



SEELOS CENTER NEWS

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church
of Saint Mary's Assumption

2030 Constance Street (504) 525-2495
New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 525-2499

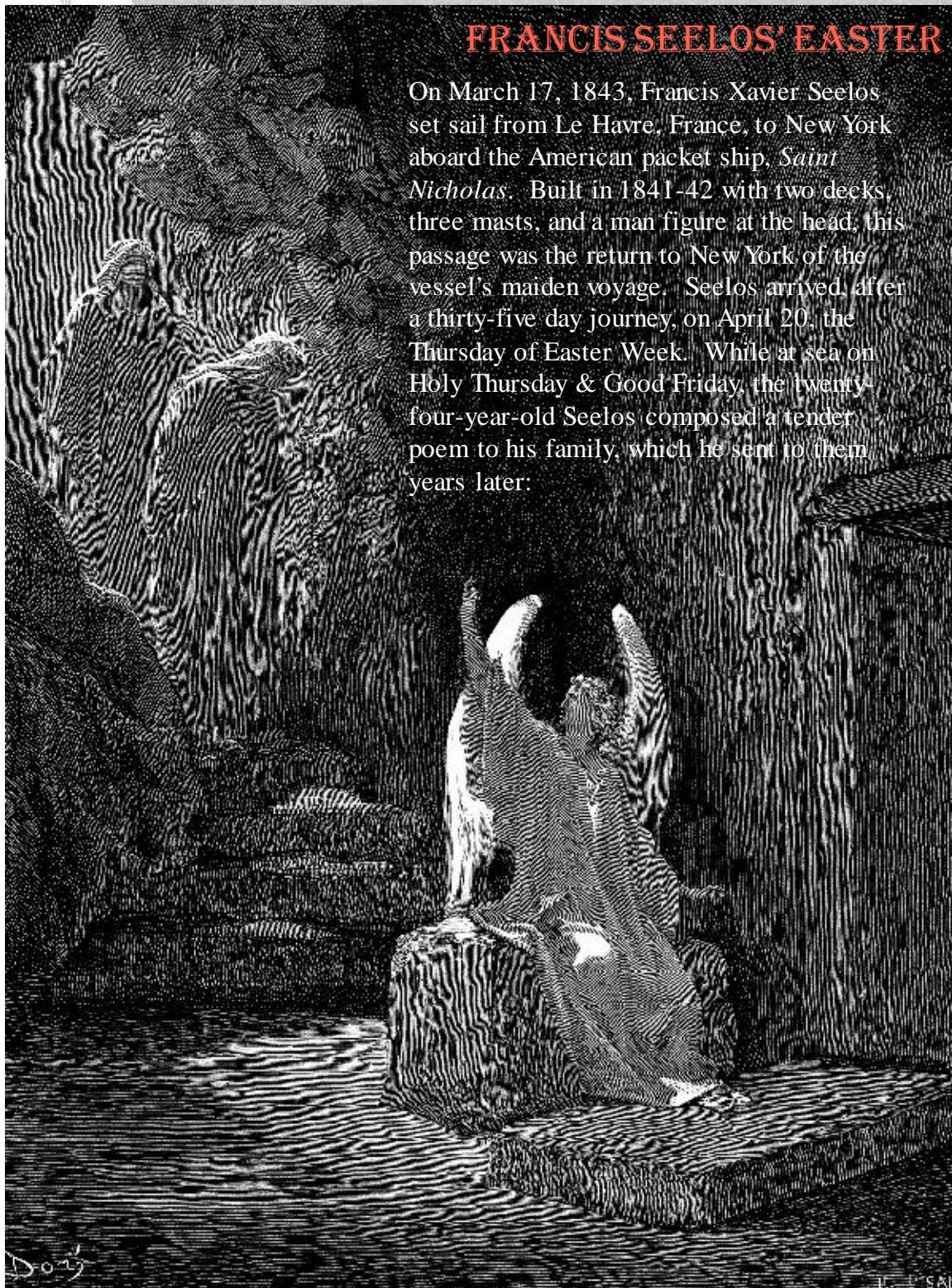
Volume XLVII Number 3 March 2008

www.seelos.org

FRANCIS SEELOS' EASTER PASSAGE

On March 17, 1843, Francis Xavier Seelos set sail from Le Havre, France, to New York aboard the American packet ship, *Saint Nicholas*. Built in 1841-42 with two decks, three masts, and a man figure at the head, this passage was the return to New York of the vessel's maiden voyage. Seelos arrived, after a thirty-five day journey, on April 20, the Thursday of Easter Week. While at sea on Holy Thursday & Good Friday, the twenty-four-year-old Seelos composed a tender poem to his family, which he sent to them years later:

Solemn night!
The son also
keeps vigil.
For him, now very far
from home, the stars
shine as lamps.
He would like to see
the splendor of the
silent night, when
Christ now found rest
from his suffering and
wounds in the grave.
A precious perfume
now fills the air. Many
flowers are blooming
in the shining light,
and hearts are aglow
with devotion.
But here on the sea,
it's deserted and empty
and barren, full of
dangers and perils,
and nowhere a church
to be seen.
Therefore, his glance
turns back to home;
is torn to his parents
and loved ones who
sorely miss him. ...
Even our sorrow will
be turned to joy again.
Therefore, the gift is
great and glorious that
we offer this time at the
Sepulchre... ❁



Doyle

U. L. SM



DID YOU KNOW?

