



VOLUME 64

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JUNE 2020

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

Dear Friends of Fr. Seelos,

During the stay-at-home orders these past weeks because of COVID-19, we were not able to welcome our many pilgrims to the Shrine. We have, however, answered many phone calls requesting prayer, prayed with pilgrims over the phone, and lit candles for them. Fortunately, our saint is not limited by having to “stay home.” He has continued to walk with those who pray for his intercession. We have re-opened the Shrine and Welcome Center at limited capacity, according to the guidelines of the civil and ecclesiastical authorities. It has been good to welcome back our pilgrims and pray with them through the intercession of Blessed Seelos.

During the time of the stay-at-home orders, I had the opportunity to continue my own reading about our great Blessed and I am appreciative for that. One of those books was “Seventy-five Years of Service” by Fr. Byron Krieger, C.Ss.R. It recounted a history of the years 1848-1923 of the local parish here in New Orleans where Father Seelos served. I also read Fr., Blaine Burkey, O.F.M.Cap’s book “Seelos: The Cumberland Years” which was most helpful as I continue to write my own account (in the first person) of the life of Fr. Seelos for our Newsletter each month. Finally, I re-read “Death, Where is Your Sting?” edited by Fr. Byron Miller concerning the history of the Yellow Fever during the days of Fr. Seelos. It was a good context for the pandemic that we were experiencing in our own time.

Even though as Director at the Shrine I spend most of my days so close to Fr. Seelos, there are always things to learn. Blessed Seelos is, indeed, worthy of study. He has brought about so many wonderful things for those who invoke his intercession. As we get into the summer, perhaps you might consider reading one of the biographies of Blessed Seelos. The more we get to know him, the more we come not only to admire but also love him.



Blessings and prayers to all of you,

Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

*Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

## IN CELEBRATION OF FATHERS



Here at the Seelos Shrine, we are reminded often of the importance of fathers. Of course Blessed Seelos comes to mind immediately, not only as “Father Seelos” the Redemptorist priest, but also as a father figure to many during his lifetime who needed fatherly guidance and love – everyone from his parish congregations and seminary pupils to mission attendees and the homeless on the street. Father Seelos’ relentless giving spirit has endeared himself to the hearts of many during his lifetime, and continues to do so today.

Blessed Seelos also recognized the value of fatherhood within his own father, Mang Seelos. Young Francis looked up to his dad and loved him deeply. One can only imagine how proud Mang was of his son, who sacrificed everything he knew to dedicate his life to spiritually guiding others. On the occasion of Father’s Day on June 21, may we take a moment to reflect on the father figures in our lives, including our beloved Father Seelos.

## Seelos: My European Years, Part 3 – Setting out on my own

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.



Being 13 years old is a tough time for a young man. And so it was for me. All the kids were giving serious attention to what our future life would look like and the steps we had to take to get where we wanted to go. We were excited about growing into adulthood but we weren't there yet. Setting forth into something so new at the end of my grade school years that would entail cutting the apron strings was hard. Still, we had to move on to the next part of our lives and so I left for St. Stephen's in Augsburg. There were several boys from Füssen going to the same school, including two of my cousins.



St. Stephen's, Augsburg

The city of Augsburg was more than a bit overwhelming to me. It was 15 times larger than my home town, 90 miles north of Füssen. Only half the population was Catholic. The city was known as the place where the Lutheran Augsburg Confession

was formulated, the first organized profession of the Protestant faith. The entire environment seemed so different and, in reality, frightened me more than a bit. I was heartsick to leave the warmth of my family home and town for a student rooming house.

The *Stephansplatz*, where St. Stephen's formed three sides of the quadrangle, had only existed for four years as an independent school before I entered, but it already had 600 students registered. The school offered an eight-year course of study but I entered during the second year of the Latin School, so this became my home for seven years. We studied Latin, Greek, German, religion, history and geography and were expected to attend daily Mass and on Sunday, vespers in the afternoon. My first semester consisted of 22 hours of class – 12 of Latin, 4 of German, and 2 hours each of geography, arithmetic and religion every week. I also took a class in French. In spite of being very busy, I did well in my grades. All my years of study continued the intense curriculum but I was able to manage.

Music still stirred my soul. I got better on the violin and enthusiastically played the instrument at Mass until one Sunday, when I continued playing after the song was complete, I was told I was no longer needed as an accompanist. I loved to sing also, so much so that my friend had

to ask me not to sing so loudly at church.

Each year after the intensity of my studies, I delighted in returning home for vacation. This was a time for hiking through the beautiful valleys and mountains. I hiked into the *Tyrol* and on one occasion all the way to Switzerland. Sometimes my father hiked with me. On one occasion, we walked 150 miles to Einsiedeln Abbey in Switzerland! Whether in study or on vacation, my heart was always filled with joy. What a blessing! Others seemed to sense this and enjoyed my company, which further delighted me.

