



VOLUME 73

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MARCH 2021

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

In the Apostles' Creed, often used at Sunday Mass, there's a phrase that states that we believe in "the communion of saints." I often mention this phrase at funerals because the root of the belief is that we are not disconnected from those who have gone before us into eternal life. This belief is also the reason why we at the Shrine pray that Blessed Seelos adds to our prayers by his intercession.



"We are not disconnected from those who have gone before us into eternal life."

This month there are three big feast days to celebrate – St. Clement Hofbauer (March 15), St. Patrick (March 17), and St. Joseph (March 19). We celebrate St. Clement Hofbauer, one of the patron saints of Vienna, because he was the Redemptorist who brought the Order from Italy over the Alps, and it was from this group of Redemptorists that our early missionaries came to the United States in 1832 to serve the German-speaking immigrants. St Patrick is important not only for those who have Irish ancestry, but also because the Shrine of Blessed Seelos is located in the Irish Channel in New Orleans. The annual St. Patrick's Day parade begins here with a Mass at St. Mary's. St. Joseph is honored not only for his special place in the Holy Family but also with the traditional St. Joseph's Altar, a long standing Italian celebration.

Celebrating our holy ancestors is a good thing, not only those who have been canonized or beatified but also our own family members who are still concerned about us and our salvation. We invoke the saints just as we might ask the person next to us in the pew to join us in our prayer for special needs. And we need all the help we can get.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED



I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

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

Seelos: Part 10 – Life as a parish mission preacher

This series, 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.



I had served in six parishes up to this point in my life and, during that time, had many occasions to preach parish missions and retreats. I knew well the power of this ministry from experience, so when I was assigned full-time to preach, I was pleased. I wrote to my sister Antonia back home:

“Last summer, our fathers gave missions in the State of Iowa (pronounced eiwaa) along the Mississippi River. The fathers had much to suffer, principally the terrible heat and the tiny churches which were full to suffocation. And then these settlements were of mixed nationality, made up of some who could only understand English and of others who only understood German, so that all sermons and instructions had to be given twice, which, together with hearing many confessions, even into the depths of the night, is extremely tiring and exhausting. But our loving God seems to want such exertions from the missionaries to bless their labors all the more. For this reason, the fruits of these missions were very exceptional. Not only Catholics were completely renewed, but also many of the Protestants were converted.”

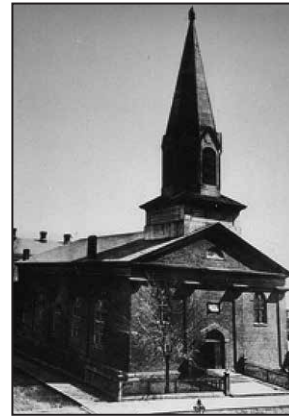
The parish missions were made up of a course of sermons and spiritual exercises for the purpose of renewing and strengthening the spiritual life of the faithful and for the

conversion of lapsed Catholics. Normally, the mission in a particular parish lasted one or two weeks. I did not often assign myself to deliver “the great sermon” in the evening because my English was not as fluid as that of the other missionaries with me. I spent my time hearing confessions and leading the spiritual exercises during the day. I preached missions in Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

The esteem of the local pastors for the Redemptorist missionaries continued to grow in these years, so much so that in the year 1865, the provincial declared that he could not accept twenty-five mission requests because his missionaries were all booked. I was able to devote myself to this work for a couple years and was often amazed at how God blessed the efforts we missionaries made. In the letter to my sister, I commented,

“But it is self-evident that the effects of the mission are not due to us, but to the blessings that comes from above. This becomes more and more evident when you consider that I and my companions were just about exhausted from six months of hard work,

... even our minds were gone. Even with the greatest effort, we could hardly get out a few words and had lost our appetite for food. Still, the less we could do, the more did our loving God and his dear Mother Mary do.”



St. Mary's, Detroit

After a couple years of preaching missions, I went to St. Mary's Parish in Detroit, Michigan, for a short assignment there. I was delighted by that assignment because, for the first time in a long time, I could be simply a parish priest without authority. My time in Detroit, however, was so short. In August of 1866, I was sent to New Orleans, Louisiana.

