them, they become our guides on our spiritual journey." May they, and all the saints of heaven, keep us "homebound" at heart this Christmas!

You're Invited!



PITTSBURGH REMEMBERS SEELOS FEAST

On October 3-5, 2007 a Triduum was celebrated in thanksgiving for Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos & Saint John Neumann's priestly service to the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The morning Mass & Novena each day at St. Paul Cathedral was also televised throughout the diocese on the local cable channel. The evening Mass & Novena took place at St. Anthony Chapel in Troy Hill, an area of Pittsburgh where Fr. Seelos himself ministered. Redemptorist Missionary, Father John Kelly, presided at the services. Daily Mass & Novena at Holy Angels parish in Hays & St. Alphonsus parish in Wexford were also in solidarity with the Triduum thanksgiving remembrance.



Left: Frs. John Kelly & David Schorr at St. Anthony Chapel, Right: Nick Parrendo, Fr. Kelly, & Janice Heagy at Pittsburgh Cathedral.

Seelos Center News

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

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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

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Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-925-9975

Slidell

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

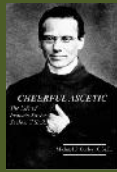
St. Bernard/Arabi

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:



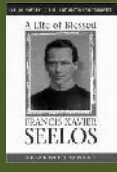
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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)



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).



OCTOBER 2007 SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS & GALA

We have at last gathered his bones, which are dearer to us than priceless gems and purer than gold, and laid them to rest where it was befitting they should lie. And if it be possible for us to assemble again, may God grant us to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom with gladness, thus to recall the memory of those who fought in the glorious combat, and to teach and strengthen by his example, those who shall come after us.

— From the circular epistle of the Church of Smyrna describing the religious celebration of the day on which Saint Polycarp suffered martyrdom (23 February 155) and the main purpose of Church feast days.

October 2007

Dear Redemptorist Superior General in Rome:

I hope this generic e-mail address that I found on the web gets this message through to you. I happened to be in New Orleans last week for the annual American College of Surgeons meeting. It just so happened that the night before we left, EWTN aired a biography on Bl. F.X. Seelos, of whom I had never heard anything about. Learning there was a shrine dedicated to his honor in New Orleans, we decided to go for Sunday Mass, which happened to be the celebration of the 140th anniversary of his death.

Father Maurice Nutt gave a very inspirational and emotional homily on how the portrait of this smiling, gentle priest that he first viewed as a 12-year-old boy sweeping the halls of a rectory in St. Louis helped him find his Redemptorist vocation. The Seelos Shrine & the newly restored St. Mary's Assumption Church were a breathtaking & very inspirational place to visit. [Their work in keeping the memory of this great saint alive is to be commended.] I just finished reading Fr. Curley's biography, *Cheerful Ascetic*, which was an excellent read. ... I am still overwhelmed at how the chance viewing of a TV show changed the character of a routine trip to a medical meeting into one of the more touching spiritual experiences of my life. Your guys in New Orleans are really doing a great job!

Dr. Robert Lee Grosse Pointe Shores, MI



Top to Bottom: Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R., presider at the Oct. Seelos Mass; Cathy & Chris Gillis of Scranton PA are regular guests at the annual Seelos events; Dr. Ed & Martha Moise of Opelousas LA enjoy the Seelos Gala at the Canal Street Sheraton Ballroom; Gala organizer, Diana Maher & Christine Robertson; Melvin Boudreaux is the fifth inductee into "The Order of Seelos Witness" for his decades of service at the Seelos Center.

IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!



Nativity Scenes by Brother Max Schmalz, 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)

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for your employer matching gift program or for your end-of-year charitable donation.

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TESTIMONIALS

MANHASSETT, NY

A friend introduced me to Blessed Francis at a time my young adult son was having troubles. Soon after I began praying the Seelos prayer, a spiritual & mental transformation began. He is really alive for the first time & enjoying life. Thank you, Fr. Seelos.