The perennial Easter broadcast of the 1959 movie, *Ben-Hur*, is a cinematic adaptation of the 1880 book that brought literary acclaim to its author, Colonel Lew Wallace. Almost 20 years before his immortal book was written, Colonel Wallace led a ragtag group of young, untrained Civil War recruits known as Zouaves to Cumberland, Maryland. On June 19, 1861, panic spread that Confederate troops were marching on Cumberland, and a rumor circulated that guns & ammunition were hidden in the large Redemptorist house (where Father Seelos was pastor, superior, & seminary prefect at the time). When the captain of the regiment arrived to investigate the matter, the house procurator, Father Van de Braak, invited him in to conduct a thorough search. The captain and his two Catholic companions did not search the grounds, evidently satisfied that the premises posed no danger. When Colonel Lew Wallace heard of the rumor and the search party, he sent a letter of apology to Van de Braak, saying that the search party had been unauthorized. Wallace gave assurance that his troops would protect the lives & property of the Redemptorists, and that he felt it an honor to do so. Van de Braak had the note published in the local newspaper.

Charles & Carmen Clark are recognized for their many years of support & service to the Seelos Cause.



2007 Seelos Center Staff Party

With childlike enthusiasm, Father Seelos loved Christmas. His joyful spirit is sensed every year when the growing number of Seelos Shrine friends & staff members gather for their Mass & party at the Father Seelos Council #2878 Knights of Columbus Hall.



Jeff Le Pere, Patricia & Jude Noote take part in the holiday festivities.



Owen "Pip" & Barbara Brennan are among the many guests who enjoyed the Dixieland Christmas music.



Photos: Bill Coskrey

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

Ponchatoula/Hammond

Gaspar Corpora: 225-294-5938

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

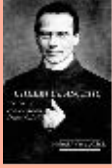
St. Bernard/Arabi

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)



Seelos, Tireless Intercessor, a 68-minute documentary on the miraculous life of Seelos, as seen on EWTN. (See Page 4 for March Special!)



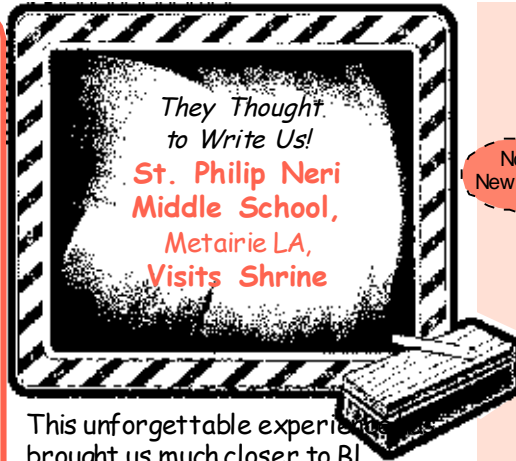
Death, Where Is Your Sting?, a tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details of his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$23 - incl. p/h)

☞ **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).



This unforgettable experience brought us much closer to Bl. Francis Seelos -- to be in the place that such an amazing man had walked and actually taught the word of God. We all thought the museum was very interesting & we learned a lot from it.

-- Sophie

I loved being at such a beautiful church. That day we were truly in God's presence.

-- Rebecca

It was a very inspirational pilgrimage for me, and I would very much like to go again.

-- Stephanie

I had never been to St. Mary's Assumption before, but you made it worth going to. Seeing all the statues in the church made me appreciate all the things Blessed Seelos did.

-- Michelle

Thanks so much for a wonderful, interesting field trip. It was cool looking at the relics & Fr. Seelos' personal artifacts. I felt a warmth as I was just walking in your church and the spiritual presence was incredible.

-- Olivia

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
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www.seelos.org
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You are Invited
 to the Special 20th Annual
 Blessed Francis Seelos Day
 in New Orleans

Note
 New Time

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008
 1:00 p.m. Mass
 St. Mary's Assumption Church

2:00 p.m. Luncheon at
 Hampton Inn Convention Center
 Grand Ballroom
 1201 Convention Center Blvd.
 (between Gaienne & Calliope Street)
 New Orleans, Louisiana

Door Prizes & Parade of Prizes
 Call 504-525-2495 or 525-2499
 for limited-seating reservations!

Bust of Fr. Seelos Available

Created by artist Franco Alessandrini & his wife, Margaret. Plaster with deep gold finish, weighing over 5.5 lbs. Handcrafted in New Orleans. Measures approx. 11.5" H x 8" W x 5.5" D. Donation: \$97 (incl. P/H)



Coming Soon!

A book containing the 201 extant letters of Father Seelos, edited by Rev. Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R., will be published by May!



