



VOLUME 75

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

MAY 2021

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

There's an old saying that promises "April showers bring May flowers." I suppose the saying is truer in some places according to the temperatures of those months in a specific area, but we don't have to limit ourselves to thinking of it as a weather forecast. Perhaps the phrase could be applied to "the weather" of our lives. There are, after all, seasons of life that are as changeable as April showers and May flowers.

Blessed Seelos wrote to the people who sought his advice in their suffering. When we feel miserable – in times of our April showers – our troubles can overwhelm us and sometimes even seem to defeat us. He muses on the cross in a letter to his sisters:



"To be faithful in our crosses and sufferings, wherever they may come from, to see them as coming from Divine Providence, and to say: This is good for me – May God be thanked!"

He suggests that the manner in which we accept our crosses makes all the difference. He explains that when the Lord spoke about the cross we must bear, the yoke can be sweet and the burden light. Then he explains, however, that this is true only by the manner in which we accept our sufferings. If we fight against the cross God sends, our shoulders will become raw because it rubs us the wrong way in our resistance, but if we lovingly accept our cross, the fit is perfectly suited to our shoulder by the providence of God. He says it is not our cross in itself that can be sweet but the manner in which we receive it. Then it is only the way in which we act in such moments that the cross is either sweetening or embittering to us.

We don't hear such reflections much in our world today. We immediately seek to be relieved of every suffering. If I have a headache, I'll take an aspirin. It is, of course good to seek relief from our pains, but they also have the possibility to be something more – the rains that call forth the flowers.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

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

DURING THE MONTH OF MAY MARY PRAY FOR US



Stained glass window in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans

Seelos: Part 12 – A faithful servant till the end

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.



As my time in New Orleans continued, the horrors of yellow fever ravaged the parishes. We were never reticent about going to the homes of the sick to administer the sacraments and to bring them what consolation we could. In those days, we thought the fever was transmitted by contact, not understanding that it was the result of a sting from a certain mosquito which was plentiful in the city. In 1867, the fever was also present in our Redemptorist community. Because some of the confreres who became afflicted had to remove themselves from the regular

rotation of pastoral activity, those who were still healthy had added responsibility to bring the balm of the church to the homes of the parishioners. On some days, the men were so busy that they did not even see each other, though we lived in the same rectory.

On September 17, I myself contracted the fever. Eventually, the rector ordered me to bed. I would not arise from that sickness. Normally, after nine days the fever abates. Unfortunately, my fever did not pass. I grew weaker and weaker and eventually received the Last Rites. The confreres were continually at my bedside praying for me. They surprised me with their affection, often crying as they saw my struggles. The newspaper even began to give an account of my progress, or lack thereof.

I went through all the horrors of the disease and was embarrassed by not being able to care for myself. I knew I would die. I told the community how blessed it was to die in the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. I urged them all to value their religious vocation. I apologized to them for my shortcomings and inadequacies.

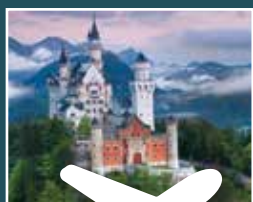
Finally, on Friday, October 4, at 5:50 pm, I passed from this life to everlasting life. I was laid out that evening and all night in the church and buried the next day beneath the statue of Our Mother of Sorrows, which I had blessed while I was so active in the parish.

I completed my life's journey and was pleased to have offered myself to the loving Redeemer and his dear Mother.

*O day surely singular in all of earthly life;
You alone still the holy yearning of pure souls;
You give courage to say an eternal farewell to the world,
When God has given an invitation for a beautiful sacrifice;
Immediately to stay only in the peaceful house of God,
And to strive only for the exalted virtue of the angels.*

*O eternally sweet day of joy!
Day of jubilation desired by the soul:
On you alone is my gaze always fixed,
On you alone is found all my joy.*

– Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.



★ ALPINE EUROPEAN PILGRIMAGE ★

Join Fr. Rich on a journey through Bavaria, Austria and Switzerland: Heidelberg, Rhine Valley, Lucerne, Füssen, Salzburg, Altötting, Marktl am Inn, Munich, Augsburg, Rothenburg. We'll also attend the Passion Play of Oberammergau. *Deposits are due by July 31, 2021—space is limited.*

11 DAYS: SEPTEMBER 6 – 16, 2022 ~ \$4,349 per person from New York
To learn more or to reserve your space, visit SEELOS.org/alpine-pilgrimage.

Blessings for the Sick

Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix

(Only family members may request)

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Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

NEW ORLEANS, LA

I prayed to Blessed Seelos for my two friends that had high-risk pregnancies to have safe deliveries and healthy babies.

My prayer was answered. Praise God and thank you Blessed Seelos. He is truly an amazing intercessor!

MARLBOROUGH, CT

I am a faithful follower of Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos for over 10 years now since hearing about a miracle of a woman in Baltimore that was cured of her cancer. I was instantly compelled to learn all I could about this beautiful soul. I have developed a strong spiritual connection with him and pray to him often.

chest. It has been one week post-op and my physical therapists are astounded at how fast I am healing. They are running out of exercises to do with me and joke that I may stop coming. My legs feel so strong and my hip swelling is almost back to normal. I am so happy and owe this amazingly quick recovery to my Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, my heavenly Angels, the Blessed Mother and my Lord Jesus Christ.

I recently had hip replacement surgery and taped Bl. Seelos' 3rd class relic to my

KENNER, LA

My 14-year-old grandson was in a sports accident. The doctor said it was a torn labrum in his shoulder and there was a 99% chance he would require surgery. Healing and rehabilitation would take approximately 5 months. Special x-rays and an MRI were performed. I have been praying to Blessed Seelos for healing and

no surgery. We received good news! The doctor informed us that he did not have a torn labrum. My grandson was in the 1% that he sees once a year that would require therapy, but no surgery. Thank you Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos for your healing intercession. My prayers were answered. Thanks be 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.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ GIFTS FOR MOTHERS & FATHERS

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



ROSARY & LAPEL PIN GIFT SET – \$16

Set features a rosary of iridescent blue or clear beads and an OMPH medal with a matching pin.



DECADE ROSARY – \$34 LARGE BEADS & CRUCIFIX \$22 SMALL BEADS & CRUCIFIX

Handmade with Swarovski crystals and a Miraculous Medal or Seelos medal.



RELIGIOUS DECAL STICKERS – \$13

Set of four 2”- 3” weatherproof, waterproof and dishwasher safe decals.



“MOST IMPORTANT PERSON” PRAYER CARD – \$3

A beautiful reminder of how valuable mothers are to us and to the world.



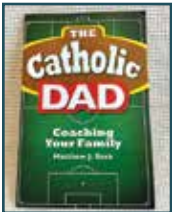
“A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS” PRAYER CARD – \$3

For mothers young and old, those separated from children, and those who have passed.



“FATHERS’ MANUAL” BOOKLET – \$8.50

96-page booklet to help fathers and fathers-to-be grow in their relationship with God.



“THE CATHOLIC DAD: COACHING YOUR FAMILY” PAMPHLET – \$3

Supports fathers as they share their faith with their children.



“HUSBAND FATHER WORKER” BOOK – \$17

130-page paperback featuring questions and answers about St. Joseph.



“AND GOD SAID, ‘PLAY BALL!’” BOOK – \$18

Amusing and thought-provoking parallels between the Bible and baseball.

Quantities are limited. 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. 2nd Class Relics are also available upon request and are complimentary.



SHOP ONLINE: Items in the Gift Shop are available at SEELOS.org/gift-shop.

VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER

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The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. is a member of the National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate.

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: _____

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

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

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