

NEWS

Seelos Center



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MOMENTOUS BEATIFICATION CEREMONY in St. Peter's Square APRIL 9!

“Spectacular,”
“magnificent,” “awesome,” “cool”
(this adjective uttered by a true twenty-something from Arizona)! Words failed to adequately express the emotions of those who witnessed the beatification ceremony in Vatican City, where Redemptorist Father Francis Xavier Seelos was one of five people beatified in the outdoor ceremony. He is the only North American to be beatified during this Jubilee Year.

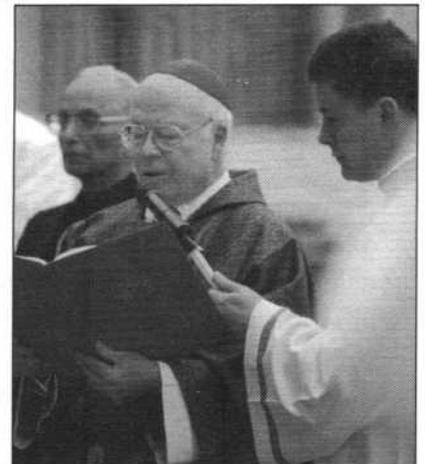
During the ceremony, Archbishop Francis B. Schulte of New Orleans stood before his Holiness Pope John Paul II and read a biography of Blessed Seelos. Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, Superior General of the Redemptorists, was a principal concelebrant. Longtime Seelos Center staff members, parishioners at St. Mary's Church, and numerous Redemptorists from around the world participated in the moving liturgy. It was a liturgy where a multitude of the faithful could not be contained within Bernini's colonnade - and a multitude of emotions could not be contained within those who finally saw Fr. Seelos beatified!



▲ Overflowing crowds beyond Bernini's famous columns in St. Peter's Square for the April 9th Beatification Ceremony.

◀ Redemptorist Superior General Fr. Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R. greets Pope John Paul II

Archbishop Schulte reads biography of Blessed Seelos before the Holy Father ▼



A Message from the Editor

If you've ever visited New Orleans, you probably are aware that between the Cathedral and the Mississippi River sits Jackson Square. Surrounding it are many colorful magicians, musicians, fortune-tellers, and portrait-painters. There is the story of a Bourbon Street drunk who, in spite of his dirty, unshaven face and ragged clothes, sat for his portrait by one of these Jackson Square artists with all the dignity he could display. After the artist had labored a little longer than usual, he lifted the painting from the easel and presented it to the man. "This isn't me," the astonished drunk slurred as he studied the smiling, well-dressed man in the painting. The artist, who had looked beneath the exterior to see the inner beauty, thoughtfully replied, "*But it's the man you could be.*"

Many people are astonished to learn how Fr. Francis X. Seelos did ordinary things in his daily life so extraordinarily well. As a result, he has been declared Blessed by the Universal Catholic Church. Therein lies another captivating quality of Fr. Seelos: no secret unattainable formula to be holy in this life; rather, we look beneath the exterior and see the inner beauty of all peoples like he did. In so doing each day, we become the saintly man or woman that we could be!

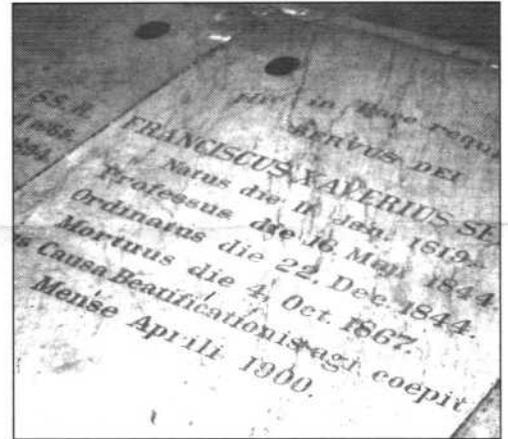
St. Mary's Assumption Church Added to List Designated for Jubilee Indulgence

Now there is yet another reason for visiting the tomb of Blessed Seelos during the year 2000!

With the consent of New Orleans Archbishop Francis Bible Schulte, Bishop Gregory Aymond has designated St. Mary's Assumption Church as a special Jubilee Indulgence Church. His Eminence, William Wakefield Cardinal Baum, Major Penitentiary, decreed that in places outside of Rome and the Holy Land where the bishop of the diocese has designated Jubilee churches, the conditions for the Jubilee indulgences are:

Confession of sins, communion by taking part devoutly in Holy Mass or participation in another liturgical celebration such as Lauds or Vespers, or some other pious exercise (i.e., the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary); or visit as a group or individually these churches and there spend some time in Eucharistic adoration and pious meditation, ending with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Our Father, Profession of Faith, and Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Hail Mary or other prayer) are said for the intentions of Pope John Paul II. The prayers for the Holy Father's intentions are said each time a Jubilee Indulgence is gained.