Participants at the 28th Annual Hofinger Catechetical Conference in January were greeted by this Shrine banner in the window of the majestic Astor Crowne Plaza, overlooking Canal & Bourbon streets in New Orleans. The Shrine was one of the Conference exhibitors this year.

TESTIMONIALS

MISHAWAKA, IN

One of the challenges from my stroke in 2000 has been double vision. It was especially difficult to read and walk. On January 11, Blessed Seelos' birthday, I finally had surgery to correct my vision. During the surgery, I had Bl. Seelos' relic with me. It is so divine to see one object at a time. I am so grateful. It changes my life completely to be able to walk without falling or walking into things. Now I am praying that I will read without glasses and that the healing will continue. I have not seen clearly in 7 years, so my brain is adjusting. There are no words to describe how I feel.

OPELOUSAS, LA

My husband was diagnosed with cancer last July. He is very devoted to Blessed Seelos and has put his confidence in him to be cured. We have attended healing Masses along with Rita Durio King [Seelos hospital blessing], and she came to pray with us at Lafayette General Hospital. We were blessed to have her with us. We feel that Blessed Seelos has heard our prayers. A scan in December showed that the cancer in the lungs is no longer there. There is still some in the neck and hopefully with prayers to Bl. Seelos, a miracle will take place once more for us.

HIGH POINT, NC

I am a former resident of New Orleans, now residing in NC. I have had pernicious anemia since 1964. From 1964 to 2002, I required 2 or 3 pints of blood for transfusions every two months. I am "O" negative and this blood type was not always readily available. In 2002 I was hospitalized for severe anemia & my friend Patricia Julius volunteered to give me the needed transfusions, even though she had never given blood

before (or since). Both she & I were wearing Bl. Seelos cloth relic scapulars and we prayed faithfully. It has been five years since that day of miracles. I have not had a transfusion since. My blood has maintained the normalcy levels that it was before I developed pernicious anemia.

THIBODAUX, LA

My daughter-in-law was with child and was given the wrong medicine. Both almost died, but our prayers to Fr. Seelos helped, and they are doing well. Also, I recently had a stint placed behind my heart due to a defect. I wore the Fr. Seelos relic for days and I am still getting good test results. Father Seelos should be a saint!

AUSTIN, TX

I suffered from lower back and pelvic pain for a month. The doctor thought I had a kidney infection or possible stones. The CT scan came back negative, but I was still in so much pain. My sister had visited the Bl. Seelos Shrine and brought back some Fr. Seelos devotional items to share with us. We contacted the Seelos Center and asked that I be kept in prayer as well. During this same time, I also prayed the Seelos prayer and lit his votive candle; the next morning I awoke without any pain. I have remained pain-free ever since!

ST. JAMES, LA

At birth, our great-granddaughter spent eleven days in ICU, after being diagnosed with Hirschsprung's disease. She was cured through Father Seelos. Rev. Jerry Young of St. Joseph Cathedral in Baton Rouge gave me a first-class relic of Father Seelos and we put it on her stomach, and the cure resulted. She's six months old now and is doing just fine.

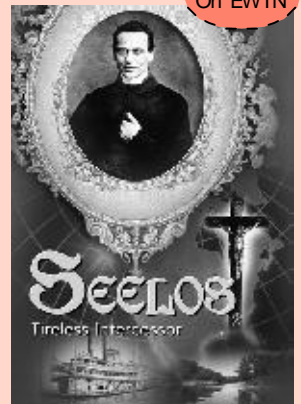
"I enjoyed the video & I've shared it with our Youth Minister to introduce the saints to our high-schoolers."
--Viewer from Marshfield, Wisconsin

"I was deeply touched by the video on Seelos that I watched this week. It has the quality of a motion picture! I hope the Pope has seen this."
--Viewer from Virginia

SEELOS, TIRELESS INTERCESSOR

This documentary chronicles the heroic & miraculous life of Bl. Seelos. He 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. So profound was his missionary zeal that sickness, persecution, and even the upheaval caused by the Civil War, could not stop him.



As Seen On EWTN

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

68 min. DVD
(\$29.00 + \$5.50 p/h)
\$24 - Best Price Ever!

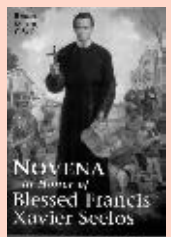
68 min. VHS
(\$24.00 + \$5.50 p/h)
\$17 - Best Price Ever!

(\$8.50 p/h for any 2 or more)



SEELOS NOVENA: PRAYER COMPANION TO VIDEO

32-page Deluxe Pamphlet with sturdy cover. Now in its 5th printing with 30,000 copies distributed. (\$3, includes p/h)



"My mother still receives this newsletter, and she's been deceased for ten years."



If a similar experience sounds familiar to you, we apologize for the insensitivity on our part. Please know that "address correction service" by the U.S. Post Office is a luxury that small non-profit groups like ours can no longer afford along with the monthly cost of mailing this newsletter. If you would like to remove a family member, change the name of the recipient, or add new members to our monthly mailing, please use the form or e-mail your request to bniller@seelos.org

- 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 _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____