

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

Volume XLVII Number 9 September 2008

www.seelos.org

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

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

United in Prayer

Fr. Seelos died of yellow fever in New Orleans on October 4, 1867 at 5:45 p.m. The Angelus bells of St. Mary's Assumption Church, where he ministered, chimed shortly thereafter. To commemorate his death, please join with Seelos devotees in all fifty states and beyond in a moment of prayer & solidarity ...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. (CST), you are invited to kneel & recite the Angelus for the Canonization Cause of Bl. Francis Seelos. If circumstances do not allow, please offer 3 Hail Mary's for this intention. *"If you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted by my Father in heaven"* (MT 18:19).

THE ANNUAL SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS

SUNDAY, October 5, 2008 - 1:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Assumption Church
(corner of Josephine & Constance streets)
New Orleans, LA

Homilist & Presider: Fr. Denis Sweeney, CSSR
former pastor of St. Mary's Church, Annapolis

FIFTH ANNUAL SEELOS GALA DINNER & AUCTION

Sunday, October 5, 2008 - 5:30 p.m.
Audubon Tea Room
6500 Magazine Street
New Orleans

Contact the Seelos Center 504-525-2495 or 2499
for Gala reservations by Tues, Sept. 29

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



A BUG'S LIFE

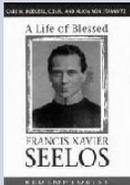
In June, visitors to the Seelos Shrine may have thought they were in the new Audubon Insectarium of New Orleans! The *Anobium punctatum*, commonly known as the furniture beetle, found lodging in the untreated timber below the Reliquary when it was crafted in Italy in the year 2000. After its typical 7-year larval development period, this immigrant bug emerged in a new land with an appetite for the Italian walnut that houses the metal casket containing the sacred remains of Blessed Francis Seelos. The experts were dispatched -- Gary Wehlen of E & G Pest Control, Claudia Riegel, Ph.D. of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite & Rodent Control Board, Research Entomologist Kenneth Brown, Ph.D., and Daniel Bourgeois of Mr. B Pest Control -- who determined the most effective solution to be an overnight tent fumigation. These professionals donated their extermination skills and services for the benefit of so many who pray before the Seelos Reliquary!

"Yes, bugs are the national plague of America," wrote Father Seelos to his sisters in Germany, "They seem to have set their sights on me most of all, and were there only a single one of them in the house, it would soon have to be looked for on me. My sensitivity to these insects is so great that my skin gets inflamed when they only creep over it. And really it requires a certain disdain for death and tremendous courage to go to bed." Obviously referring to bed-bugs, Seelos wrote this in 1858, while stationed in Cumberland. However, unbeknownst at the time, it was another bug, *Aedes aegypti*, commonly known as the yellow fever mosquito, that was the transmitter and ultimate cause of death that Seelos disdained.



"Only one glance at the cross, only one glance at the sorrowful Mother, must fill us anew with courage and comfort, even if our sufferings should be ever so great, provided we want to be true disciples of Jesus, the crucified, and true children of this holy Mother."

-Francis X. Seelos, September 21, 1853



BLOGGER REVIEWS SEELOS BIO

I was loaned a little book outlining the life of Blessed Francis Seelos. Especially readers in South Louisiana will recognize the name as the 19th century Bavarian priest who served approximately one year in New Orleans before succumbing to yellow fever. Many healings are attributed to him. He was beatified in 2000 by the previous Pope. I expected the book, *A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos* by authors Carl W. Hoegerl, CSsR & Alicia von Stamwitz (Liguori Press), to be a typical hagiographical account of a local holy man prepared for the benefit of his cause for canonization, [but] there is something very real and special about this particular vita.

After we sift through all the necessary ingredients, we see the man emerge. The real, human saint. He was a happy, playful person, known for his good sense of humor, effective & animated preaching, and intense concern for his fellow man. He was upset by injustice and sought to make it right. He failed to be shaken by rumors.... Seelos loved the church, and he was deeply grieved when souls were forced away from the Church & the Sacraments by the actions of rogue priests. Seelos gave the Church a human face, a Christ-like face, a shepherd's face. He did not stand as a stony brocade and lace draped authoritarian eager to exercise his ordination-given "right" to chide, to damn to hell. He was eager to hear confession and to grant absolution and show mercy. He did not find a gleeful enjoyment in casting a soul into hell and cutting him off from God. Christ did not do this. The authors include Seelos' scorn for such priests who find enjoyment in tormenting the faithful: "The priest who is rough with the people does injury to himself and to others. He sins, at least in ignorance ... and he scandalizes all who see him and hear him... Thousands reject the Church and the sacraments and perish in eternity solely because they have been badly treated by a priest."

A human saint for humans. A caretaker of souls. A shepherd. A little Christ. This is who is described for us here. Seelos came from humble beginnings and remained a humble priest serving others, pushing himself to physical exhaustion. He often even slept in his clothes, on the ready, should a sick call come in. Seelos wasn't looking for fame, not for glory, not for position. He strove to be holy.

