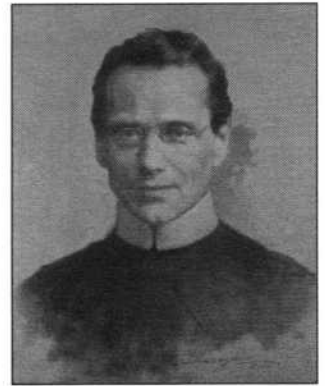


# NEWS

## Seelos Center



VOLUME XXXIX • NUMBER 12 • DECEMBER 2000

## October 5

### Seelos Feast Day Celebration



St. Mary of Victories Church in St. Louis, where Fr. Seelos preached a two-week mission in 1865 and where a Seelos Feast Day Mass was celebrated on October 5, 2000. Kudos to the faith community of St. Mary's and to Fr. Henry McKeever, C.Ss.R. of Liguori, MO for organizing this event.

The setting was the second oldest Catholic church to have been built in the city of St. Louis -- only the historic "Old Cathedral" Basilica is older. "The Second Church of Downtown St. Louis," St. Mary of Victories Church, was founded in 1843.

The occasion was the officially designated memorial day for Blessed Francis Seelos, October 5th. The setting and occasion were appropriate because it was at St. Mary of Victories Church that Fr. Seelos made his Missouri debut from October 1-15, 1865.

Together with three other Redemptorist companions, he preached a mission in German and instructed the young people of the parish.

The Mass honoring Blessed Francis Seelos was celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Michael J. Sheridan. During the Mass, first-class relics of Fr. Seelos were presented to the bishop and other dignitaries. A Redemptorist mission cross that had been carried to the Seelos tomb in New Orleans and touched to his original mission cross, was also in the procession to be used in blessing those who visit St. Mary of Victories Church.

Another noteworthy item carried in the procession was a hand-written letter from Fr. Seelos to Robert Bakewell, editor of the St. Louis Catholic newspaper at the time. The letter, written in 1852, can be viewed at the Jesuit Archives of the Missouri Province, 4511 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis. The Seelos letter reads, in part, "... the great difference between a saint and me is, that the saints found faults, imperfections or sins in themselves by humility, and that I find such things *in omni veritate*. It is true. I desire for greater perfections, but the more I desire, the more I fall short ..." ■

Have YOU visited our [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org) website lately?

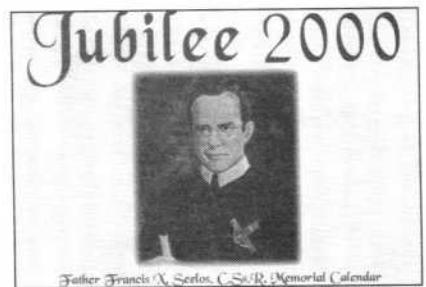


*This  
Christmas  
end a quarrel.  
Seek out a forgotten  
friend. Dismiss suspicion,  
and replace it with trust.....  
Write a love letter. Share some  
treasure. Give a soft answer. En-  
courage youth. Manifest your loyalty in  
word & deed. Keep a promise. Find the time.  
Forego a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.  
Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.  
Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think  
first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle. Laugh  
a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence. Take up arms  
against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Go  
to Church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child.  
Take pleasure in the beauty & wonder of the earth. Speak your love.  
Speak it again.  
Speak it still  
once again.*

Fr. Seelos loved Christmas. In 1858 as pastor in Cumberland, Maryland he reestablished Midnight Mass which had been discontinued for some years because of "raucous revelers." Far away from his beloved homeland of Fussen, Germany he wrote to his sister, "I wish you could be here to witness my joy in the House of the Lord." At Christmastime, may we capture the joy that was always his.

Christmas is not only a time of sincere gift-giving, but it is also a season of heartfelt gratitude. It is with deep appreciation that we are reminded of the precious gift of your friendship and support to the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos. Wishing you tidings of great joy for a prayerful and grace-filled holiday season as we prepare for His coming with humility of spirit and simplicity of heart!

— THE STAFF OF THE SEELOS CENTER / SHRINE



## FRANCIS SEELOS 2001 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Francis Seelos took great delight in the Christmas season. The birth of our Redeemer gave the ever-cheerful Fr. Seelos even more cause for joy, and his "Christmas spirit" was widespread.

It gives us great delight to announce to you the printing of a commemorative calendar for the year 2001, due to the popular appeal of the first Fr. Seelos calendar in 2000. The 13-month calendar will feature informative details about Blessed Francis Seelos and highlights of his Beatification.

The limited edition calendar will again sell for \$10 (+\$2 for p/h) to support the Seelos cause for canonization, and it will make a lasting gift throughout the new year. At your earliest convenience, please reserve your calendar by mailing your request and payment to :

**The Seelos Center**  
2030 Constance St  
New Orleans, LA 70130

### Seelos Center NEWS

A monthly newsletter for friends of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R.

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# Cherub Cards

*Available in time for Christmas*

Gift-boxed sets of 20 "Cherub" cards and envelopes. Each card measures 5-1/2" x 4-1/4"; blank on inside; scripture verse on back reads: "From the angel's hand the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people (Rev. 8:4)." Donation of \$12 (plus \$2 p/h) supports the Blessed Seelos cause.