To be continued...

“I love the work of the missions more than anything else. It is properly the work in the vineyard of the Lord.”

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos: My Story

The series about the life of Blessed Seelos featured in issues of this newsletter will be produced in a book written by Fr. Rich Boever and published by Liguori Publications.

It will be available for purchase in September 2022. If you would like to be alerted when the book becomes available, please 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

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

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Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

JACKSON, MI

I am 83 years old and have prayed to Bl. Seelos over the years and have had many favorable outcomes. Pains went away, injuries healed and I am very grateful to Bl. Seelos. Today I was finally able to keep

an appointment and it seems my possible melanoma of the toe is blood under the nail. Over the years I have rubbed my Bl. Seelos relic on problem areas and I feel like I have received many small miracles.

UNKNOWN

Cece was diagnosed at 5 weeks old with a stroke to the left hemisphere. Shortly thereafter my sister-in-law called to see if we wanted to join her friend with her own child in prayers for intercession with Blessed Seelos' cross. We continued to go to healing masses and blessings. As Cece grew up she was and still is very fond of Blessed Seelos and understands the peace and strength she has received through his powerful intercession.

Cece turned 21 on Jan 14, 2021. Over her 21 years she has endured epilepsy, left hemispherectomy for intractable

epilepsy, DVTs to both legs x 4, and in 2018, pulmonary embolisms to both lungs. Despite this, she has been on the honor role, played high school varsity tennis, and went to state. She is now attending Spring Hill College and majoring in Elementary Ed. She has been seizure free and is overcome with God's graces and our belief in Blessed Seelos' powerful intercession. She is a strong beautiful young woman who enjoys reading, exercise, hiking, swimming and shopping. But most of all, she is faith-filled with the acceptance of God's will and His love.

CINCINNATI, OH

For the past year, I have been praying for healing of my mother-in-law's stage 4 breast cancer through the intercession of

Blessed Seelos. Last week we learned her scans have come back clear. It is a miracle and we are so grateful to God!



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.

History of the St. Joseph Altar

from virtualstjosephaltar.com and neworleans.com

The St. Joseph Altar began in Sicily during a terrible famine. The people pleaded to him for relief and the famine ended. In thanks, they prepared a table with foods they had harvested. The descendants of Sicilian immigrants carry on this tradition today in private homes, churches, Italian restaurants, and public spaces, particularly in New Orleans.

St. Joseph altars, representing the Holy Trinity, are divided into three sections with a statue of St. Joseph at the head. Candles, figurines, flowers, medals and meatless foods adorn the altar, creating a beautiful, lush effect. On March 19, St. Joseph's Day, the altar is broken up and food and donations are distributed to the poor. Visitors are given small bags containing blessed items like a "lucky" fava bean, a holy card, cookies and small breads. Some believe that the pantry that contains a fava bean will never be bare. It serves as a reminder of God's provisions through the intercession of St. Joseph.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ SAINTS BE PRAISED!

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



ST. JOSEPH STATUE / CARD SET & LARGE PRAYER CARD

STATUE / SMALL
CARD SET \$13.50
LARGE CARD \$3

2.5" tall full color
resin statue & small paper prayer card; large
paper prayer card.



ST. PATRICK TOKEN, CARD & IRISH CHARM BRACELET

PRAYER TOKEN \$3
PRAYER CARD \$3
BRACELET \$14.50

Enamel double-sided
token; beaded stretch bracelet & charms;
large paper prayer card.



LENTEN PAMPHLET SET \$13.50

Set includes "What
is the Triduum?";
"These 40 Days";
"Meditations for
Lent"; "Lent for
Busy Catholics" and
"Quick Recipes for
Meat-Free Fridays".



"EASTER BUNNY'S AMAZING DAY" \$23

Hardcover children's
book. Learn about
Jesus' friendship and
comfort through the
eyes of a timid bunny who experiences the
love and joy Jesus brings.

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

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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: _____

Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

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