



VOLUME 81

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

NOVEMBER 2021

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

We were finally able to come together October 10 for the Seelos Healing Mass. It was wonderful to gather on this sunny day with so many who have devotion to our beloved Blessed. Our scheduled celebrant had to wait so long for the opportunity to preach that by the time we felt it safe to gather for a Healing Mass, the beginning of senility set in for him and I had to step up to the plate. During Mass we remembered all of your intentions in our prayers. May you be blessed and may Blessed Seelos soon be canonized.

In November, we also remember all our loved ones who have passed on to eternal life. All Souls Day, November 2, is known in some cultures as “The Day of the Dead” where some prayers take on special ceremony. But for all of us, it reminds us to pray for our beloved dead that they may rest in peace.

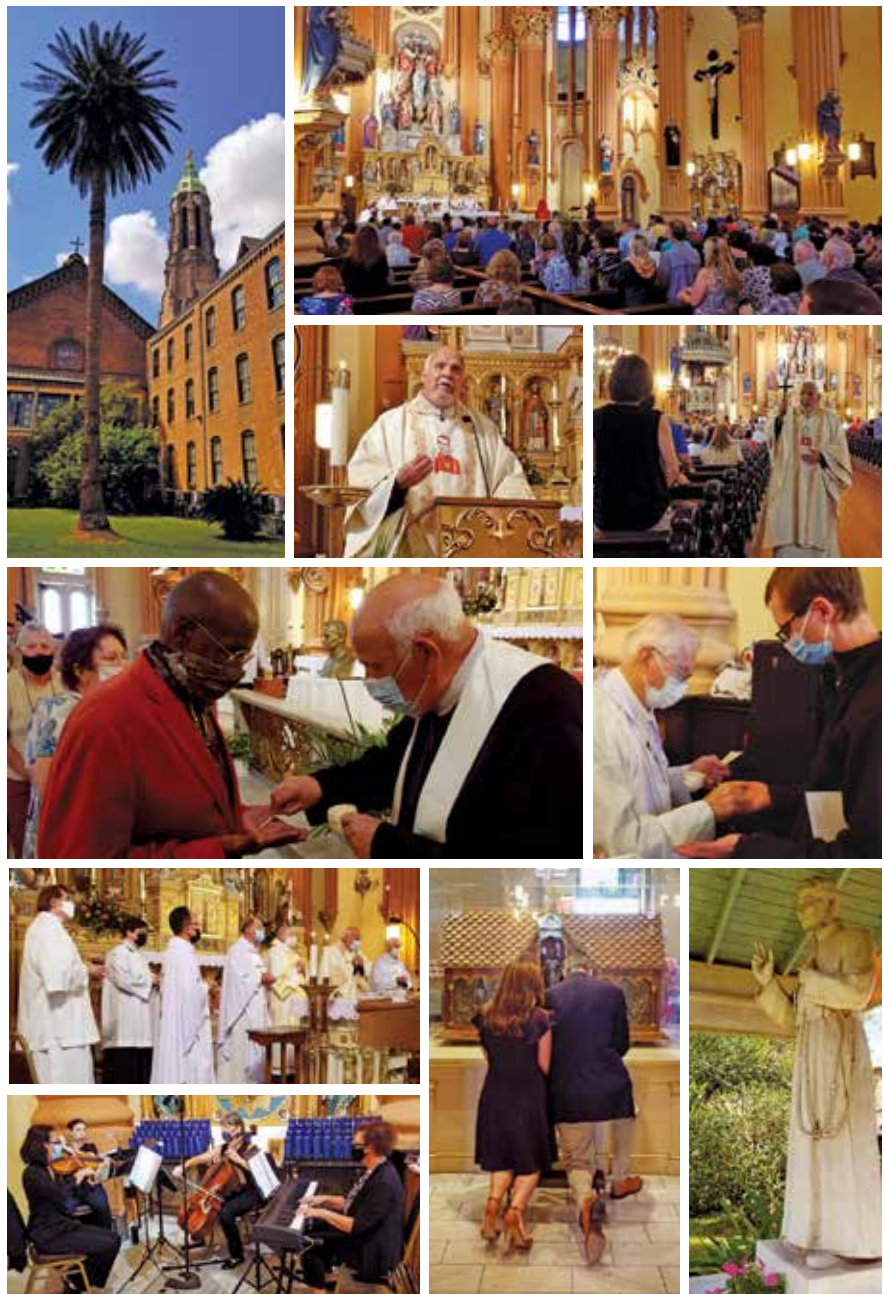
And who can forget that in November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day? No matter our circumstances and crosses, there is much to be grateful for. Saying thanks often means so much to givers and I bet that even God appreciates it when we say thanks to Him.

A blessed November to one and all,



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

Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.



Did Blessed Seelos live a life of heroic virtue?



Along the steps of the journey toward canonization, it is required of those submitting the cause to investigate whether or not the person being studied lived the Christian life to a heroic degree. This requires a thorough process of taking testimonies from those who knew the person in this life and looking at all external evidence about the individual—the writings, the ministry, the reputation—in order to demonstrate that the man or woman could be considered a candidate for canonization. The process leads to a declaration by the church that from all the evidence available, the person practiced heroic virtue in his or her life. If this is done, the candidate for canonization is called “Venerable”. For a long time now, the study of the life of Fr. Seelos had entitled him to be called Venerable Seelos.