*Detail, high altar, St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans; mid-nineteenth-century bas-relief, wooden polychrome. Photo by Bill Coskrey*

## *"With Him is Plentiful Redemption"* (Psalm 130:7)

### **The Seelos Center offers the following services:**

- Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Assumption Church, the Shrine and Museum of Blessed Seelos in New Orleans. For details and appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.
- A Daily Spiritual Message. Call 504-586-1803.
- Blessings of the Sick with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in the Greater New Orleans area, please call:  
Gerry Heigle (E. Jefferson) 504-482-4404  
Jack Pitkin (Uptown/Innecity) 504-524-6591  
Teresa LaCour (E. Jefferson) 504-887-0214  
Rita Kaul (Arabi) 504-271-4520  
Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423  
Jim Howard (St. Bernard) 504-277-7949  
Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213  
Peter Lukinovich (N.O. East) 504-679-3317  
Ethel Kuhn (Ochsner) 504-837-3957  
Bill and Sunny Schulz (Northshore) 504-792-5394
- Veneration of Blessed Seelos' Mission Crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 am Mass in the historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine and Constance Streets).
- Weekly Mass celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos Center. If you have Special Intentions, please list them in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

### **The Seelos Center / Seelos Foundation Office offers the following devotionals:**

*(Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s) requested):*

- "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," an informative documentary on the life of Blessed Seelos; 30-minute VHS cassette. (Suggested donation: \$20 - includes postage.)
- "A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos," a new 108-page paperback biography by Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R. & Alicia von Stamwitz. (Suggested donation: \$8.50 - includes postage.)
- Nothing Short of a Miracle*, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two of the chapters feature Father Seelos. (Suggested donation: \$12.50 - includes postage.)
- Messengers: After-Death Appearances of Saints & Mystics*, a 343-page hardbound book on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos; photos included. Autographed by author, P. Treece. (Suggested donation: \$22.50 - includes postage.)
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed Seelos, available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Audio cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father and Blessed Seelos, given by Father Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Suggested donation: \$6 - includes postage.)
- A Blessed Seelos vigil candle will burn near his tomb or in the Seelos Museum at St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans for an offering of \$3.00.
- First, Second and Third-Class relics of Blessed Seelos. Please contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495

# Testimonials

## *Germantown, TN*

In May 1999 I was diagnosed with a malignant fast-growing, inoperable brain tumor. I sought a second opinion by a neurosurgeon, but was still given 3-1/2 to 4 weeks to live. When I told my brother who lives in New Orleans, he immediately lit a candle and prayed to Fr. Seelos that I would be healed. I learned of another surgeon who specializes in brain tumors and I agreed to an operation. I underwent the surgery while awake, with a Fr. Seelos relic taped to my body. The surgery and the subsequent treatments were a success. It has been seventeen months since that dreaded death pronouncement. I feel so well and want to help others who are ill with the time I have been granted. I pray to Fr. Seelos every day and wear one of his medals and keep his relic pinned to my pillow. I know Fr. Seelos has prayed to the Lord that I might be healed.

## *Pittsburgh, PA*

In August my brother was hospitalized and went into cardiac arrest and later into a coma. A couple of his ribs were cracked trying to revive him, but he ended up being on a life support system. The doctors gave him 24 hours.

I kept putting the scapular of our dear Blessed Mother and the relics of Blessed Seelos and Padre Pio to my brother's head and his chest and praying all the prayers. He finally started to come around. The doctors could not believe it; they kept telling him a week later that he should not be here, that he must have had some kind of a miracle. I know it was a miracle and I thank all of our heavenly intercessors for helping him. He was able to go home after a month, but still isn't able to walk on his own without a walker.

## *Vacherie, LA*

The doctor unexpectedly found my husband had a huge aneurism in the pelvis area and through surgery, another one was discovered in the stomach. I prayed to Blessed Francis Seelos for a safe surgery and a good recovery. I now thank him every day for coming through for my husband.

## *McKees Rocks, PA*

My daughter had two suspicious growths on her scalp which were to be removed. For days prior to the surgery I prayed to Father Seelos to intercede for us to have a favorable outcome.

While my daughter was in the operating room, I was sitting in the waiting room fervently praying and clutching my first-class relic of Blessed Seelos. There were a number of people sitting around the room and music was playing quietly from the ceiling speakers. As I sat there praying, suddenly the music seemed so much louder and I became very aware of the words being sung. It was as though something was drawing me to listen to the music. Over and over again the words, "Remember, I love you. Everything will be alright" were sung -- nothing but those words -- over and over again. When it stopped, the music once again became almost inaudible. Looking around made me realize that no one else had noticed the brief change in the volume of the music. I'm not even sure they heard the words I heard. But I knew something happened. And, I believe it was only for me. As I continued to clutch my relic the fear within me left and a calmness set in. I knew that "everything will be alright."

The surgery went well and I continued to pray for the next week until the follow-up appointment. The surgeon said nothing was found in the growths and my daughter would be just fine. My prayers are now prayers of thanksgiving. Thank you Blessed Francis Seelos.

## *From the [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org) Guestbook*

In August 1999 my family and I took a tour of the Seelos Center and I prayed at the grave of Fr. Seelos to cure what unknown illnesses I may have regarding infertility. Five months after our eight-year-old son was born, I was hit by four teenagers in a stolen car. My collarbone, pelvis, and ribs were broken. Since that accident I had suffered four late-term miscarriages before I visited the Seelos Center and prayed for a miracle. Now we have a healthy two-month-old baby girl. ... Thank you for all you have done for me, Father Seelos.

*"I love you, Father Seelos. You deserve to be a saint!"*

-- message in petition box at shrine

*"Father Seelos, you're the coolest. Thanks a million prayers"*

-- guestbook message from [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org) website