

VOLUME 62

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

APRIL 2020

from the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Dear Friends of Fr. Seelos,

April is a time of the year for coming alive. The first day of Spring, declaring winter past, just occurred at the end of March and the flowers are in bloom. On April 9, we remember that in the year 2000, Fr. Seelos rose to new heights by being declared “Blessed Seelos”. And for the Christian world, we recognize that death could not have an eternal hold on Jesus; Easter Sunday is celebrated April 12.

We all can use a dose of new life and we can pray with those who need special intercession in the midst of terrible suffering. So many pilgrims come to the Shrine of Blessed Seelos because something is holding them bound – illness, discord, conflict. They know that the prayers for them from the Blessed are powerful and so they ask that Francis Seelos join them in their own prayers for new life. This is why, at the Shrine, we gather for a healing Mass in the Spring.



Many need new life that can come from being freed of suffering.

This year, we will once again fill St. Mary’s Assumption Church on April 19 for our special time of the Mass for healing. Mark your calendars now and make your plans to attend. God willing, we’ll see you there and join you in prayer for “new life” through the intercession of Francis Xavier Seelos.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.
Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

HEALING MASS

April 19, 2020



Come celebrate the Sacraments of Penance and Anointing with us.

Sunday, April 19
St. Mary’s Assumption
Confessions 12:00 pm
Mass 1:00 pm

We are pleased to welcome as our featured celebrant and homilist,

Fr. Donald Miniscalco, C.Ss.R. from

the National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia. Since 1980, Fr. Don has been devoted to conducting parish Missions around the world. In 2003, Pope John Paul II bestowed the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* honor on Fr. Don in recognition of his service in evangelism.



Please visit the Seelos Shrine during the Walk of Nine Churches on Good Friday, April 10! We open at 9 am.

Seelos: My European Years – Childhood through the eyes of Blessed Seelos

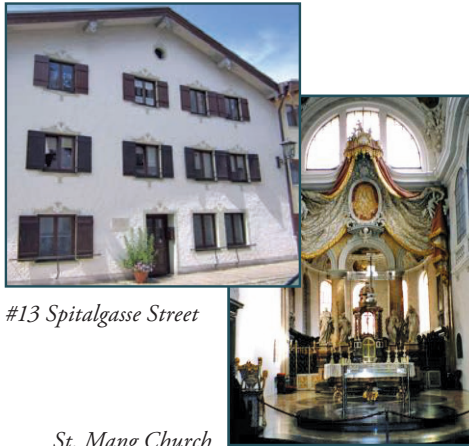
Seelos: My European Years, written by Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., is the story of Blessed Seelos' life told through his voice. Look for additional installments in future issues of this newsletter.



Füssen is a kind of fairytale town nestled near the Alps, in the shadow of King Ludwig's Hohenschwangau Castle. In my day, we were only about 90 households with 1,547 inhabitants and all but 20 were Catholic. The capital of Munich lay 60 miles northeast of our little town but we didn't go that far from home in those days. We were small-town people who greeted each other with the phrase "Gruz Gott!" It was a wonderful place to live among the gabled roofs, narrow streets and rolling hills that surrounded the town.

I was born at home, Number 13 Spitalgasse Street, on January 11, 1819, and immediately brought to church to be baptized that same day. I didn't know it at the time, but I would be granted 48 years of life. I was the sixth child born to the Seelos family. Elizabeth was first, then the twins who died within the first year of their lives, Josephine and Ambrose.

After me, there would be more children – Antonia, Frances, Ulrich who lived only a short time, and then Anna, Adam and Kunigunda. Twelve children were given to my parents; three entered the holy state of matrimony, three remained single and two became religious sisters. I, as you will find out, became a Redemptorist priest who missioned in America.



#13 Spitalgasse Street

St. Mang Church

My father, Mang Seelos, was a weaver and cloth maker by trade and my mother, Frances Schwarzenbach, was a holy *houfrau* who raised the children. I was rather sickly as a kid and gave my mother an extra challenge. If you listen to my brothers and sisters, I was also a bit

spoiled. Probably true. They noted that I liked to laugh, for which I sometimes got into trouble at school. I enjoyed my friends and liked to cut up a bit. One day for carnival when I was in grade school, I used my father's tail coat and hat to dress up as a clown for the festivities. When father saw me, I got into trouble for that.

