

NEWS

Seelos Center



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YOU ARE INVITED!

Trans • late (trans lat , tranz-) 1. to move from one place or condition to another; transfer; specif., a) *Theol.* to convey directly to heaven without death, b) *Eccles.* to transfer (a bishop) from one see to another; also, to move (a saint's body or remains) from one place of interment to another

With the Beatification last April at the Vatican came the official designated memorial day for Blessed Francis Seelos, October 5th – the actual day of his solemn funeral Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church in 1867. During this Jubilee Year there will be two celebrations on the weekend immediately following the October 5th Memorial now assigned to Blessed Seelos:

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS MEMORIAL CELEBRATION, TRANSLATION & ENTHRONEMENT

Saturday, October 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Mass at St. Louis Cathedral

Archbishop Francis Schulte, presiding

Procession immediately following

Translation of Blessed Francis Seelos Reliquary to St. Mary's Assumption Church for Enthronement Service

ANNUAL BLESSED FRANCIS X. SEELOS MASS

Sunday, October 8th at 11:30 a.m.

Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church

(Josephine & Constance Streets)

Rev. Carl Hoegerl, C.S.S.R., presiding

Reception in courtyard
immediately following Mass

Artists' rendition of Sacred Reliquary of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. The Translation and Enthronement of this Reliquary will take place on October 7th; Veneration will take place after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on October 8th.



From the Editor

We read in the Book of Genesis, "Abram, leave your father's house... So Abram went as the Lord had told him" (GN 12). Biblical scholars tell us that the verb *leave* calls to mind the joy of traveling, the hope vacation brings, the thrill of discovery.

Perhaps this summer you are experiencing the joy of traveling or the hope vacation brings as you leave work or studies behind. Life is a series of beginnings. The infant leaves the mother's womb; the young adult leaves childhood behind. *Leave* is a word pregnant with hope: the hope of discovery for those who are looking for "something different" writes Marcel Bastin.

Leaving also suggests the pain of separation and to some degree, a dis-ease about the unknown. Abram's journey into the desert is the faith journey of all Christians. No faith exists without some separation, no hope without uncertainty. To become a follower of Jesus often means accepting discomfort, hopeful surprises and ongoing conversion. But if faith – like the journey of life – is always a leaving, an exodus, this is because it leads us stage by stage to where God may be calling us. Like the temporary departures from work or studies, often it is the conversion from who we were and the departures from where we were going that prove to be the most refreshing in life.

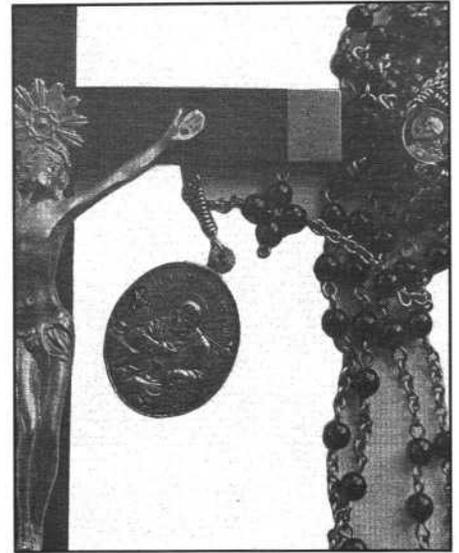
If, on your life journey, you are presently feeling an inner calling for the "something different" that a spiritual pilgrimage offers, please know that you are welcome to visit our soon-to-be-completed National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos. "Come and be blessed, welcomed in hospitality, and healed of hurts."

SACRED DISCOVERIES

Part of the habit, or special garb worn by Redemptorists, includes the long fifteen-decade rosary wrapped M-shaped around the cincture. At profession of vows and investiture with the habit, Redemptorists are also given a habit crucifix on a cord to be worn around the neck on the inside of the garment. This crucifix is different from the larger mission cross, usually given to Redemptorists at the time of ordination and sometimes passed on from one confrere to another, from one generation of Redemptorist mission preachers to the next. This crucifix is worn on the outside of the habit, tucked into the cincture, when missions are preached.

The actual mission cross of Fr. Seelos has remained with us over the years and will be housed in the shrine presently under construction. The smaller habit crucifix of Fr. Seelos was labeled as such and held for safekeeping in the New Orleans Redemptorist Community; it will soon find a permanent home in the Seelos Museum. However, it was the actual fifteen-decade habit rosary belonging to Fr. Seelos that appeared to be lost over the century.

It is with gratitude to God that we can announce to you this good news: the hallowed habit rosary has been located and donated to the Seelos Museum! Its authenticity is not in dispute. It was in the loving possession of the family of a now-deceased Redemptorist priest, whose ancestors at St. Mary's Assumption Church had helped care for the many Redemptorists dying of yellow fever in the 1800's. Fr. Seelos was a recipient of this family's nursing care. They were the guardians of the mission cross until it and an accompanying affidavit were returned to the Redemptorists in the 1950's; the habit rosary with a similar affidavit is now returned for veneration among the faithful. It too will find a welcome home in the Seelos Museum.



Seelos Center NEWS

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

Vice-Provincial Superior:

Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.
Vice Provincial - New Orleans

Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:

Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Foundation Development Director:

Victor L. Ottenlips

Seelos Center News

One Liguori Drive • Liguori, MO 63057-9999
1-800-464-2555

Seelos Center / Shrine

2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130-5099
(504) 525-2495 / FAX (504) 581-9181
Visit our Web site at www.seelos.org

Vice-Postulators:

Rev. John C. Vargas, C.Ss.R.;
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Director Emeritus:

Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.Ss.R.