In the documents presented to Rome, Blessed Seelos was described as an unassuming man who practiced heroic virtue in a gentle and quiet way. “Father

Seelos,” the presentation stated, “was not placed in a position that called for a reaction that is considered heroic in the usual sense of the term. He was not called upon to be a martyr and shed his blood for the faith, he did not do battle against formidable enemies of the Church, he did not hold an eminent position in the hierarchy of the American Church. On the contrary, his life was lived in a rather quiet and peaceful setting, in doing the ordinary work of the Church for ordinary Christians. The note of heroicity, however, attaches to his practice of the Christian virtues by the fact that he was constantly, consistently, and perseveringly faithful to the duties of his state in life, in every situation and in every ministry he was called upon to undertake: he was a faithful, hard-working, holy Redemptorist priest, all the time, daily, and until he breathed his last. This constitutes the heroicity of his practice of the virtues.”

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While living faithfully in one’s state in life, whether it be single, married, religious or priestly, a person goes through specific trials and tribulations. This is not only the objective teaching of the Church, but the lived reality of each individual. In a letter to a friend who consulted Fr. Seelos for spiritual direction, he explained that this quiet

faithfulness to the duties of one’s state in life was, indeed, his philosophy of holiness. “I believe,” he wrote, “in an eternal life and in the Communion of Saints. Still only the Church has the means of grace to prepare the body and draw it toward its glorification and its spiritualization. Christianity is the power of God, not just mere doctrine. It is the healing of all of fallen nature, and not only a speculative system of teaching. On one side it is personal conviction, or the individual’s attitude of spirit and heart; on the other, it is objective, given by Christ, an instrument for healing, full of the means of healing which the individual must make use of, whoever he is and whatever is his call.”

We all know that Fr. Seelos was a holy man and most of us do think he is, indeed, a saint in heaven praying for our needs. He is not, however, yet declared saint. In his own writing above, we might say that it is our *personal conviction* that he

is a saint and on the other hand we await Fr. Seelos’ canonization within the *objective declaration* of holy Church. In its proper time, we pray that this process will reach its completion so more and more people can be inspired by the goodness of our beloved Blessed Seelos.



Walk in the Footsteps of Blessed Seelos

Join Fr. Rich for a tour of Bavaria ~ September 6 - 16, 2022

Now Accepting Reservations ~ (504) 525-2495 ~ seelos.org/alpine-pilgrimage

Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix
(Only family members may request)*

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GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

PROSPER TX

Most Blessed Seelos and I have been friends for a very long time. He has always been present in the lives of our family members and has interceded for us in time of need. Our daughter successfully gave birth to twin boys. Joyfully celebrating the healthy delivery, babies and mom, all glory was given to God! Two days after the delivery, our daughter's colon ruptured and she was taken into emergency surgery. Blessed Seelos, all the angels and saints, our

Blessed Mother, our family and friends pleaded for our daughter to be made healthy again. We asked that Blessed Seelos guide the hands of the doctors and nurses caring for our daughter. We know his intercession was indeed instrumental in her complete recovery. All glory, praise, and honor to God! Thanksgiving to Our Lord, Divine Physician, Healer and Savior. Thanksgiving to Blessed Seelos, my forever friend, powerful intercessor, confidant, and mentor in life.

ABITA SPRINGS, LA

My son and daughter-in-law have been trying to conceive a child for over 2 years. I began praying daily to Father Seelos and three months after my prayers

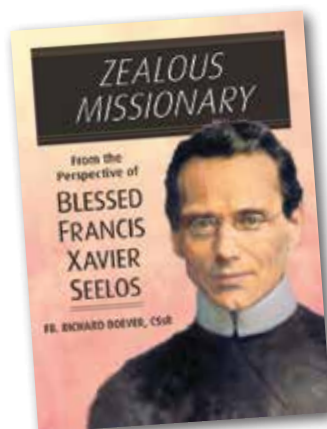
began, I was told that she was 3 months pregnant. Praise God and thank you Blessed Seelos!



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.

www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor



Zealous Missionary From the Perspective of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

— + —
A NEW book by Fr. Rich

\$15 in the Gift Shop

Call (504) 525-2495 or order online!

With abundant joy and deep devotion to Jesus and Mary, Fr. Seelos blessed all the lives he touched. Written in the first person and accompanied by excerpts from letters Blessed Seelos wrote to his family, confreres, and others, Fr. Rich highlights the struggles and successes of missionary life, with a personal touch.

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.



Thanksgiving Prayer

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD,
all ye lands. Serve the LORD
with gladness: come before
his presence with singing.

Know ye that the LORD he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we
ourselves; we are his people, and the
sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise: be
thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is
everlasting; and his truth endureth to
all generations.

— Psalm 100

HOT IN THE SHOP - SPREAD THE JOY!



CHRISTMAS "JOY" NATIVITY – \$39

New in the Gift Shop, this unique and sweet nativity scene features new mother Mary, her precious baby Jesus and a little lamb looking adoringly up at both. It makes a great holiday addition to any mantle, windowsill or side table.



HOLY FAMILY NATIVITY STATUE – \$36

This 13" statue depicts Joseph, Mary and Jesus in a wood carved style.



HOLY FAMILY NOTE CARD – \$6

This blank card features artist Rachelle Woodard's Holy Family watercolor. Envelope included.



OMPH NOTE CARD/ ENVELOPE SET – \$10

This set of 12 blank note cards features Our Mother of Perpetual Help and comes with envelopes.



"GOD CALLING FOR MORNING & EVENING" BOOK – \$24

Begin and end each day with this devotional book.

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 \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



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.

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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:

Name: _____

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