Each day the family arose early and went to Mass, followed by breakfast and our other daily routines. Before each meal we prayed together, and after dinner in the evenings, the children took turns reading aloud about the saint of the day.

On one occasion, when it was my turn to read, I mispronounced the name of St. Polycarp as "Saint Polycrap". My brothers and sisters laughed wildly but my father corrected me sternly and I learned how important it was to pronounce the words I read correctly. His correction came in handily in my preaching later in life.

There's no doubt we were raised in "a very Catholic manner." But we thought that was the way every family lived.

To be continued...

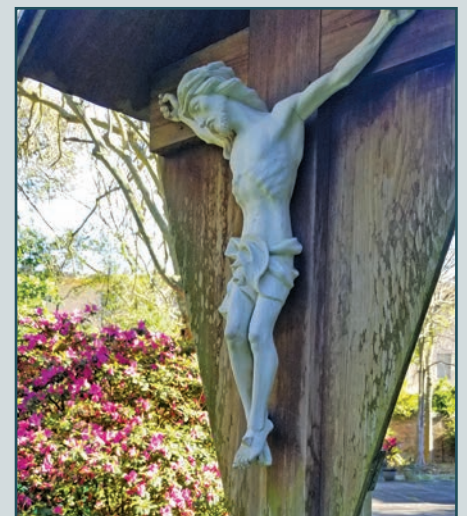
Musings on Spring at the Shrine from the desk of Fr. Enderle

Our newsletter goes out to many residing in colder climates. But we in the southern U.S., namely the state of Louisiana, are already having the comfort of warm days.

Our azaleas are in glorious bloom! Bursting with hot pink blossoms, these huge bushes adorn our "park" along with picnic tables, benches and greenery. Adjacent to the Shrine and Welcome Center, many pilgrims find the park a peaceful space to reflect and pray. Some come to pray at the very spot where Blessed Seelos died, which is marked with a large crucifix

and commemorative plaque. His death from Yellow Fever was in a previous building which was home to the local Redemptorist community in the 1860's.

I suppose I can honestly grant that I am hoping to "allure" you to come for a visit. We love the flow of hundreds of visitors who come week after week to pray, and be prayed with. For so many reasons they seek the help and intercession of Blessed Seelos. Some make a leisurely visit of a half day or more, to pray at Seelos' tomb, to tour our Center with its museum, and – at this time of year – to marvel at the azaleas in bloom.



This crucifix and accompanying plaque mark the exact spot Fr. Seelos is said to have died in 1867.

Blessings for the Sick

Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix



Requests for a blessing are available in the following areas. Only a family member may make the request.

EAST JEFFERSON

Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (KENNER)

Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)

Mark / Monica Surprenant (504) 895-5371
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Marie Giorlando (504) 568-0522

UPTOWN / INNERCITY

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK

Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213
Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515
Tori Winters (504) 237-2962

ABBEVILLE / ERATH / LAFAYETTE

Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

ALEXANDRIA

Deacon Bill / Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

BALDWIN / FRANKLIN

Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

BATON ROUGE

Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON

April Mayo (985) 892-1828
Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

DENHAM SPRINGS

Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

HOUMA / THIBODAU

Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096

IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

MANDEVILLE

David Brumfield (985) 234-9355
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 276-4445

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE

Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

OPELOUSAS

Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PONCHATOULA / HAMMOND

Gasper Corpora (225) 294-5938

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES

Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY

Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

SLIDELL

Billy Bachemin (985) 288-7006

ST. BERNARD / ARABI

Patricia Noote (504) 460-2340

KATY, TEXAS

Lauren Johnson (218) 851-1321
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

HONOLULU, HI

Blessed Seelos, thank you for all your blessings. After a breast lumpectomy and

then a Carcinoma found followed by a Mastodynia, I am cancer free. God is good.

