



VOLUME 66

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

AUGUST 2020

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

Dear Friends of Fr. Seelos,

On August 15th we celebrate a major feast of Mary – The Assumption. It is appropriate that we say a few words about this beautiful day in the Seelos Newsletter, both because Blessed Seelos was personally dedicated to Mary and asked to be buried beneath her statue in the parish church, and because he served so actively in the Parish of St. Mary’s Assumption in New Orleans.

The Assumption honors the Mother of the Lord. After her death, she was taken body and soul into heaven. While all other human beings undergo the corruption of the body after death until the day of our resurrection, Mary was uniquely gifted with incorruptibility, even in death, because of her great dignity in having given birth to the Savior. The Lord did not allow the ordinary corruption of the body to be visited upon his all-holy mother.

In the feast of the Assumption, we celebrate not only the gift of Mary’s Assumption but also our own Christian dignity. We profess in the creeds that we believe in the resurrection of the body. The honor bestowed upon Mary in her Assumption is also our inheritance but we will have to wait until the day of judgment for this reality. On the last day, our bodies will be glorified and we will live heavenly existence in our bodies as we knew life on earth – but in a glorified way.

As we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, may we all be gifted with a great faith and imitate Mary by living in our bodies here on earth as true children of God. Glorious Mother of God, pray for us in our life journeys.



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

ST. MARY’S ASSUMPTION CHURCH



The parish church of St. Mary’s Assumption was built in the mid 19th century to accommodate the growing German Catholic immigrant population in the Lower Garden District (The Irish Channel) of New Orleans. St Mary’s was declared a National Historic Landmark due to its rare and elaborate German Baroque Revival architecture. Fr Seelos served as prefect of the church parish for a brief time before he succumbed to yellow fever in 1867 and was buried in the church below the statue of Mary.



All are invited to attend Mass at St. Mary’s, featuring special prayers to Blessed Seelos, on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. Safety precautions will be enforced. Please see seelos.org for guidelines.

Seelos: My European Years, Part 5 – Saying Goodbye & Sailing to America

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



My family was delighted with my decision to enter the seminary. As was the custom in Bavaria, my sisters started thinking about living with me in the rectory after ordination as cook and housekeeper. I hadn't yet told them that I didn't plan on staying in Bavaria. When they found this out, they would be disappointed.

As I began my second year of theological study, I returned home for what I knew would be my final visit. It was a heartrending experience for me because I would soon be leaving my family and never return to Füssen. It was only after I was accepted into the Redemptorists that I told the family the news of my leaving Bavaria. I had previously spoken to my father about becoming a missionary, so he knew of my decision. But to spare the others additional pain we did not speak of this with them, in particular my dear mother. When I left, the embraces of the family were truly heartfelt. My father sent me forth with his finger pointing upward, meaning that the next time we would see each other would be in heaven.

I received a reply about joining the Redemptorists in America on November 22, 1842, the feast day of St. Cecilia. Fr. Alexander, the superior of the Redemptorists in America, wrote, "The

undersigned superior of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in the United States declares that the theologian, Mr. Francis Xavier Seelos, beloved in the Lord, has been received among the members of this Congregation and for this purpose has been summoned to Baltimore." I was delighted and the feast of St. Cecilia became ever afterward memorable to me.

Having been accepted into the Redemptorists, I returned to Augsburg on December 9, 1842 where I lived in the rectory of Fr. Heim while I prepared for the journey. I needed a passport and dismissorial letters from the Augsburg Diocese so I could eventually be ordained overseas. I got my passport in 1842 and was described as being "6 feet tall, slim, hair and eyes of brown, nose thick, mouth large, chin rounded." I was 24 years old.

After taking care of the legalities of travel, I moved on to the Redemptorist house in Altötting, near Munich, until I could make final arrangements for travel to Baltimore. In the 1840's approximately a million and a half immigrants arrived



© Wallfahrts – Altötting Church

in the United States, mostly German or Irish. Since a high percentage were Catholic, the Church in the United States was strained. The need of German speaking priests was monumental and I felt I could serve the faithful in this new environment and dedicate my life to their care. The faith served the immigrants as an anchor in a strange, new world.

Three men joined me at Altötting who were also entering the Redemptorist Congregation in America. We would be sailing on the ship *St. Nicholas* out of Le Havre, France, on March 17, the feast of St. Patrick. The ship carried 141 passengers and took five weeks to cross the Atlantic.