The tombstone of Fr. Francis X. Seelos in the sanctuary of St. Mary's church

Seelos Center NEWS

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

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LONG AWAITED FIRST-CLASS RELICS NOW AVAILABLE!

Joan Carroll Cruz in *Relics* writes:

Since the early days of the Church the remains of a saint or holy person were called relics, from the Latin "Reliquiae" meaning remains. Relics are divided into three categories. First-class relics are parts of the bodies of saints and the instruments of Our Lord's Passion. Second-class relics are objects sanctified by close contact with saints, such as articles of clothing, objects used in life, or, in the case of a martyr, the instruments of his torture. Third-class relics are objects or cloths touched to either first- or second-class relics. Material benefits obtained through relics of saints have often included miracles, as is witnessed not only by the history of the Church and the lives of the saints, but also by Sacred Scripture.

All three categories of Blessed Seelos relics are now available at the Seelos Center. Please call 504-525-2495 (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) for more information.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The Redemptorist Theology Residence on East Hyde Park Boulevard in Chicago, Illinois, is the first Redemptorist Community in North America to officially change its name to be under the patronage of Blessed Seelos. Now called SEELOS HOUSE, this residence of students in their theological training, is appropriately titled, since Fr. Seelos himself was a prefect of seminarians and a constant promoter of vocations in his own life.

"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 the Mission Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in the Greater New Orleans area, please call:

Gerry Heigle-504-482-4404

Jack Pitkin-504-524-6591

Teresa LaCour-504-887-0214

Rita Kaul-504-271-4520

Rosary Stoltman-504-393-9423

Jim Howard-504-277-7949

Elaine Freeman-504-341-2213

- 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, New Orleans).
- 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:

- "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.)
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed Seelos, available in English and Spanish (soon to be made available in 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

Testimonials

Thorndike, ME

I have felt a strong connection with St. Mary's Assumption Church and Father Seelos ever since one day, about twenty years ago, when I wandered into the church (it was unlocked in those days) and discovered the tomb of Father Seelos in the sanctuary. I prayed at his tomb, asking that I would find a way to support myself, doing something artistic, rather than the high-stress office work I did at that time. In the intervening years, I have relocated to the woods of Maine, still managing to support myself in a self-employment situation. Whenever I return to New Orleans, I always bring flowers to the tomb of Fr. Seelos and pray there a while.

I have asked for and received many blessings at the tomb of Fr. Seelos - many of which I no longer even remember with the passage of time. The one thing that hasn't changed is that I always have a wonderful experience of God when I pray in that holy place - at the tomb of Fr. Seelos. I always have a wonderful experience of total love and peace when I kneel there and bring my joys, fears, desires, and needs to the attention of Fr. Seelos. And I feel that my experiences of God as complete source of love and peace are made available to me somehow through the agency of Fr. Seelos.

Over my desk, I have a large framed color picture of the sanctuary of St. Mary's, the postcard with a detail of the Assumption, and a picture of an angel from the high altar that I took from wandering into your church twenty years ago. I can look at the picture of the sanctuary and feel the same love, peace, and comfort I experience when I am physically there at the tomb of Fr. Seelos. Thanks to all who work at the Seelos Center and for keeping this precious avenue of grace open to all who need it.

Louisville, KY

I am a breast cancer survivor. In April 1999 I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer. My mom gave me the card to pray to Fr. Seelos. After three different rounds of chemotherapy, my cancer has finally responded. For me this is truly a miracle in the making. Thanks for your support.

Crowley, LA

I have had two miracles in the past five months. My doctor in Lafayette said I now have no sign of anything wrong with my heart. My doctor in Crowley was treating me for asthma, which I had all my life; he said I had a miracle happen to me. I owe my whole life to precious Father Seelos.

Abbeville, LA

I want to thank God and Father Seelos for my husband's successful surgery. He was diagnosed with a mass of polyps and his colon had to be removed. I had my husband blessed with Father Seelos' cross before his surgery and thank God he did very well. We will be forever grateful for his intercession.

Houston, TX

(From the letter of an MD Anderson Cancer Center medical doctor to one of his Metairie, LA patients:) I am writing this letter to outline and document your medical history. Your CAT scan from 07/22/99 showed a solid mass centrally located in the lower aspect of the right kidney. I understand that you were prayed over by a Priest (Seelos Center). On your subsequent CAT scan from 10/04/99, the mass is no longer seen. This mass completely resolved following the prayer and I believe this to be answered prayer (a miracle). If you have any questions or require any additional documentation, feel free to contact me.