



SEELOS CENTER NEWS

*National Shrine of Blessed
Francis Xavier Seelos*

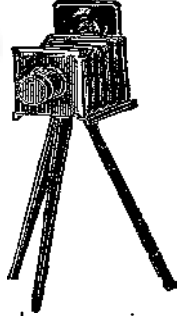
*In the Redemptorist Church
of Saint Mary's Assumption*

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

Volume XLVII Number 7 July 2008

www.seelos.org

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?



Tall and thin-framed, with a full crop of hair, Francis Seelos' appearance invited

friendliness, wrote his biographer. "The whole external appearance of the man showed him to be a man apart from earthly things and filled with zeal for God's glory. The first time I saw him he left a profound impression on my heart," wrote a student of Seelos. "His face and his actions manifested a man withdrawn from worldly things," said another. Though always neat and well-groomed, Seelos made a favorable impression without the assistance of expensive sartorial fashions.

With the development of photography in the 19th century, long photographic exposure times often resulted in solemn, serious expressions on the faces of those being photographed. However, an undated photograph of Fr. Seelos (see photo above) from Richard Walzl's Palace of Photography, No. 103 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Maryland, depicts him with his trademark smile.

In 1863, Seelos responded to a friend's request for his photograph: *"I must tell you that I would send you the exterior of my miserable frame without further ado, had not some fathers, who are no longer members of the Congregation, made bad use of their photographs. This naturally had as a consequence that the superiors had to forbid it generally; and that having one's picture taken fell into such discredit with us that in no way do I want to ask permission for it. And so, I hope you will excuse me, since it is through no fault of mine but because of a weighty reason that I must act this way."*

If a cheerful priest fitting the description of Father Seelos happens to be among your old family photos, please contact us! Because he traveled to so many states as a missionary & was stationed in several large cities where photographic emporiums were likely, such a possibility is not at all remote.

"SEELOS DAY IN NEW ORLEANS" HITS 20!

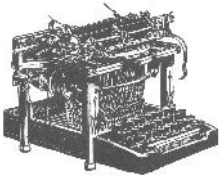
After the Seelos Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church, 88 people gathered in the Cornstalk Room of Delmonico's Restaurant on St. Charles Avenue for the 1st Annual "Fr. Seelos Day in New Orleans" event. The year was 1988. Jesuit Father Harold Cohen, who had been the homilist at the Mass, spoke at the dinner on veneration of saints; Pip Brennan was also a guest speaker. After the speeches came a piano sing-a-long, during which prizes were awarded, including a gift certificate to Maison Blanche.



After the Seelos Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church, over 200 people gathered in the Hampton Convention Center Grand Ballroom for the 20th Annual "Fr. Seelos Day in New Orleans" event on April 27, 2008. Fr. Greg Chauvin, who had been the homilist at the Mass, was in attendance. Also present was special guest, Frau Lilly Neumaier-Aschenbrenner of Fussen, Germany. Lilly, the great grand-niece of Father Seelos, was the 2008 Inductee of "The Order of Seelos Witness" Award.



Top Left, Fr. Greg Chauvin of St. Mary Magdalen Church, Abbeville, LA; Bottom Left: Great grand-niece of Fr. Seelos is the 6th recipient of "The Order of Seelos Witness"



Message from the Editor

Late in life, Albert Einstein resisted much of his previous work in quantum theory, saying, "To punish me for my contempt for authority, fate made me an authority myself." Fate placed Francis Seelos in positions of authority during sixteen of his twenty-three years in religious life; yet one of his students, Fr. Bernard Beck, said of him, "His love for his subjects always overshadowed the dignity of his official position."

Jeffrey J. Fox in his book, *How to Become a Great Boss*, describes the soaring eagle as a metaphor for dignity. Those who exemplify authority are like eagles that do not go into the hole for a rat, as do snakes, ferrets and weasels, because they have too much class to lower themselves to that level of "shouting matches, nasty memo wars, or backbiting." Fox notes that bullies, tyrants, and autocrats are actually weak and "their authority is a function of job position, not personal character."