The St Nicholas

When I stepped off the ship onto solid land, I knew I had left behind what had been of my European experience but I still did not yet know what lay ahead for me in America. I was, however, confident that this was what God wanted me to do and I praised Him with the groaning of a heart that would miss my past but was also filled with anticipation for all that was still to come.

To be continued...



Interested in traveling to Bavaria with us?

Those who have read past issues of our newsletter know that we were hoping to gather a pilgrimage to the Bavaria of Seelos. Several people had expressed interest but then came coronavirus. We would still like to go when things are back to normal. The Oberammergau Passion Play was also postponed and we plan to add the rescheduled play to our itinerary, since it is in the neighborhood of Seelos' homeland.

If you would like to learn more about this trip, email info@seelos.org or call (504) 525-2495.

Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix
(Only family members may request)*



JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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

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Billy Bachemin (985) 288-7006

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Patricia Nootte (504) 460-2340

OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

KATY, TEXAS

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

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

QUEENS VILLAGE, NY

Four years ago, I asked Father Seelos to pray with us and our daughter for a job opportunity in her career field and to be healed from her migraines. Oh, my

lovely God did cure her and give her a good job. Thanks to you, God, and to you, Father Seelos, for praying with us. THANKS, THANKS and THANKS.

METAIRIE, LA

Back in December 2019, I made a visit and prayed with a prayer partner at the Seelos Shrine for my daughter who suffers with anxiety and suicidal depression. She and her 17-year-old son were having some serious issues. One day her son called me to come pick him up because his mom was out of control. Later, when his mother came to get him, we had an altercation and things got really ugly.

should be committed to avoid any more suicide threats. That was going to be the hardest thing to do – have my baby girl committed to a mental health unit. Contemplating how I would get my daughter to agree to this, I prayed the whole way home for guidance.

I knew Blessed Seelos is powerful, so I made a visit to the Shrine and Fr. Gil blessed me with the relic cross. Many prayers were lifted for my daughter and our family. We prayed for her and my grandson, who was also having issues with his mom. I knew my daughter

Within 6 hours of my visit to the Shrine, I received a call from my oldest daughter that my troubled daughter had called 911 to commit herself. She got the help she needed. She's doing much better now and so is her son. They have made a lot of progress and are getting along fine. I continue to pray for her with Blessed Seelos.

VILLE PLATTE, LA

My 26-year-old godson survived a very dangerous neck surgery to remove a tumor. He lost a large portion of the vagus nerve. We asked Fr. Seelos to join our prayers for him. Now, 3 weeks later,

he is slowly getting his voice back and finally passed the swallow test so that his feeding tube could be removed. Blessed Seelos, thank you for his recovery.



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

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

www.seelos.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see seelos.org for visiting guidelines.



The Assumption Novena

Mary, Queen Assumed into Heaven,
I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift my heart with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity. Teach me how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make me realize that death is the triumphant gate through which I shall pass to your Son, and that someday my body shall rejoin my soul in the unending bliss of heaven.

From this earth, over which I tread as a pilgrim, I look to you for help. I ask for this favor: *(Mention your request).*

When my hour of death has come, lead me safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity together with you. Amen.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ IN-STORE & ONLINE



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH WATERCOLOR PRINT – \$18

5x7 frame-ready and matted watercolor print of St. Mary's Assumption Church by New Orleans artist Marina Reed.
Other watercolors available feature St. Mary's Chapel and St. Alphonsus Church.



ST. MARY'S WATERCOLOR MINIATURE – \$25

Miniature canvas by Marina Reed, wrapped and ready for giving



ST. MARY'S WALL PLAQUE – \$55

Ceramic plaque made by New Orleans French Quarter artist Amanda Sierra



OMPH PEARL BRACELET – \$18

Made by New Orleans artist Heidi Groat with a large silver Miraculous Medal and blue accents



"THE CHANTS OF MARY" CD – \$20

24 Gregorian chants of love and devotion to Mary, mother of God

Prices listed above **include** shipping / handling. Prices online and in the Welcome Center Gift Shop may vary.

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.



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. 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 Offering



If you would like to continue to receive "Seelos Center News" and have not submitted your yearly renewal, please visit seelos.org/donate or fill out the form to the left and mail it with a \$12 offering 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.

SEELOS CENTER NEWS (USPS 4472) is published monthly by the Redemptorists at the National Shrine of F. X. Seelos.

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