Two thumbs up for this book. Pick up a copy at your local bookshop. On my next trip to the Crescent City, I plan to stop off at the Seelos sites. I know it will be worth the trip.

FOR COMPLETE REVIEW:

<http://christusvincit.blogspot.com/2008/07/book-review-excellent-biography-of.html>

A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, available on www.seelos.org or see page 3 of this newsletter.



New Seelos Welcome Center during summer interior demolition phase (photos, top & left)



Josh Collen & Michael Albrecht of Historic Restorations Inc., inspect construction on buildings surrounding the Shrine known as Redemptorist Apartments for low-income senior citizens.

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.
Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

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www.seelos.org
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Father Pablo Straub, C.Ss.R. of
Eternal Word Television Network visits the
Seelos Shrine in August 2008



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/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

Pearl River

Gail Garay: 985-863-7562

Ponchatoula/Hammond

Gasper 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

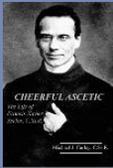
St. Bernard/Arabi

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:



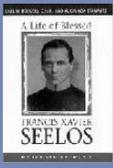
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



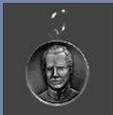
.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$58 - includes p/h).



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)



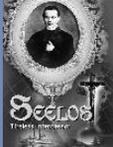
A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$12 - includes p/h)



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: \$29 DVD / \$17 VHS - incl. p/h)



Death, Where Is Your Sting?, a tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told 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)



Sincerely, Seelos, the 201 collected letters of Fr. Seelos. Hardbound, 512 pages, illustrated. (Donation: \$35 - incl. p/h)

☞ *A Seelos Vigil Candle* will burn near his sacred resting place in the Seelos Shrine, New Orleans, for an offering of \$4.

☞ *Seelos First, Second & Third-Class Relics / Seelos Pamphlets & Prayer Cards* available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.



SHRINE SPONSORS PARTICIPANTS TO EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Father Seelos' genuine love for the Eucharist would have made him a likely participant in the Eucharistic Congress -- had one existed in his day! The first was held in France in 1881, and many national & international congresses have occurred since then, including the 8th National Eucharistic Congress hosted by the city of New Orleans in 1938.

The 49th International Eucharistic Congress took place in Quebec City, Canada, in June. The Seelos Center sponsored **RICHARD BUCKLEY & ANGELA THAMES**, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinators at St. Alphonsus Rock Church in St. Louis, MO, and **ZACHARY RAWSON**, Youth Minister at St. Alphonsus Church in Minneapolis, MN (Photo below, L-R). For Richard, "the Congress was an awesome experience in that each day we had catechesis on the Eucharist given by a Cardinal or bishop, followed by a lay person's testimony about the importance & significance of the Eucharist in their lives, followed by Mass & time for Adoration." He was impressed by the testimonies from the Vietnamese & South Africans, the pilgrimage of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Quebec City, and the closing Mass at the Plains of Abraham in Old Quebec, and added, "I was amazed by the number of people who turned out for the event. It was overwhelming in showing that the Catholic faith is still alive and real." Zachary described the Congress, with its 13,000 participants from all over the world, as "amazing," and noted how "there was much said, and in turn, much taken in and internalized," to deepen his understanding and knowledge of the faith. Angela proclaimed exuberantly, "My heart sings louder and my love of the Lord has increased because of this journey. My challenge is to find more ways to open our youth up to be more participatory and appreciative of the our faith." Fr. Seelos could not have expressed his love for the faith any better!



"If, in a crowded school, the teacher wished to spread youthful joy, all they had to do was to say to the children: 'Father Seelos is coming!' If it was desired to fill a church to overflowing for a special sermon, all that was necessary was to get the word around: 'Father Seelos is going to preach today!'"

Scholarships at the National Seelos Shrine support students who demonstrate academic merit & financial need, and offer the same inspiration from Father Seelos that the students in his day received. Scholarships are awarded to 8th grade students of the New Orleans Archdiocese who are currently enrolled in non-parochial Catholic schools with the intent to continue their education at any Catholic high school located in the New Orleans Archdiocese.

The Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos Catholic 8th Grade Scholarship was **KEVIN BRANLEY** (Metairie) in the amount of \$2,000 to Brother Martin High School.

A Seelos High School Senior Scholarship is also awarded to 12th grade students of the New Orleans Archdiocese who are currently enrolled in Catholic schools with the intent to continue their education at any Catholic university in the country.

The 2008 Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos High School Senior Scholarship was **ALEXIS VIGIER** (River Ridge) of Archbishop Chapelle High School, Metairie (photo, bottom right).

If you wish to support the 8th Grade or 12th Grade Seelos Scholarships, please designate your intentions on the enclosed envelope.



