

Celebrate!

VOLUME 71

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JANUARY 2021

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

Happy Birthday Blessed Seelos

JANUARY 11, 1819

To honor the birth of Francis Xavier Seelos, we are excited to announce our “birthday gift” giving campaign. When you make an offering of one of the levels below, in addition to continuing the vital mission of Blessed Seelos, you will receive small tokens of our appreciation and heartfelt thanks from everyone at the Shrine.

HOLY BEGINNINGS ~ \$18.19

In celebration of the year of Blessed Seelos’ birth, 1819.

A candle will be lit and prayers will be said for your intentions at the Shrine, you will be enrolled in the annual Seelos Mass League, and a third class relic crucifix will be sent to you.

TIMELESS GRACE ~ \$202

In recognition of Fr. Seelos’ age if he were alive today, 202.

Two candles will be lit and prayers will be said for your intentions at the Shrine, you will be enrolled in the annual Seelos Mass League, and a Seelos rosary and lapel pin will be sent to you.

DEVOUT SERVICE ~ \$1,844

In commemoration of the year Fr. Seelos was ordained a priest, 1844.

A candle will be lit each week for a year and prayers will be said for your intentions at the Shrine, you will be enrolled in the Seelos Perpetual Mass League, and a Seelos redwood rosary will be sent to you.

To make your offering, please return the form on the back of this newsletter along with your donation, or visit www.SEELOS.org/birthday-giving. Thank you!

IT’S A NEW YEAR!

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

January ushers in a new year filled with the promise of good things. This year we have bigger hopes for 2021 after the ravages of Mother Nature and the scourge of coronavirus. Many of us will make a New Year’s resolution or two to help us grow into the persons we want to be. Happy New Year to one and all from the Seelos Shrine and Welcome Center!!!

For us at the Shrine and for all devotees throughout the world, January reminds us of another blessing, the birthday of Blessed Seelos this month. We thank him for his ministry in the United States in the 1800’s and for his powerful intercession in our needs today. Happy birthday, Fr. Seelos, and thank you for your care for us even to this day.

Blessings in the new year,

Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

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

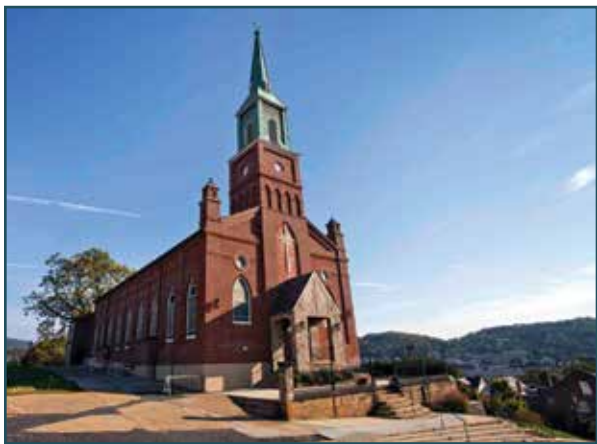
Seelos: Part 10 – Life experience is a great teacher!

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.



In 1857 I was transferred to Cumberland, Maryland to take the place of the Director of our professed students. It was felt that a change was badly needed; I packed my bags and headed into a new assignment 140 miles west of Baltimore.

The city of Cumberland was nestled in the Allegheny mountains and known as the gateway to the West. There were six thousand inhabitants and the city served as a transportation hub for the B&O Railroad and for barge traffic on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. It was predominately a Protestant town where the Redemptorists in 1849 had established a permanent community after serving the German Catholic immigrants in the area



The Shrine of Ss. Peter and Paul, Cumberland (photo courtesy catholicreview.org)

for some time out of Baltimore. When I arrived in Cumberland, the Redemptorist community had three priests, eight brothers and forty-two students preparing for ordination.

My life grew into a regular routine of formation and parish ministry. One of the things that was unpleasant during my Cumberland years was the startling news I heard, by way of rumor, that the Bishop of Pittsburgh, Michael O'Connor, had submitted his resignation to Rome for health reasons and had recommended *me* as the first name on his list of those he thought should succeed him as bishop. I panicked. I wrote to everyone I could begging them to pray that this not become a reality. I even wrote to the Holy Father telling him I would not be a good choice.

Luckily, the Pope had sent a Cardinal to speak with our Superior General in Rome about my qualifications. The Superior General reported that I would not be a good choice because I was not a good manager of temporal affairs and that the American and Irish clergy would not like to have a German named bishop in Pittsburgh. When I found out that another had been chosen, I was greatly relieved and threw a party with the students that lasted a whole day to celebrate the fact.

The students and I got along quite well. They were very open to formation and diligently

applied themselves to the task. We also knew how to enjoy excursions into the countryside together. I found that such informal times were very productive for their formation and I myself enjoyed these trips. There were, indeed, formal lectures about religious life. I also still taught some of the theology classes and occasionally I had to give a correction or two, but formation, in my opinion, went beyond this. Life experience is a great teacher!

The city of Cumberland was located very near to Virginia, a state that made up part of the Confederate States during the Civil War. In the furor of war, nerves were often frayed. One time, our students were playing some sport or another on the hillside. A young man of the town saw the students and mistook them for confederate soldiers. He ran to town shouting that enemy troops were seen at Saints Peter and Paul. At gunpoint, the students were rounded up. Luckily, after allowing the locals to go through the house to guarantee that we were not enemy agents storing weapons of war, all ended peacefully.

