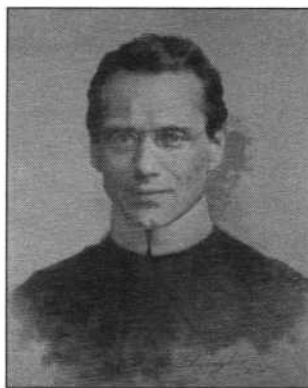


NEWS

Seelos Center



VOLUME XL • NUMBER 5 • MAY 2001

Seelos Seminarian Scholarship Established

Father Seelos spent one-third of his priestly life ministering to seminarians. He was the prefect of students and he also taught them dogmatic theology and Sacred Scripture. On his part, Father Seelos thought highly of the young men entrusted to his care, but it was the affection of the students for their prefect that was even more apparent. In 1859, the house chronicler wrote: "The reappointment of Reverend F. Seelos as prefect of the students caused universal joy, and the students let their much cherished

Father know how much they loved him." We are happy to announce a scholarship for U.S. Redemptorist seminarians in the name of the much-cherished Father Seelos. The 5,600 members of the Redemptorist Congregation in 76 countries worldwide are still blessed with many young members – there are more professed Redemptorists in their 20's than in those aged 80 or more years, and more in the 30's than in their 70's. That bodes well for a vital Congregation in the future! More students mean increasing costs,

of course. In the United States, the seminarians study in Chicago (where the residence of professed students is now called Seelos House), Washington D.C., New York City, St. Louis and San Antonio. It is the intention of this newly established scholarship to specifically support the students in this country who are most in need and offer them the same inspiration from Father Seelos that the seminarians in his day received.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund in a personal way or loved one's memory is invited to contact: The Seelos Center, New Orleans, (504) 525-2495 OR Victor Ottenlips, Seelos Foundation at 800-464-2555 ext. 543 or kindly designate your intention on the enclosed envelope.

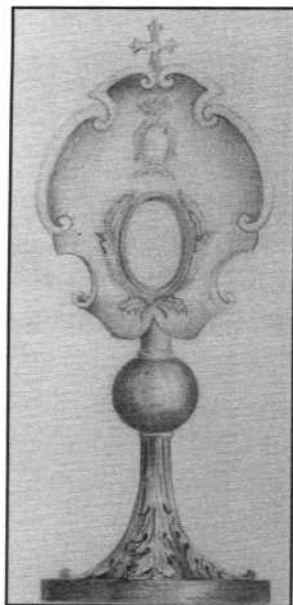
Beatification Anniversary

To commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Beatification of Francis X. Seelos on April 9, 2001, a large traveling reliquary containing a first-class relic of Father Seelos officially began its pilgrimage of prayer to destinations far and wide; in time, this special sacramental could crisscross the country many times over. The journey began at the home of Pip and Barbara Brennan, New Orleans. The Brennan's are well-established restaurateurs in the

French Quarter and long-time friends of the Redemptorists.

During his years as a priest, Father Seelos visited countless people in their homes, sharing his joy, offering a blessing and words of counsel, ministering to the sick and dying. With the "Seelos Destinations" inauguration, it is hoped that people in their homes can feel the same solace through prayer that Father Seelos still provides. Family members and friends who welcome the reliquary into their homes during the nine-day intervals are invited to pray an accompanying Seelos novena in a frequency and manner that they deem appropriate.

The reliquary will spend some time in the New Orleans area and is already earmarked for other destinations in Louisiana and Texas and the great beyond.



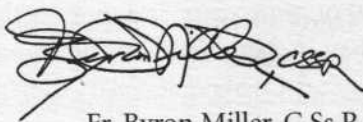
A Message FROM THE EDITOR

The consumer society in which we live often promotes a "throw-away" mentality. Products undergo a mere cosmetic change to become "new and improved," while only last year's make and model has a dated feel to it. Alas, just when the avid sports fan has purchased the complete line of official logo-imprinted sportswear, the official logo becomes obsolete! And every season's fad and fashion quickly fades, but usually not before the tattooed Pokemon-collector with pierced body parts has made the last payment.