RIVER RIDGE, LA

After my son suffered a massive heart attack and was rushed to the hospital, it was determined he had two blockages. His brain was without oxygen for 32 minutes so the doctors put him in an induced coma state. He was anointed by the Catholic Chaplin the next morning.

A few days later, while my son was still in a coma, he received a Blessing of the sick

with the Seelos Crucifix. When my son was brought out of the coma and became conscious, he received another blessing with a Seelos Crucifix. It was then that a total calmness came over him and the seizures he was experiencing stopped. The doctors were amazed to see the MRI revealed no damage done to the brain. Within three months, my son was back at work. This is a miracle.

LAPLACE, LA

My great granddaughter was born last February with a small hole in her heart. She was seeing a pediatric cardiologist at the one of the best hospitals in New Orleans. Her mother was told she would need surgery at six months of age.

When her mother was later told her daughter would receive surgery at three years of age instead of six months, she

decided to get another opinion. They went immediately to Children's Hospital where the baby was placed in ICU with congestive heart failure. The next day she had a six-hour surgery. I went to the hospital and applied some of Bl Seelos' oil on her and prayed to him. Her surgery was successful. She is now thriving and recently celebrated her one year birthday. Thank you, Blessed Seelos.

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Our grandson, Harrison, was born premature. He was visited by Judge Denis Walden with the relic cross before and after his birth. Now a healthy eight-year-old, Harrison visits Father Seelos often and loves to go to his shrine and talk to him. This year he made his First

Communion on March 28, 2020. I told him I had a rosary for him from the Pope that had been blessed. He told me, "But Cici, I really need to carry a Father Seelos rosary with me, since I pray to him and I am one of his miracles!" I thank Blessed Seelos for all he has helped us with.



Share Your Testimonial! Click, Mail or Visit

Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.

www.seelos.org ~ 919 Josephine St., New Orleans, LA 70130

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm & Saturday 10am-3:30pm



WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL TO THE BEAUTIFUL BAVARIA OF BLESSED SEELOS?

Contact us at seelosnola@gmail.com or (504) 525-2495 and let us know if you're interested. If there is enough interest, we will develop this idea further.



Visit Blessed Seelos' childhood home in Füssen, which still stands today.

The following itinerary is a sampling of what we might look forward to on this special trip:

1. We'd begin with an overview of the Bavarian capital city of **Munich**, enjoy a glass of beer or coffee in the world-famous **Marieplatz** central square, and stop for a visit to the university where young Seelos studied.

Next, we'd venture to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Altötting**, where the Redemptorist community lived at the time Seelos joined the Congregation and awaited the paperwork needed to emigrate to the United States.

2. From Munich, we would proceed to **Füssen** to see Seelos' childhood home and the Church of St. Mang where he attended

Mass and school in his early days and where his father served as the sexton. Füssen is near **Neuschwanstein Castle**, the inspiration for the castle in Disney World. This is a must-see location we would visit.

3. Then, we'd travel to **Augsburg** and **St. Stephen's Abbey**, where Seelos continued his education. We would visit the **Augsburger Kammgarnspinnerei**, a former worsted spinning mill-turned-museum displaying the development of spinning, weaving and printing on fabrics. Finally, we'd stop at **Hohenschwangau Castle** and take the **Tegelberg Cable Car** up 2,125 meters for a beautiful view of the Ammer Mountains before returning to Munich for shopping and our flight home.

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



LIGHT A CANDLE: A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$3.



REQUEST A RELIC: 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each.



SHOP ONLINE: Many items in the Gift Shop are available for purchase at www.seelos.org. Visit today!

VISIT SELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER

DONATION & CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

I would like to support the Seelos cause by donating \$_____ to be used for:

- The ministry and maintenance of the Shrine
- My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$12)
- Other items: _____

Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____

A Friendly Reminder

Newsletter Renewal Donation



If you would like to continue to receive "Seelos Center News" and have not submitted your yearly renewal, please fill out the form to the left and mail it with a \$12 donation in the enclosed envelope. Your contribution is tax deductible and helps to defray the cost of printing.

If you would like to remove or change an address, please fill out and mail the form to the left or call (504) 525-2495.

Please allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.

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