YUCCA VALLEY, CA

Knowledge of Fr. Seelos came into my life recently, as I never heard of him before. It is as though he has come to guide me through some very difficult challenges. About two years ago we were in New Orleans, taking in the sites and enjoying this charming city, walking everywhere. Fr. Seelos must have followed us back to California!

EVANSVILLE, IN

I recently had a colonoscopy when they found a malignant tumor the size of a baseball. My surgeon told me he had to remove four feet of my colon with this tumor. Indeed, this was a big shock to me since I taught classes all summer. I was scheduled to be in the hospital from 6 to 10 days because this was a major surgery for a Sister 83 years old. Having a special devotion to Blessed Seelos and wearing his relic, I immediately doubled my prayers for a safe surgery. Within five days of my surgery, I was released from the hospital. A week later my surgeon told me I was cancer-free, no chemo, no radiation was necessary. However, he wanted an oncologist to confirm this. Two weeks later my oncologist confirmed it and said it was just like a miracle for one my age. I thank Bl. Seelos from the bottom of my heart & I will continue to pray to him in the future.



“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).

LAKE HOPATCONG, NJ

I believe Fr. Seelos helped my son recover from the illness he had since March. He had pneumonia and was given medicine, but the pneumonia was still there. A tube was put into his lungs and still it did not go away. In the meantime, my husband and I planned a trip to Germany and we went to Mass at the church Fr. Seelos came from in Fussen. It was on the feast of Mary's Assumption that we lit candles and prayed our son would get better. He did recover, got his health back, but also he is now going to Mass and has his faith back too. God works wonders. Thank you, Father Seelos.

GRETNA, LA

I have neglected to write & tell you the story of my beautiful mother. In 2003 my mom got very sick. She had to have her gallbladder removed. At the time she was 75 years old. A week after the surgery, she was readmitted due to kidney infection, pneumonia, and she was digitoxic from medications. Her condition got so serious that we didn't think she would ever come home. She was hospitalized for 3 months in a semi-comatose state. We called Elaine Freeman (Seelos hospital blesser) who brought the Fr. Seelos relic and placed it on my mom at least 3 times. Tragedy occurred again in 2005 when my mom fell and hit her head, causing bleeding between her brain & skull. Again, both times I prayed to Fr. Seelos. Then a month ago, she was diagnosed with a thyroid tumor, possible cancer. While sitting in the doctor's office I prayed to Fr. Seelos that God's will be done. I know that my mom is tired of being sick. The doctor said there is no sign of cancer. Fr. Seelos has come to the rescue of our family many times. I promised him today that I would write this letter. I feel blessed to have the prayer and the faith to keep calling on him.

MORRO BAY, CA

In October I had a tooth extracted and my gums were raw and bloody. That evening on EWTN I saw an hour program on Blessed Seelos, and was writing down information about him. Then I got to my knees with my notes pressed to my heart and prayed to Bl. Seelos to heal my gums. The next morning, the gums were clean and closed up as in a very grand healing. To this day, they are still very healthy and I praise God for Bl. Seelos' intervention of healing my gums.

FROM INDIANA

My granddaughter, age 20, went to the emergency room because of horrid back and abdomen pain. Doctors discovered a big mass that was pressing against her spine and ovary. She had a fear of doctors, the whole procedure of a pelvic exam, and what was ahead. A friend sent her the movie, "Seelos: Tireless Intercessor," two 3rd class relics & prayers. After she viewed the movie, she felt at peace & was not as anxious. Before the surgery, she had several blood transfusions because she was anemic. This was a life-threatening situation each day the mass was still intact; it could rupture, twist or explode at any time. During the surgery, the doctor & my granddaughter wore the relics. The cyst weighed 25 pounds, the size of a gigantic watermelon. It was benign and neither ovary was removed! A week later, she is off most of her pain medicine, so Bl. Seelos is still working! Bl. Seelos protected her from harm before the surgery & was indeed there in the operating room. My whole family gives thanks to God for many miracles throughout this situation through his intercession.

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