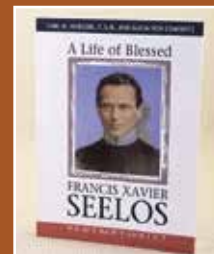
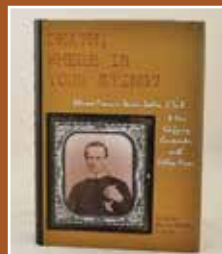
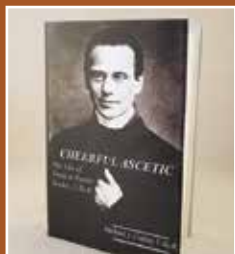
During my years at St. Stephen's, I thought more and more about becoming a priest. I envisioned becoming a cleric in my home diocese, with my sisters living in the household as cook and housekeeper (a practice common in those days).

On August 26, 1839, I won the approval of the examiners of St. Stephen's which qualified me for education at university. I was 22 years old at the time. University was expensive and my family had no extra cash. I would have to win a scholarship. A petition for this was drawn up and signed by the mayor of Füssen and other officials and sent to the provincial council. By the grace of God, the petition was approved, paving the way for me to move on to higher education. I was on my way to the Royal Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich.

*To be continued...*

## Learn about the life of Blessed Seelos through these suggested readings

These books and more are available in the Shrine Gift Shop and in our online store at [www.seelos.org/gift-shop](http://www.seelos.org/gift-shop).



## 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.

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

#### EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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 / ORLEANS PARISH

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

### WESTBANK

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

### LOUISIANA

#### 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

#### IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 2554-8451

#### LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

#### LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

David Fauchaux (504) 908-4120

#### MANDEVILLE

David Brumfield (985) 234-9355  
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 276-4445  
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

#### 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 Nootte (504) 460-2340

### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

#### KATY, TEXAS

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

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### NEW ORLEANS, LA

In 2015 I had a terrible accident. I fell and shattered my hip and broke my leg in three places. Surgery was successful but I was told I may not walk again. I have been a follower of Blessed Seelos for nearly sixty years. I said many prayers to him throughout my ordeal. Three days after surgery I was taken to get new x-rays to see if things were healing. Imagine my surprise as the cast and bottom layer of bandage was removed and there was a perfect cross on my bandage. The nurse

told me, "You have a cross on your hip." I was absolutely amazed. That was my sign of hope and I told the doctor I would walk again. After 3 months of therapy I took my first step and never looked back. I was healed.

Thanks to Blessed Seelos, I can still get around and share his word. In Jesus' name I thank you Blessed Seelos and pray for your canonization. Amen.

### COVINGTON, LA

Some years back, my wife suffered trauma to her spinal cord. I was informed that she would be a quadriplegic, if she lived at all. Her caregivers and I began working with her extensively, blessing her with Seelos holy water and oil and praying for his help. She improved and when she became mobile, we began attending Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church and visiting the Shrine. Today, she functions normally and even has

a part-time job! But the miracles don't end there. Recently, my daughter had grave complications with her pregnancy and I was confronted with an intense personal matter, each with potentially life changing consequences. On both occasions I visited the Shrine for a brief prayer. Each time upon leaving, I was not 2 blocks away when I was informed of positive outcomes. My family and I could not be more grateful to Blessed Seelos.

### KINDER, LA

A few months back, I had a growth on my face and my mom gave me a bottle of Seelos holy oil. One night I applied the oil to this growth. The next morning I was shocked to see the bump had significantly gone down. I continued putting it on my face every night and praying before I went to bed. Each morning the growth got smaller. I really could not believe it. The week I started

with the holy oil, I went on a retreat. The final night of the retreat I was in our bathroom and something that looked like a long string came out the spot on my face. The growth was gone. My face was smooth like nothing had even been there! My family and I were in complete awe! I have never in my life had anything like this happen. The intercession of Blessed Seelos has brought me a marvelous gift.



### Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

[www.seelos.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor](http://www.seelos.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor)

## SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

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



# CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

[www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)

Learn about Seelos' life through his Biography & Timeline  
Volunteer ~ Donate ~ Book a Tour ~ Light a Candle ~ Request a Mass  
Submit a Petition or Story of Healing ~ Shop Online & More!



## FATHER'S DAY GIFT SHOP SALE

These beautiful mementos make great gifts for fathers. Call (504) 525-2495 to place your order for delivery!



**PERPETUAL MASS LEAGUE – \$20**  
**1 YEAR MASS REMEMBRANCE – \$10**

*Honor the special father figures in your life during weekly Masses at the Seelos Shrine in perpetuity with our Perpetual Mass League enrollment, or for one year with our 1 Year Mass Remembrance.*



**HEMATITE RELIC ROSARY – \$50**

*Handsome Italian-made rosary with a double-sided medallion featuring a 2nd class relic of Blessed Seelos.*

## SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



**LIGHT A CANDLE:** A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$2-\$3. Please visit [seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle](http://seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle).



**REQUEST A RELIC:** 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2 each.



**SHOP ONLINE:** Many items in the Gift Shop are available for purchase at [seelos.org/gift-shop](http://seelos.org/gift-shop). Visit today!

**VISIT SEELOS.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 visit [seelos.org/donate](http://seelos.org/donate) or 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 defray the cost of printing and mailing.

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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