When things are so easily discarded, there is always the danger that more precious commodities – like life and the respect for it – can also be easily disposed. Every May, we celebrate Mother's Day; our mothers collaborate with God the Creator to give us life. This month we also celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Good Shepherd Sunday, and Father Seelos' anniversary of profession as a Redemptorist, May 16, 1844. One image of Father Seelos that I find most meaningful is that of a young man who experienced a radical call to minister to the poor immigrants in a foreign land – those often con-

sidered to be the "throw-aways" of society. Personally, I believe that Francis Seelos' freely made decision to embrace a vocation to religious life may speak to us all, especially in our age and culture, where such a decision for a radical change in lifestyle might be regarded by some as "out-of-your-mind" or at best "out-of-fashion."

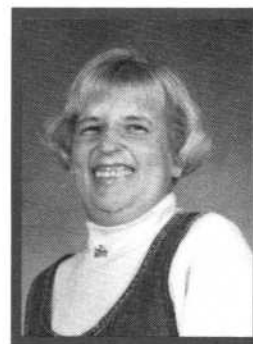
In a dog-eat-dog world, the temptation might be to see our vocation in life as that which only helps to serve our own best interests and pocketbooks. But a vocation from God is far nobler than that! To seriously consider a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, sisterhood or brotherhood, tells God that you are not going to treat the precious commodity of your vocation in life with a "throw-away" mentality, nor would you have that same mentality for those with whom you minister. Consider it, please! Don't throw your life away!



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

P.S. This letter can be recycled!

In Loving Memory



Mary Katherine Walet Hartson
(July 8, 1959 -
February 26, 2001)

Ms. Hartson of New Orleans and her family attributed the intercession of Father Seelos to the "borrowed time" that God gave Kathie, despite all medical prognoses.

Those who knew her prayed fervently for the canonization miracle; in our Creator's wisdom, however, God's smiling angel was called home. Like Father Seelos, the vivacious Kathie shared a love for life, as the poignant image spoken at her funeral Mass attests: "Kathie is now teaching Father Seelos how to dance!" Survivors include her parents, Maurice and Joan Hartson, and her four sisters. Rev. Mr. Maurice Hartson is the deacon at St. Mary's Assumption Church, where the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos is located.

A portrait of Blessed Francis Seelos in Kathie Hartson's memory now hangs at St. Mary's Chapel on Jackson Avenue, New Orleans.



SEELOS MEDALS AVAILABLE

We are pleased to offer an exclusive Blessed F. Seelos medal, made of nickel silver. Round (3/4" diameter), with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the United States. A donation of \$3 each or 2/\$5(+\$1p/h) supports the canonization cause.

Seelos Center NEWS

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

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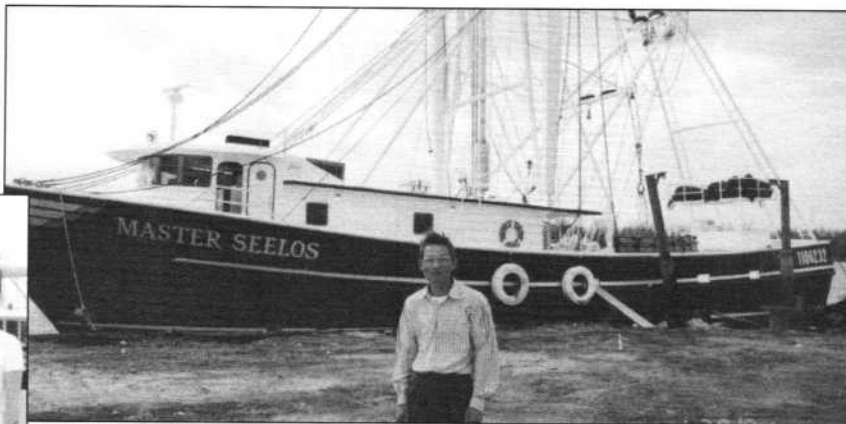
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Professor Seelos assured the seminarians of Jesus' care with His words,

"Come after me and I will make you fishers of men" (Mt.4:19)



Now, *Master Seelos*, the vessel, assures other fishers of Jesus' care upon the waters, through the intercession of Father Seelos. Owner, Hien Quang Tran of New Orleans proudly stands before his shrimping vessel under the patronage of Blessed Francis Seelos. Fr. Luong Uong, C.Ss.R. blessed the boat in January with many of the Tran Family in attendance.

