



We give
Thanks to God

VOLUME 69

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2020

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

Dear Devotees of Fr. Seelos,

On the first day of November we ended Daylight Saving Time. From now until Christmas, the change in our clocks will mean more darkness. At Christmastide, we celebrate the fact that the Son of God entered our world, and with him, ever increasing light. The light will begin to increase daily after Christmas again. Darkness will not be victorious and we are thankful for God's great goodness to us.

November is, indeed, a month to give thanks. We bring to our minds so many blessings that evoke in our hearts our appreciation of God's care for us. Mass on Thanksgiving Day has always been my favorite liturgy to pray in the parishes I have served. It's not a holy day of obligation, the worshipers are present just because they are thankful. It is good to pray together and give thanks.

At the Shrine, there are many people who deserve our thanks for their efforts to make this a place of prayer and peace. We thank our staff and volunteers who believe in the goodness of Blessed Seelos and his powerful intercession. Together we try to imitate his virtue, making the Shrine holy by our care.

There's another group who calls forth our gratitude – those who contribute through financial donations. Donations are our only source of income and we would not be here without the generosity of so many dedicated devotees of Blessed Seelos. Thank you, especially, in this time of the pandemic. Like many others, we have been pressed financially. Pilgrims to the Shrine have dramatically decreased because of the restrictions associated with the virus and, so too, have donations. Thanks for your ongoing generosity. We are grateful.

This November, let us call to mind the many blessings we have in this life and the promise of everlasting life to come. Thanks to all who have blessed our ministry with your devotion and for your continuing dedication.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

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

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER



Dear Lord,

Today we give thanks for our many blessings as we pray for those in need.

We give thanks for our family and friends as we pray for those who are lonely.

We give thanks for our freedoms as we pray for those who are oppressed.

We give thanks for our good health as we pray for those who are ill.

We give thanks for our comfort and prosperity as we share our blessings with others.

With thanks and praise, may the love of God enfold us, the peace of God dwell within us and the joy of God uplift us.

Amen.

★ To learn how you can
volunteer from home or at
the Shrine, call (504) 525-2495. ★

Seelos: Part 8 – Learning how to be a priest and guide a parish

This book, 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.



When I was 32 years old, there was a change of administration at St. Philomena's. I was appointed pastor of the parish and rector of the community. One of my first concerns was to establish a place for our orphaned German children. We presented these children for adoption from the pulpit at Sunday Masses and worthy families often took them into their homes, but more was needed, especially for the littlest ones. We established our orphanage in 1851 and by the grace of God, the marvelous School Sisters of Notre Dame took charge of the orphanage. What a blessing!

Part of a pastor's job is raising the necessary funds to keep the parish going. We needed a new organ chamber, new gutters and some renovations on the interior of the church. All of this cost money! I found this entailed much effort and sweat, and the money didn't seem to flow unless one did a lot of complaining and constantly made a big noise. This wasn't in my nature and I didn't like doing it, but it was necessary.

I officially became a citizen of the United States during my time in Pittsburgh. In those days, an immigrant could apply for citizenship after he or she lived in the United States for five years, had no record of civil offense and renounced allegiance to the country from which he

or she emigrated. I met the qualifications and on October 6, 1852, I received my naturalization papers.

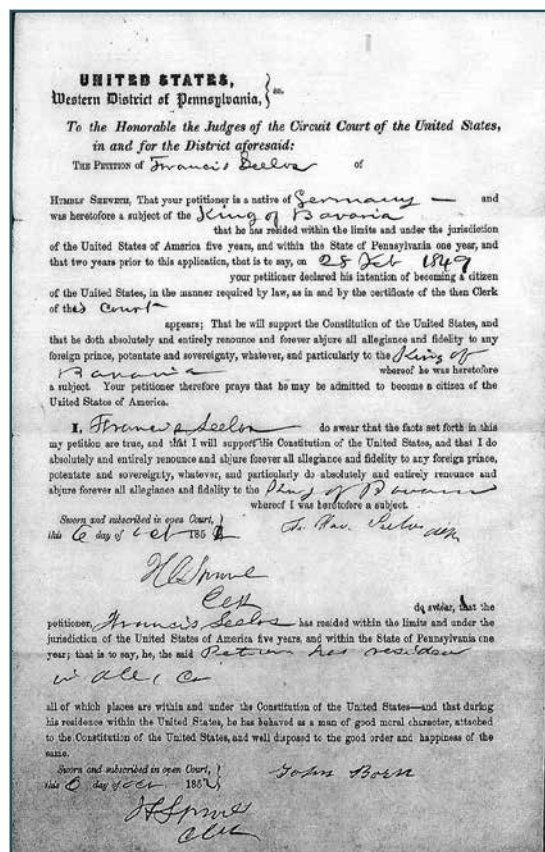
During my days in Pittsburgh, two members of my family died back in Bavaria. My sister Kunigunda, who was only 20 years old, fell from the hayloft and died almost instantly. Then, my father, Mang, died September 11, 1853. I didn't learn of these deaths for some time because of the slow mail delivery between Europe and the United States. Strangely, however, I dreamed of my father very near the day of his death. He was uncommonly handsome in my dream.