CHEYENNE, WY

In 2007 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. An MRI showed a tumor in my breast the size of a ping-pong ball, and evidence that the invasive cells had gone into the lymph nodes of my armpit. I had met Bl. Seelos online in 2002. April 9, 2000 was not only my birthday, but also the Beatification date of this new holy friend – we hit it off immediately! So I began to petition my friend Bl. Seelos & asked my surgeon if I could wear a relic into surgery. Hours before surgery, another body scan confirmed the areas where cancer was present, & I could see the results of this scan with my own eyes. I got a little worried when I saw that the cancer was still in my breast and armpit, but I touched my 2nd class relic taped to my stomach and trusted in Bl. Seelos' intercession & Our Lord's mercy. The doctor was able to remove the entire tumor & the 5 lymph nodes that all tested benign! I know and believe that because of Bl. Seelos' intercession, I received a miracle from the Lord.

ALEXANDRIA, LA

We give thanks to God & Fr. Seelos for the many favors granted to our family over the years, especially our most recent. My husband was admitted to St. Luke's Hospital in Houston for LVAD, Left Ventricular Assist Device surgery – the heart pump as a bridge to transplant surgery. Prior to surgery I had touched his chest with the Fr. Seelos cloth and prayed. When the nurse came to roll my husband to surgery, I asked her to tape a Zip-lock bag containing a Sacred Heart medal, a crucifix, and a Fr. Seelos relic cloth to his bed. After a successful surgery and a speedy recovery, my husband and I are thankful to Fr. Seelos, God and the surgeon.

TESTIMONIALS

KENNER, LA

For the past 20 years of my life I've suffered from ridicule & missed out on a lot of the normal activities of young men, due to a severe weight problem. Because of this I became depressed and continued to overeat. I had several orthopaedic operations on my ankles and suffered a 75% loss of use of my left leg. Infections set in & my doctors were ready to cut my leg off. At the time I weighed nearly 700 lbs. I was near death and had reached the lowest point in my life. There were times when I even contemplated suicide. I found myself in church crying & asking the good Lord to give me a sign, which led to Gastric Bypass Surgery. I was on the operating table for 7 hrs. and I had two Fr. Seelos relics taped to my wrist. My father was a Seelos devotee and one of the most prominent memories of him was his love for God & his devotion to Fr. Seelos. The night before my operation I laid awake in the hospital and prayed myself to sleep. I asked my father & Fr. Seelos to intercede with God to help me through the operation, since all my doctors counseled me that there was a distinct possibility I could die on the operating table. In the 13 months since my operation, I have lost 302 lbs., and for the first time in 8 yrs., I don't have open sores on my leg. I truly feel that my life was saved because of Fr. Seelos' intervention, my family & friends, and most importantly, the good Lord. My life has meaning & purpose again.

The Seelos Museum is a member of the Louisiana Association of Museums (LAM), the state's official museum association that advocates, develops & promotes the advancement of the statewide museum industry.

DALLAS, TX

My husband and I were having some illnesses. I have prayed nightly to Bl. Seelos ever since I was introduced to him several years ago. I had 10% of my lung removed 5 years ago due to cancer. The oncologist noticed two suspicious spots on one of my CT scans that I take periodically. I was instructed to return in two months for another scan, at which time, the spots were smaller. Two months later, they disappeared. My pulmonologist identified them as nodules and was excited they were gone. After that, when I look at Fr. Seelos' picture on the prayer card, I get a feeling that he has spoken to God for me and for my husband's illness. So nightly I say the same prayer and I thank him for his intercession.

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

A 12-year-old boy had a tree limb fall on him that crushed the back of his skull causing severe injury. As I prepared to visit him, inspiration told me to bring along the 1st class relics of St. Gerard & Bl. Seelos. He was placed on life support, critical but stable. I asked the parents if I could bless him with the relics and ask the saints for their intercession in healing. We prayed together. That very night the ventilator was removed; the next day all IV's and other support were removed. The day after that he began to walk. The following day, he was transferred for physical/occupational therapy. Now he's fine at home, with no signs of paralysis. All this came about in one week. Only God's healing power through the saints' intercession can bring about such a rapid recovery of health. I wanted to tell you so that others may discover this saintly man, Bl. Seelos, & his ability to reach out with healing touch.

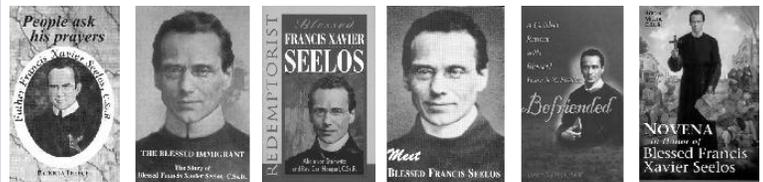
Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$_____ to be used for:

- 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.

ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FR. SELOS



ALL SIX ITEMS FOR ONLY \$13 (INCLUDES P/H)

- 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 or e-mail to bmiller@seelos.org Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your address change request.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____