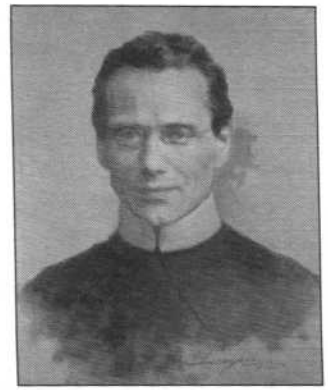


NEWS

Seelos Center

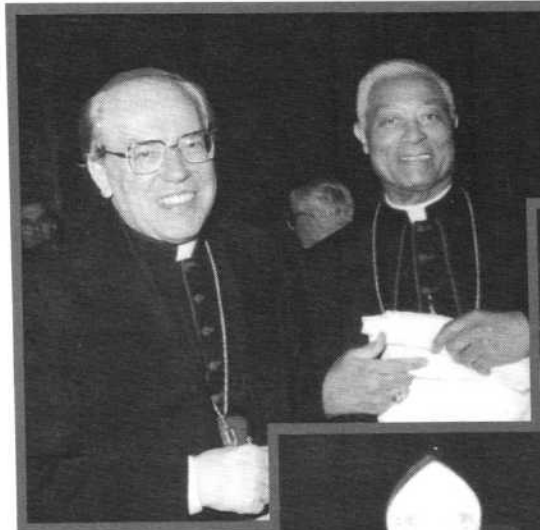


VOLUME XXXIX • NUMBER 8 • AUGUST 2000

TRIDUUM MASSES OF THANKSGIVING for the Beatification of Blessed Seelos

**April 10, 11, 12, 2000
Basilica of St. Mary
Major, Rome**

A short distance from the Redemptorist General House in Rome lies the majestic Basilica of St. Mary Major. There has been a popular belief since the seventh century that the manger of Bethlehem was preserved in this basilica. The central nave is decorated with mosaics that date back to the fifth century. Above the entrance arch one can still view the words "Plebi Dei," meaning dedicated to the People of God, reportedly from the time of Pope Sixtus III. How apropos then that the People of God gathered here on the three days following the beatification ceremony to offer thanksgiving for God's gift of Blessed Seelos to us.



▲ **His Excellency Giovanni Battista Re, Sostituto for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State of Vatican City (left), was the presider for the Wednesday Triduum Mass; He and Most Rev. Dominic Carmon, S.V.D., Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans (right), vest before the solemn liturgy.**

Sr. Jane Briseño, R.S.M. proclaims God's Word at the Monday Triduum Mass of Thanksgiving with New Orleans Archbishop Francis B. Schulte presiding ▼



◀ **His Eminence Edmund Casimir Szoka, President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, presides at the Tuesday Triduum Mass of Thanksgiving in the Basilica of St. Mary Major**



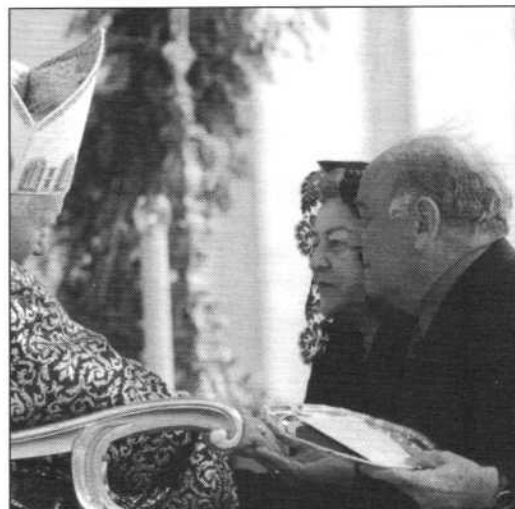
A Message from the Editor

I have lived through thirty-some-odd spins of the globe and can personally testify that age is relative and life is circular. How old is old depends on the age of the inquirer. A recent nationwide survey of 1,000 baby boomers turning fifty found that although the respondents used to think of 50 as "old," they no longer do. The median age described as "old" by these respondents is 79. Even Carl Jung maintained that the period of youth extends until age 40! Sure, I'm a believer, but I don't know if my teenage niece would buy all of this. Wilfred Sheed writes:

"But the young people will become old people, and you have to move along sometime. . . . And like all afflictions, old age seems to carry its own remedies, or placebos, within it, and its own mysterious sources of fun - and its own piece of the secret that nothing is ever as bad as it looks from the outside."

Life has a way of coming full circle. In July I celebrated 15 years as a Redemptorist. My earliest acquaintance with the name, Fr. Francis Xavier Seelos, was through this monthly newsletter that was received in our family home when I was a youngster. Then, in my Redemptorist novitiate 15 years ago, I picked up the Seelos biography for spiritual reading. As a carefree novice, I never imagined my innocent spiritual reading would be a primer for the myriad tasks awaiting me at the Seelos Center during the year of Fr. Seelos' beatification - but like the aging process, "nothing is ever as bad as it looks from the outside." As Chaucer writes, "The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne."

In 1966, Angela Boudreaux of Gretna, LA prayed to God with the help of Fr. Seelos for the healing of her terminal cancer. Her case was accepted as the miracle for Beatification. Given two weeks to live in 1966 by doctors, Mrs. Boudreaux lived to see Fr. Seelos beatified in April, 2000. She and her husband are willing to share their experiences relating to Blessed Seelos through speaking engagements and presentations to promote his cause. Please contact the Seelos Center for more information, 504-525-2495.



Angela and Mel Boudreaux present to the Holy Father a donation for the poor from the Redemptorists at the Beatification Mass, April 9, 2000

Secretariat of State
N. 470.3953

FROM THE VATICAN, MAY 1, 2000

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering ... from the Redemptorist[s] presented to him on the occasion of the Beatification of Francis Xavier Seelos.