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ANOTHER SACRED DISCOVERY

During his lifetime, Fr. Seelos was a missionary on the move. He was assigned to many of the communities of the Redemptorist American Province in his day. Yet, few Redemptorists can continue to remain "on the move" after death like Francis Seelos! On October 5, 1867 Fr. Seelos was buried directly outside the sanctuary in St. Mary's Church before the statue of Our Lady. The body of Francis Seelos was transferred October 23, 1902 from this place to a place within the sanctuary. There he rested until April 29, 1967 when the body was canonically transferred to a temporary resting place in St. Alphonsus Church across the street from

St. Mary's. This had become the active parish church at the time Hurricane Betsy did extensive roof damage to St. Mary's in 1965. On August 15, 1975 Fr. Seelos moved back to the sanctuary in St. Mary's after the roof had been repaired. Now the final move will occur in October 2000: the sacred bones of Blessed Francis X. Seelos will be transferred to his Reliquary in the national shrine that bears his name inside St. Mary's Assumption Church.

It was during the construction of this shrine in July that workers removed the marble pedestal and side altar that blocked for many decades the original 1867-1902 crypt of Fr. Seelos. Such an emotional find attracted local media attention. The crypt will remain visible after the renovation because of its historical significance.

Have YOU visited our www.seelos.org website lately?

"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.)
- 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

METAIRIE, LA

In December 1998 I was admitted to Ochsner Hospital with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. My length of stay was twenty-five days; I was later admitted for five additional days of chemotherapy. Upon my return home, I had to go for blood-work and bone marrow tests for several months. During that time my neighbors brought me to the Blessed Seelos Center to be blessed with the mission cross. Upon receiving the blessing I felt a sensation through my body, and as of today, I have no signs of leukemia. Today, I'm in total remission, thanks to Fr. Seelos. My final visit to the doctor was July 18, 2000.

TERRYTOWN, LA

My wife has two herniated disks in her back and was unable to lead a normal life because of the pain. Surgery was recommended, but she didn't want to take the chance. Since praying to Fr. Seelos she has no pain, plays racquetball regularly, and is leading a normal life.

A friend of ours was found to have cancer. Surgery and chemotherapy were necessary. Then, the cancer returned in a different area; after starting chemotherapy the second time, she began praying to Fr. Seelos. Before she had completed the treatments a CAT scan found her to be cancer-free.

For my part it is not so much the simple relief of pain, but I have always been a person of little, or at times no faith, and I am a somewhat "new" Catholic. I was particularly touched by a member of our community who lost both her husband and daughter in the space of a year. I began offering up some personal pain that I had in prayers to Fr. Seelos, for this lady. My problem has diminished greatly, and she has felt an inexplicable relief. I don't think the relief of my pain impresses me as much as the growing faith in God that I feel. For a person with my past that is something hard to completely understand, and I can only credit Fr. Seelos. I know that may be rather intangible, but it means a great deal to me.

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Someone told me to pray to Fr. Seelos. I have cancer. Having never prayed to him, I wondered if I should. I went to church when it was completely empty. I knelt and asked Fr. Seelos that if he wanted me to pray to him to please help me find the words. As I walked out of the church, I found what I had asked for on the last kneeler. Lying there was a prayer card with Fr. Seelos' picture. Since then, I think Fr. Seelos has sent me enough proof that he wants me to pray to him. I believe he is listening to my prayers. I do feel better. I have visited the shrine and have been blessed by his cross.

APEX, NC

My wife and I moved to North Carolina about three months ago. I tried to find a job for most of those three months with no success. My mom reminded me about my grandmother and how she used to pray to Fr. Seelos during her times of need. I asked Fr. Seelos to help me find a good job, one that I would love. After my prayer to Fr. Seelos, I noticed a newspaper ad for a job with the company that employed me in the past. I applied and was hired to a division of the company with a better title and pay. I truly believe there is something more spiritual about Fr. Seelos than most realize.

METAIRIE, LA

In June 1987 my uncle went into Baptist Hospital for minor surgery. However, complications developed and he went into a coma. At one time, his heart stopped beating and he lost lots of blood. This situation lasted for over a month and he showed no sign of recovery. The doctors told my family that they wanted to stop treating him so they could give the blood to someone who might show greater benefit from it, but my family firmly refused.

At home one evening, I decided to move a statue of the Infant Jesus that had belonged to my deceased grandmother. When I picked it up, something fell to the floor. It was a laminated Fr. Seelos card that was stuck to the underside of the statue's base. I had heard of Fr. Seelos only recently when a woman in my office showed me a similar card and told me about the drive to make him a saint. I was surprised not only that we had his card in the house, but that it was apparently here for years.

I gave the card to my mother and told her what I had learned about Fr. Seelos. My mother, who had been praying fervently, decided to contact the Seelos Center in the hopes that Fr. Seelos could help my uncle. The next day my uncle started a surprising recovery. The recovery was sudden and unexpected. When Uncle Wallace walked out of the hospital, the doctors and nurses who had treated him lined up to shake the hand of the "miracle man," who they thought would never leave. One doctor mentioned that even though he was taught to believe in miracles as a Catholic, he never had; my uncle's recovery, however, he called a miracle.

That October, Uncle Wallace danced at my sister's wedding, a fact my beaming mother happily pointed out to everyone she could. He lived nine more years dying at the age of 72.