



VOLUME 65

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JULY 2020

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

Dear Friends of Fr. Seelos,

I can't think of July without remembering the great holiday of American Independence Day on the 4th. While I realize that not all of our readers are citizens of the United States, most are, and the 4th of July is worthy of celebration for us all as an important date in history. Even Blessed Seelos would have appreciated the holiday and probably would have delighted in the fireworks displays of today. He chose to become a citizen of the United States and officially became a naturalized citizen on October 6, 1852.

Most often, citizens consider their "homeland" as the place of their birth; however, immigrants like Seelos could also choose a new homeland after living in a different nation. Back in the 1800's, not unlike our own times, some citizens considered themselves the only true citizens, even though most of them were descendants of earlier immigrants. To the Nativists, the latter immigrants were foreigners, often characterized as invaders. This prejudice often became violent and it was particularly directed toward Catholics in the 1800's since so many of the new immigrants were of the faith. Accounts of the Nativists' atrocities are multiple, including the burning of churches.

Wikipedia defines patriotism as the "feeling of love, devotion and sense of attachment to a homeland and alliance with other citizens who share the same sentiment." It can't be limited to any particular group. The 4th of July celebrates all Americans and is a worthy holiday and, in fact, a healthy patriotism is virtuous. May the land of the free and the home of the brave be celebrated by us all, along with Blessed Seelos, fellow citizen of the United States.



Blessings and prayers to all of you,

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

WE ARE OPEN!

The Shrine is open on a limited basis, with visitor and staff guidelines.



After a closure of several weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shrine and Welcome Center are now open on a limited basis, with guidelines in place to keep our visitors and staff safe. To see the guidelines and current hours of operation, please visit www.seelos.org.



If you're unable to visit the Shrine in person, check out our new website at www.seelos.org for plenty of information about Blessed Seelos and opportunities for sharing, praying and supporting the Shrine. God bless, and stay safe!

Seelos: My European Years, Part 4 – Hi-ho, hi-ho, off to university I go!

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.



The year was 1839 when I entered my next phase of study in Munich at the Royal Ludwig Maximilian University. The university had a long history, dating back to 1472. There were five schools – theology, philosophy, law, medicine and political economy. I began in the school of philosophy and roomed on the fourth floor of an apartment house at 20 Karlsplatz. I donned the colorful outfit of a university philosophy student, complete with spurs and a bright red cap, and joined the student activity group where I learned the arts of dancing and fencing – skills that were expected of a young gentleman of Bavaria.



Seelos' university apartment house, 20 Karlsplatz

On one occasion I recall returning to Füssen at vacation time, dressed in my uniform. My mother exclaimed: "What's the matter with you? I do not know you anymore." I told her that I was now a philosophy student at the university and

this was what we wore. That was not to be for her. She said I was still the same old Xavier that she raised and I should take off the uniform for simpler clothing.



The University of Munich, circa 1800s

I was uncertain about my vocation when I entered university, and the thought of priesthood weighed on my mind. After two years I completed my studies in philosophy and continued in the school of theology, not as a seminarian but as a regular student. The theology curriculum entailed three years of intense study with 30 hours of class each week. I did well in my studies, but never forgot to laugh and sing and play my violin. However, all was not smooth sailing.

In February of my third year of studies in Munich, I fell down with, of all things, smallpox. It hit me hard. The symptoms were all present – fever, fatigue, sweating and chills, headache, weakness in my legs and arms. Eventually, I had to be carried to the hospital for a two-week stay. In my fever hallucinations, I felt visited by my family members, one after another, which was a consolation for me. Naturally, I fell behind in my studies. Eventually I recovered and diligently pushed myself to catch up with my school work.

After I completed the first year of the study of theology, I changed direction in my life. I finally settled into the decision long in coming – to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

I applied to the Redemptorists in North America for acceptance as a clerical student into the Congregation in 1842, but mail across the Atlantic was very slow. Two of my Augsburg classmates, Max Leimgruber and Thaddeus Anwander, already joined the Redemptorist novitiate in Switzerland to prepare for ministry in the United States. Two diocesan priests I knew from Augsburg, Albert Schaeffler and Joseph Mueller, had also entered the formation program of the Redemptorists. Local Catholic papers gave a great amount of space to relating stories about the work of German emigrant priests doing marvelous ministry overseas. All these things made an impression on me.

As the beginning of my second year in the theology school approached, I knew I wanted to be ordained a priest and live as a Redemptorist in the United States. Still, I had not yet received a reply to my application, so I entered St. Jerome's in Dillingen as a seminarian for the Diocese of Augsburg. I would not long be a student there. Shortly after arriving at Dillingen, word arrived from America that the Redemptorists would accept me as a candidate to join them in the ministry in North America.

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. Nine 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

OCHSNER (KENNER)

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

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Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

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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

METAIRIE, LA

In 2002 my youngest son was 5 and diagnosed with end stage renal disease. He was immediately put on dialysis and was very ill. A friend had the Seelos relic brought to the hospital to bless him.

The next day a school teacher offered to donate a kidney to my son. I feel Fr. Seelos was instrumental in my son getting that kidney. He is now 23 and attending graduate school.

DALLAS, TX

Not all answers to prayer come as we might at first desire; there is not always a healing or miraculous cure.

people of her diagnosis and preferred to live without thinking about it.

My mother was a devout Catholic with a particular devotion to Fr. Seelos ever since attending Mass at St. Mary's Church with her grandfather when she was a child. She had purchased several bricks for the Seelos Meditation Garden, and she carried a holy card with his relic regularly. She prayed fervently.

In early August of 2019, nearly 8 years after being diagnosed, my mother began suffering from tremendous pain in her bones and began to suffer mentally. The cancer had metastasized to the spinal fluid and she succumbed on November 5th in Dallas. Her family and friends were able to visit from New Orleans and she had an endless stream of local friends to console her.

My mother passed away from metastatic breast cancer in November shortly after her 62nd birthday. A peaceful death surrounded by family and friends might be considered just as true of a blessing through the intercession of Blessed Seelos as a sudden cure. She had been diagnosed with stage IV breast cancer back in 2012, with a five year survival rate of less than 20%. She told few

Surviving an illness is not the only form of God's compassion. Many die alone and suffer long. We believe we were truly blessed to have been given the time to have those she loved beside her in her suffering. I pray many can find some form of God's blessings no matter what their circumstances may be. We have.



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-Friday 10am-2pm



Prayer to St. Michael

“Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.”



HOT IN THE SHOP ~ IN-STORE & ONLINE



NEW! ST. MICHAEL SILVER PRAYER BOX – \$31

Beautiful round silver prayer / rosary box handmade by New Orleans artist and the Seelos Shrine's own Heidi Groat. Features a St. Michael medal, the patron saint of soldiers.



“THE CHANTS OF ANGELS” CD – \$20

18-track audio CD featuring soul-stirring Gregorian Chants



DECADE SEELOS ROSARY – \$33.50

Handmade single-decade rosary featuring a Seelos medal and gold crucifix (assorted bead colors)



ORNATE HOLY OIL ROLLER BALL BOTTLE – \$24.50

Glass roller ball bottle with holy oil, an ornate plaque and Seelos image



HOLY OIL ROLLER BALL BOTTLE – \$10.50

Glass roller ball bottle with holy oil, featuring an image of Seelos

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 Donation



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 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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