"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 F. 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 F. 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) 504-241-2746
 Ethel Kuhn (Ochsner) 504-837-3957
 Bill and Sunny Schulz (Mandeville) 985-792-5394
 Carmelie Mancuso (Slidell) 985-641-6999
 Pam Crutchfield, R.T. (Covington) 985-892-6560
 Ethel Gallagher (LaPlace) 985-652-4419
 Dan Montz, L.P.C. (Houma/Thibodaux) 985-446-1805
- Veneration of Blessed F. 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 F. Seelos; 30-minute VHS cassette. (Suggested donation: \$15 - 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: \$21.50 - includes postage.)
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Audio cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father and Blessed F. Seelos, given by Father Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Suggested donation: \$6 - includes postage.)
- A Blessed F. 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 F. Seelos. Please contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495

Testimonials

Jefferson Hills, PA

Danny was born with a speech and oral disorder called Apraxia. Up until he was about 4-1/2 years old, he could not communicate with others verbally. His only communication was through pointing or making sounds. We began to pray to Father Seelos. Father John Kelly, C.Ss.R. had a healing service in this area and he gave me two relics of Blessed Francis Seelos. We firmly believe that Blessed Francis Seelos heard our prayers and helped Danny with his speech. He led Danny's parents to a speech-language pathologist who, over a period of a few months helped Danny. Today, Danny can speak verbally and we can understand what he is saying. He turned 5 years old in February 2001. Everyone who comes in contact with Danny knows he is special, and a miracle did in fact take place. We believe it is through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos that Danny can talk today.

St. Rose, LA

I have been praying to Father Seelos for many years; I don't remember how far back or who first gave me one of the relic cloths. In 1985 my ten-month-old son was diagnosed with spinal meningitis. We were told it was so bad he probably would not live through the night. And if he did, he would be brain dead or left a vegetable for the rest of his life. When my husband and I heard this we were just numb. Our son had to stay in the hospital for two weeks; when he was released, our doctor said that nothing in medical history could have cured our baby, only the Good Lord! Our miracle child is now 16 years old, almost 6 feet tall, plays soccer and is a straight-A student. He defied all odds, thanks to God, the Blessed Mother, and Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

I was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Although the doctors felt it was a very early diagnosis, I was required to have another surgery to check more tissue in my breast and lymph nodes. I am healing very nicely but on the day of surgery someone brought Father Seelos' cross, put it in my hand and we prayed. On a recent visit to my surgeon I was informed that the cancer had not spread to more tissue and did not infect the lymph nodes. I believe my prayers, and those of my family and friends, were heard by Father Seelos, who then brought them to Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

River Ridge, LA

My husband began to have the sensation of a heartbeat in the back of his head and for quite some time was feeling dizzy. I prayed to Father Seelos to please let the doctors find out what was wrong with him before something bad happened to my husband. Not too long after that, he was taken by ambulance to the hospital where they discovered that his blood was bypassing an artery supplying blood to the left arm and instead going through his brain stem to his right arm. The doctors were concerned because they only had one case like my husband's in twenty years. A stent in his artery to keep it open was considered and a specialist had to be called in to determine if a balloon angioplasty was not too risky for my husband.

I prayed to Father Seelos and pinned a cloth relic of his to my husband's gown before he had the angioplasty done. In less than an hour the doctor came out and said the blood was flowing in my husband's arm just fine and was not going through the brain anymore. Thanks to Father Seelos for my husband's recovery. He answered my prayers and got my husband to the hospital in time before anything bad happened to him. I am so glad Father Seelos has been beatified.

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Are you Receiving
Duplicate copies?**

Please notify us if changes are needed in the way you currently receive our newsletter

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OR CALL: 800-464-2555 Ext. 425 (Please allow a minimum of 30 days to process your changes.)

The Seelos Museum, Shrine and Gift Shop are now open on Saturdays!
New Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 9 AM - 3 PM • Saturday - 10 AM - 3 PM
Tours available during the hours of operation - Other times by appointment. (504) 525-2495