In Pittsburgh, there were plenty of opportunities to practice virtue and pray for people who were sick. I often found I could do with less in the face of those who had not enough. Once, I gave my boots to a poor man who had tattered shoes and another time I gave my mittens to a washer woman on a cold day. God often blessed the sick with recovery when I prayed with them. I praised God for his mercy but felt worried because people seemed to think that the cures came from my hands. I knew their healing was always a gift from God.

Pittsburgh will always hold a special place in my heart. Though I stayed at St. James in Baltimore for a bit of time after my ordination to the priesthood, I consider St. Philomena's as my first long-time assignment. I served there from 1845 until 1854.

During those years, I was Assistant Pastor, Novice Master, and eventually Pastor of the Parish and Rector of the Community. It was in Pittsburgh that I learned how to be a priest and how to be the superior of the community. I was young and filled with zeal. One time, I recall that Neumann chided me that we have to leave God, the Lord, something to do! I hold dear the men with whom I was stationed and the good souls of the parishioners. I would take the experiences of Pittsburgh into all my future assignments.

To be continued...



Seelos' citizenship petition, c.1849-1852, courtesy fold3.com



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.

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

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

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK

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Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515
Tori Winters (504) 237-2962

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ALEXANDRIA

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Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON

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Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

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Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056

IOTA

Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAKE CHARLES

Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA

David Fauchaux (504) 908-4120

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Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 276-4445
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

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OPELOUSAS

Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PONCHATOULA / HAMMOND

Gasper Corpora (225) 294-5938

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES

Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

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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

PHILIPPINES

In August 2020, my grandparents fell ill with fever, cough and breathing difficulty. We feared it was coronavirus. Both being elderly and Grandma having diabetes and heart disease, we knew it was imperative to get them admitted to a hospital ASAP. However, due to circumstances in the Philippines, it was more than two weeks before they could be admitted. We began praying to Blessed Seelos, holding a first class relic daily. They were admitted to the hospital and placed in

the ICU unit. This is when we witnessed Blessed Seelos intercede powerfully on their behalf. My Grandma, who was in greater danger than my Grandpa, began recovering more quickly. In fact, she left the hospital sooner than Grandpa. Both are now home and recovered from both pneumonia and coronavirus a month later. Thank you, Blessed Seelos, for your prayers and healing hands which you laid upon them. Blessed be God.

NEW ROADS, LA

My son had prostate surgery for cancer. He went into surgery with a medal of Blessed Seelos taped to his hand. The surgery was so successful he did not have

to have chemo. It has been 5 years since the operation and he is doing fine. He prays to Blessed Seelos every day and thanks God each day for his recovery.

RESERVE, LA

My wife was born with a dislocated hip. After each of our children were born, the pain got progressively worse. She started going to the Healing Masses at the Seelos Shrine and praying for the intercession of Father Seelos for healing so she would not have to have a hip replacement. A couple of months after she started this, she asked me one day if her back was sunburned because it felt like it was burning. I said no. Her cousin's wife, who worked in a doctor's office, told her it might be a pinched nerve and that she should get it checked. She went to the doctor and had an x-ray done. When we got home, there

was a message on the machine for her to call the doctor immediately. Her top vertebrae was broken in half long ways, and she needed to see a neurosurgeon right away. The neurosurgeon said it was a miracle that she was walking and that if she had not found out about the broken vertebrae, she would have soon started to have paralysis. Thank the Lord that she had surgery and has been fine for over a decade now. I think the intercession of Father Seelos powerfully helped her by healing what she really needed healed. Praise Jesus!!



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.



Feast of St. Cecilia November 22

St. Cecilia held a special place in Blessed Seelos' heart, as it was on her feast day that he received word of his acceptance into the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

O glorious St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr, you won the martyr's crown without renouncing your love for Jesus, the delight of your soul. We ask that you help us to be faithful in our love for Jesus, that, in the communion of the saints, we may praise Him twice in our song of rejoicing for the Blood that He shed which gave us the grace to accomplish His will on earth.

Amen.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

Visit Seelos.org to view all of the items available for sale in the Gift Shop.



WOODEN BOX NATIVITY – \$16

3" x 2" x 3" wooden box with 1" statues of the Holy Family, a donkey and a cow.



ORNATE HOLY WATER BOTTLE – \$40

Made by Heidi Groat with pearls, gold leafing and Swarovski crystals.



ST. JOSEPH AND CHILD PLAQUE – \$16

4" x 6" 3D image of St. Joseph cradling baby Jesus.



"ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WISDOM" – \$19

Reflect on the Pope's teachings, accompanied by Scripture, prayer and action.



"LITTLE LAMB FINDS CHRISTMAS" – \$19

Lemi, the lamb who always gets lost, makes his way to the Bethlehem stable on Christmas Eve.



"A CHRISTMAS NOVENA" – \$7

Meant to be prayed the 9 days preceding Christmas, but can be prayed any time during Advent.

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 \$3-\$4. 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: _____

ATTENTION

Newsletter Renewal Information



We are in the process of updating our newsletter subscription list. If you have not yet done so, **to ensure that you continue to receive this newsletter in the mail for another year** please fill out the form to the left and mail it with a \$12 offering (to defray the cost of printing and mailing) in the enclosed envelope.

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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