After I lived five years in Cumberland, the student formation program for professed members of the Congregation was moved to Annapolis, Maryland. As formation director, I went along with the students. I wrote to my sister back home that Annapolis was too nice for me and that the move was easy for me.

To be continued...

Excerpt from a letter written by Blessed Seelos to his sister, Antonia, from Cumberland, 1862:

Dear Sister, I must tell you about a few strange things in America. We not only have a sewing machine and a washing machine, but also a machine with which the brothers peel potatoes. I almost always have to laugh when I see it; it goes so fast. In the rooms we usually use tallow candles, but in the refectory, in the corridors, and in the church we use gas for lighting. The windows are made in such a way that they stay put when they are opened and you can close them again without difficulty. The lamps are made in such a way that you don't have to push up the candle as it burns, which often is quite difficult, but you press and push the lamp together and more of the candle comes up. On the trains, there is water in the cars, where everyone can get a drink, and in summer it is even cooled with ice. And there are toilets in the cars, all enclosed.

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

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CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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Mary Grace Orsag (504) 367-7515
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Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

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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

Three months ago, I had requested a prayer of healing for my daughter who received an abnormal reading from a test done of her reproductive system. The

same test was conducted a month later and the results were normal. Thank you, Father Seelos.

LAFAYETTE, LA

Fourteen years ago, I had thyroid cancer. After my first surgery, I was told I would need another surgery to get the rest of the cancer. I went to MD Anderson Cancer Center for surgery where they had to remove the nerve to my right vocal cord as well as a modified neck dissection to the right and left side of my neck. I should not have a voice and should have

had additional surgeries. Through the intercession of Blessed Seelos, I have been cancer free for fourteen years and I have a normal voice. At my most recent visit to MD Anderson, I was told I would no longer need to come back. Thank you Blessed Seelos for your intercession. I am healed! I am cancer free!

WENTZVILLE, MO

Last year I could not afford to have my vehicle repaired. I prayed to Bl. Seelos for assistance in finding the funds I needed. That night I woke about 2:00 in the morning with my answer and it turned out perfectly. Several months ago, my sister was in danger of losing access to her lifesaving medication. I prayed to Bl.

Seelos for guidance and within 24 hours my sister had access to her medication. This past summer I needed to sell my vehicle. I prayed to Bl. Seelos for the right person to come along. Within 12 hours my vehicle was sold to a woman for whom it was perfect. Thank you Bl. Seelos for granting my requests.

ANONYMOUS

Both my husband and I have recently had COVID-19. We were able to stay at home and take care of ourselves with the help of our adult children running errands for us. I prayed every day to Bl. Seelos for his protection and assistance and offered our

sufferings for conversion of so many away from the Catholic Church. Often during the day, I would feel his presence in our home. I would like to publicly thank Bl. Seelos and encourage others to also ask his intercession in their time of need.



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.

LOTS IN THE SHOP! ~ ALL THINGS BLESSED SEELOS

*Visit Seelos.org to view additional items available for sale in the Gift Shop.**



HOLY BIBLE – \$134

Hand-decorated heirloom bible adorned with a beautiful Seelos medal, antiqued brass filigree, Swarovski crystals & pearls



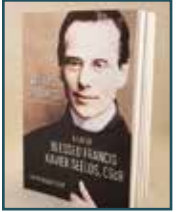
MINIATURE WATERCOLOR – \$25

Print on canvas of Blessed Seelos by New Orleans artist Marina Reed



BLACK WOOD BRACELET – \$18

Expandable bracelet with gold accents featuring images of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Seelos



“WITH ALL GENTLENESS” – \$24

A comprehensive biography of Blessed Seelos that provides an overview of the holiness he achieved through his ministry



RELIC HEMATITE ROSARY – \$55

Rosary with hematite beads, a medallion with a relic of Bl. Seelos & Our Mother of Perpetual Help medals



8½” STATUE – \$36 each

Devotional statue of Blessed Seelos with your choice of color, wood or bronze finish



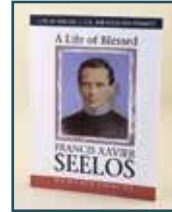
“TIRELESS INTERCESSOR” DVD – \$23

Documentary chronicling the heroic and miraculous life of Blessed Seelos



PRAYER PAMPHLET COLLECTION – \$18

8 pamphlets featuring prayers & novenas to Bl. Seelos along with info about his life and ministry



“A LIFE OF BLESSED SEELOS” – \$13

A short biography of Blessed Seelos written at the time of his beatification

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

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



REQUEST A RELIC: 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for a small offering.



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

Birthday Gift to Seelos: \$18.19 \$202.00 \$1,844.00 Other \$_____

Your Special Intentions: _____

My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$12)

Make checks payable to “National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos”

Please remove change my name and/or address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS FINAL NOTICE

In February we will be removing inactive subscribers from our mail list. **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 are unable to make an offering but would still like to receive the newsletter, please call (504) 525-2495.

If you would like to remove or change an address, please fill out and mail the form to the left.

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

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