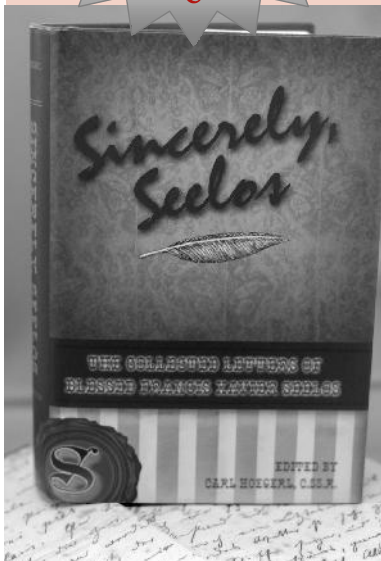
Ironically, because Seelos was not considered autocratic enough by some of his confreres, he was seen as weak in command. However, he epitomized true authority in that he was too Christ-like to debase himself to a level of military or imperious execution of his orders; no doubt, his loving, approachable and dignified style was more effective as well. Seelos said experience had taught him that people are best led by others whom God has appointed to be in His place when they are of "the same kindness as He Himself was" while among us.

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

A saint is a person who practices the keystone human virtue of humility... 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.

-- Tony Hendra, *FATHER JOE* (2005)

Limited-Time
Introductory
Cost



While a number of Seelos biographical & devotional titles have been made available in recent years, this book is unique in that it contains the 201 extant letters of Father Seelos himself! As such this exceptional compilation provides extraordinary insight into the very core of who Francis Xavier Seelos is and who we are as American Catholics.

Carl Hoegerl, CSSR, editor

Hardbound, 4-Color Bookjacket, 512 Pages

Now Available!

Only
\$35

(\$29.50 + \$5.50 p/h)

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 Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in designated area hospitals. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-482-4404

Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

Ochsner

Mark/Monica Surprenant 504-895-5371

Uptown/Innercity

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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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

Pearl River

Gail Garay: 985-863-7562

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: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

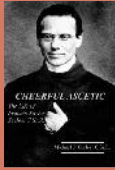
St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

☞ **Veneration of Bl. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** in St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

☞ **Weekly Mass** celebrated for Seelos benefactors. Please include Special Intentions in the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



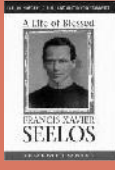
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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: \$58 - 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: \$13, incl. p/h)



A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$12 - 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: \$30 DVD / \$15 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: \$24 - 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).



2008 Annual Appeal - Statement of Intent

Yes, I am able to support the Seelos 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 specific need:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Visa Mastercard Discover

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Last 3 digits on signature line: _____

Signature: _____

THANK YOU!

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

A gift of \$1,000 will go directly to the renovation of the new Seelos Welcome Center. Our gift to you in return is the documentary on the life of Fr. Seelos.



68 min. DVD

68 min. VHS

(Please specify format preference)

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

A gift of \$50 will help defray the monthly operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-A-Message, which averages 3,000 calls a year.

A gift of \$12 will help defray the cost of printing & mailing this newsletter for one year.

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

Your gifts are tax deductible.

DID YOU KNOW?

"What can you say about a city that has been through so much, yet remains as vibrant and intriguing as any city in America?" asks writer Laura Claverie in the June issue of *New Orleans* magazine. The cover story provides a locals' guide to 97 "out-of-the-way favorites, some of the area's best kept secrets." Her list of treasures includes: "Pray for a miracle at the National Shrine of Blessed Seelos."

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

Seelos Center News

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TESTIMONIALS



NEW YORK, NY

Fr. Seelos has touched my family in a special way. My sister is a single mother with a 7-year-old son. She seemed to be having financial troubles and we did not suspect that her difficulties were as severe as they actually were until we learned of her heroin addiction and her decision to sign custody of her son over to our aunt and uncle. My family enrolled her into a treatment program, but she did not go. In a moment of complete desperation, I asked Fr. Seelos to intercede on my sister's behalf to be free of her drug addiction. Then, before going on a retreat, I wrote a prayer to Fr. Seelos. I lit the candle and placed the prayer under it. About a week later, I was informed that my sister began her treatment and got through the first three days, which are said to be the toughest. I continued to pray and asked for Fr. Seelos' intercession. She was faithful to the 4-week program, with only one slip up, and was later reunited with her son. She has passed her drug tests for a few months now and has found a job. What Fr. Seelos has done for my family will always be a bona fide miracle to me.