His Holiness is most grateful for this donation and for the devoted sentiments that inspired it. He very much appreciates the support that you have given to him in his ministry of service to the universal Church.

I am pleased to assure you of the Holy Father's prayers. Commending all the members of your Province to the loving intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and peace in the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A. Card. Sodano
Secretary of State

Seelos Center NEWS

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

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Vice Provincial - New Orleans

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SEELOS FOUNDATION CREATED AT LIGUORI, MO

Why was the Seelos Foundation created?

On April 1, 2000, the Seelos Center and the Redemptorist New Orleans Vice-Province established the Seelos Foundation in Liguori, Missouri to handle the printing and circulation of the newsletter you are presently reading and process all monetary gifts in remembrance of Blessed Seelos.

What happens to my petitions to be placed at Blessed Seelos' tomb and my donations?

ALL prayer requests and ALL proceeds to support the cause for Blessed Seelos belong to the Seelos Center, New Orleans. The Seelos Foundation has the means to better process all responses from our monthly newsletter and everything is then directed to the Seelos Center in New Orleans.

With this newsletter elsewhere, what now happens at the Seelos Center?

Due to an ever-increasing readership, the Seelos Center has now reached the point where it can no longer function primarily as a publishing/distribution center, because of inadequate equipment and resources. The Seelos Foundation Office can assist the Seelos Center with their expertise in publishing, development, and promotion. The Seelos Center, Shrine, Museum, and Gift Shop in New Orleans can continue to concentrate on other ways to spread the good news about Blessed Seelos. Now that he has been elevated to such a widespread devotion in this country, the ministry at the Seelos Center in New Orleans has actually intensified, not diminished - more volunteers are needed!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, October 7: Archdiocesan Seelos Memorial Celebration 10:00 a.m. Mass, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans; Procession of Blessed Seelos Reliquary following.

Sunday, October 8: Blessed Seelos Mass 11:30 a.m., St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans.

"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/Innercity) 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 items(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.)
- 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

Abbeville, LA

The doctor was concerned about my seven-month-old granddaughter's development. On June 1, the morning of her CT scan and MRI tests to check for disorders including a brain tumor, I went to work and asked my colleagues for their prayers. That was when our secretary gave me a memento of Fr. Seelos that someone had given her that same morning. I held it in my hand both days while the tests were being done. All reports have shown that she has no tumor and so far everything is normal. Her development is about 3 months delayed and she will be receiving physical therapy. I thank Fr. Seelos for answering our prayers and ask that you pray for Amber and her family during her continued treatment and testing.

New Orleans, LA

A pulmonologist determined that my husband was bleeding internally due to the medication that he was taking. A CAT scan was taken to see if a rhine had formed. I prayed to Father Seelos and Mother Katharine Drexel for a miracle, either to make the blood dissipate or liquefy so he wouldn't need the special surgery by a vascular surgeon. When the pulmonologist looked at the CAT scan, he informed us that the blood did liquefy and that he could remove it himself. The three quarts of blood trapped in my husband's chest cavity and his right lung were suctioned out. This was a wonderful miracle thanks to Fr. Seelos and Mother Drexel. He is now recovering. He wore a relic of Fr. Seelos the entire time and will continue to do so for the rest of his life.

St. Louis, MO

I am a novice in a Carmelite monastery and I am writing on behalf of our community. Many of the nuns in our Carmel have a special devotion to Fr. Seelos, particularly because of our Carmel's special connection with him. Our Carmel was the first foundation made from the Carmel of Baltimore, Maryland, in 1863. As you probably know, Blessed Francis Seelos was a confessor to the Carmelite nuns in Baltimore from 1855-1857, and we believe that our foundresses knew him. Fr. Seelos is mentioned in a book about the history of the Carmelite order in this country, entitled *Carmel in America 1790-1890...* There is great interest in Blessed Seelos in the St. Louis area, and at the time of his beatification, our archdiocesan newspaper ran a large news story about him, and mentioned the fact that he had preached missions here during the 1860's.

Houma, LA

I was diagnosed with Adult Scoliosis. My spine was 19 degrees out of line. The doctors recommended two surgeries. We went to the Seelos Center for a blessing with Fr. Seelos' cross. The first surgery lasted five hours and was a great success. Doctors had said the second surgery would be extensive, lasting twelve hours. Prior to that surgery, I was again blessed with Fr. Seelos' cross in the hospital. This surgery was just 6-1/2 hours. We were blessed. Please accept my letter of thanksgiving.

New Orleans, LA

My brother-in-law has chronic emphysema and other major health problems and suffered a severe seizure. The emergency unit was called and he was placed in intensive care and put on the respirator. When his condition didn't improve, the doctor granted the family permission to visit all night because he said my brother-in-law would most likely expire before the next day. With a lot of prayers to Fr. Seelos he made it through the night. The next day the doctor said he was taking him off the respirator and out of the ICU because there wasn't anything more that could be done.

He was placed in a private room and the hospital chaplain baptized him. The chaplain also administered his first communion and the sacrament of the sick all in one day. He was blessed the next day with the Fr. Seelos cross. From that time on he continued to improve. Although the doctor has said he was gravely ill and would never leave the hospital alive, he went home on Good Friday. We are indeed grateful that he is alive and doesn't have any brain damage.

Abbeville, LA

Good news! Elizabeth [ten-year-old with brain tumor] has returned from New York after surgery to remove the tumor. It is *benign* and full recovery of the residual paralysis of her arm and leg is expected with proper therapy. Praise be to Our Lord, Mary our Mother, and special thanks to Blessed Francis Seelos for his intercession. Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your prayers.