JEANERETTE, LA

One morning my husband had gone to work and I was alone. It was 4:30 or 5 a.m. & I was sitting in my recliner. I started to feel badly and thought I was dying. I carry a cloth of Fr. Seelos all the time and remember calling on him to help me. In my condition I saw a man over me who said, "don't be afraid." He put his hand on me and said that it wasn't my heart but acid reflux. He kept his hand on me for a while and then said I would be okay. I've never had an attack since that morning. For years, I've prayed to Fr. Seelos & have spread devotion to him. I don't like to go anywhere but I visit the Fr. Seelos shrine whenever I can.

BELLFLOWER, CA

What caught my attention about Fr. Seelos is his title of being "a tireless intercessor." This prompted me to introduce him to a friend who was very ill at the time, with weekly blood transfusions due to his proliferate bone marrow disorder. I gave a Seelos prayer to my friend & told him to ask for his intercession. To this day, it is over a month now, and he has not received blood transfusions. Next thing I know we were bound for New Orleans to the shrine of Blessed Fr. Seelos. The entire staff of warm & holy people could not be more accommodating & welcoming — from the very moment the mission cross of Blessed Seelos was handed to our friend and us to venerate. We experienced a strong presence of the Holy Spirit as Joyce and Christine Bourgeois showered heaven with prayers, begging the Lord to come and grant healing for our friend through Blessed Seelos' prayers. Patt Lemarie and Nick Punch were gracious enough to take us on a tour of the shrine; Bl. Seelos' presence in the reliquary is so beautiful, so serene — we were all on holy ground.

ORLAND PARK, IL

I watched a special on EWTN about Father Seelos. I immediately asked his intercession on my dad's behalf. My dad has colitis, and believe it or not, smoking helps to keep him from bleeding. My dad quit smoking after 40+ years, and of course, the bleeding started again, causing him much pain. I prayed to Fr. Seelos, not really knowing anything about him. I spoke to my dad today and he is feeling so much better. Thank you, Fr. Seelos!



Please visit www.seelos.org to view the new animated "Death, Where is Your Sting?"

THIBODAUX, LA

My grandson was diagnosed with staph infection. He had a very high fever & the antibiotics were not helping. After 5 days, his doctor sent him to Children's Hospital in New Orleans. Before he left, I took a relic of Bl. Seelos and placed it on the area of infection and prayed. The following morning, I called the Seelos Center for prayers & Mr. Jack Pitkin [Seelos hospital blesser] went to the hospital to give him a blessing. My grandson made a miraculous recovery the next morning. Thanks to God and Blessed Seelos for answering our prayers. He is still doing very well.

VACHERIE, LA

My grandfather needed open-heart surgery after a heart attack. The doctor informed my entire family that he was not well enough to get off the "heart pump." All I can remember of that day is holding my Fr. Seelos prayer card & cloth relic in my hand as his cardiologist came into the waiting room. She informed us that we should all continue to pray because there was nothing more that could be done for him. When she saw that we were praying to Fr. Seelos, she asked if she could take the relic to my grandfather. As described by one of the ICU nurses, the doctor placed the cloth relic over his heart. Overnight my grandfather was taken off the heart pump and was in ICU for 7 weeks. My family never stopped praying to Fr. Seelos. During that time, he would write on a piece of paper (he could not talk because of his trachea) for us to please just let him go and to take care of my grandmother. He always had the Fr. Seelos relic on his chest, and after a long road, he was taken off all machines and even heart medication! [Postscript: He lived 7 years after the surgery and enjoyed his great grandchildren until his death at age 85.]

Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$ _____ to be used for:

- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- the Seelos Scholarship Fund to support Redemptorist Seminarians.
- item(s) designated below: _____

my Mass Intention(s): _____

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.

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 address change request.

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CITY _____

STATE _____

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