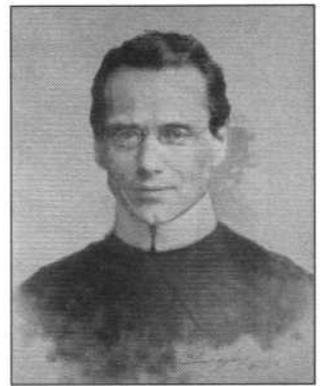


NEWS

Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 9 • SEPTEMBER 2002

A Walk in Your Footsteps



High Altar, St. Mary's Assumption Church

(Photo Credit: Bill Coskrey)

I walked in your footsteps today, Father Seelos.
To Saint Mary's Assumption I did go,
for I wanted to be where you had worked,
preached and prayed.
The "Cheerful Ascetic" I so yearned to know.

I knelt 'fore the altar where you stood long ago.
Inspiring words echoed faintly in my ears.
I peeked in the confessional and saw a multitude in heaven—
former sinners who'd gone to you with no fears.

I marveled at the statues above the altar.
The time and talent that went into each one!
Then I heard you say, "Look at each person you see.
Can God's craftsmanship ever be outdone?"

I gazed at the beautiful organ upstairs
and for a moment truly thought I could hear
the voice of a man singing so joyfully and loudly.
Then too suddenly did it seem to disappear.

I also saw your rosary today, Father Seelos,
and wondered how many "Hail Marys" you'd prayed.
Then I heard you say to me, "Always trust in Our Lady.
She helped me more than mere words can ever say."

I held your mission cross in my unworthy hands.
How hard for you at times it must have been
to have carried the cross as you worked night and day
to bring God's love to a world hurt by sin.

Finally, I saw your statue, Father Seelos.
One look and I couldn't help but smile!
How nice to see a man who was holy yet happy.
We just gazed at each other for a while.

I thanked you for your powerful intercession for me
and for the healing which I'll never forget.
If I live to be a hundred, of one thing I'm sure:
I will still be very grateful to you yet.

So I tried to walk in your footsteps today, Father Seelos,
but before I left Saint Mary's I knew
that just being where you'd preached,
heard confessions and prayed
hadn't made me more like you, it's true.

Rather, when I left the church and walked down the street
would I treat others the way I knew that you would?
Would I be cheerful as I went about my duties in life,
and help the sick and poor as much as I could?

Would I be willing to let others think poorly of me
as long as God's will I knew had been done?
Would I take shoes off my feet as you did, Father Seelos,
to give to someone I passed who had none?

Only then could I say that I walked in your footsteps.
Is that possible for this sinner to do?
Yes, for with your help even miracles can happen.
Now that's one thing I already knew!

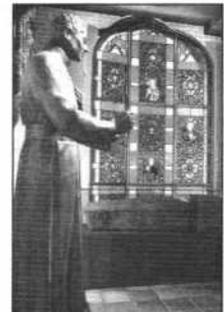
— ELIZABETH B. FITZPATRICK, SEELOS CENTER VOLUNTEER, JUNE, 2002

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

You are invited to the Annual
Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Memorial Mass
Rev. Don Miniscalco, C.Ss.R. Presider and Homilist
Sunday, October 6th, 11:30 a.m. at
St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, Louisiana



A confessional in St. Mary's Assumption Church, where Father Seelos spent many hours celebrating the sacrament in 1866-67. It is still in use today.



Seelos statue & his original casket in the Seelos Museum (Photo Credit: Diane Garcia)

A Message FROM THE EDITOR



Rabbi Abraham Heschel wrote: "Music leads to the threshold of repentance, of unbearable realization of our own vanity and frailty and of the terrible relevance of God. I would define myself as a person who has been smitten by music." It is safe to say that Francis Seelos was also smitten by sacred music. Once, he and others entered a Füssen church and began to sing a Marian hymn. Toward the end, the others halted, but Francis kept right on singing *viva voce* to the very end! When he sang at Mass it was with so much enthusiasm that on one occasion, a friend whispered to him, "Seelos, not so loud!"

It is said that the designer of the modern violin was from Füssen and the symmetrical "f" on the instrument is homage to his hometown. It is interesting to note that Francis Seelos of Füssen played the violin well enough to be invited to accompany the choir at a Sunday Mass. However, at the end of the Gloria when the choir had stopped singing, he continued playing. The "calamity" did not escape the watchful eye - and ear - of the good Benedictine rector. The next morning, he discreetly dispatched a note to the classroom for Seelos and the others who didn't quite measure up to a musical calling, informing them that their services were no longer needed at the Holy Eucharist. Later in life, when recalling the blunder, Seelos said it was just as well, for the Redemptorist rule in his time would have prohibited him from playing the violin anyway. Seelos may have cast his violin aside, but his love for God through sacred music echoed loud and clear...with no strings attached!


Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

— John Keats, poet (1795–1821)

"Once beautiful, always beautiful."

— Father Francis X. Seelos on sacred music

A Reconstructed Jäeger Organ in Füssen for Franz Xaver Seelos

Dr. David Backus, Director • Füssener Orgelsummer

In 1750, the same year that Johann Sebastian Bach died in Leipzig, Germany, the Abbot Gallus Zeiler contracted with the gifted organ builder from Füssen, Andreas Jäeger to build two instruments for his Benedictine monastery Church of Saint Mang. It is

in St. Mang's Church of Füssen where Francis Seelos was baptized and where he and his family worshipped.

By 1754 both organs were ready. The smaller so-called choir organ directly behind the high altar in St. Mang's was completely restored in 1996. It is

often heard in concerts and divine services, frequently with the music that Abbot Zeiler himself composed and personally performed in this beautiful choir.

The Great Organ in the upper gallery – the organ Francis Seelos surely often heard, has had an unhappier fate. After the monastery was dissolved and St. Mang's became a parish church, the organs were no longer under the care of the artistically sophisticated monks. The result was a slow deterioration. In the later 19th century, the Great Organ was badly played and badly repaired. After World War II the organ was completely unusable. The glorious late-Baroque organ Franz Xaver Seelos heard as a child is now only a wistful memory.

However, the conditions for a successful reconstruction are extremely promising. The sound of the Great Organ can be easily imagined when one hears the smaller, restored choir organ. A plan to restore this organ in honor of Seelos already exists in outline, worked out by Cantor Albert Frey and Doctor David Bakus, out of long experience with many historic instruments and approved by experts from the Augsburg diocese and many visiting professor organists. The new organ can take its place in a galaxy of instruments of increasing international importance and will be the flagship in the geographical center axis of the Alpine foothills of Germany.

Anyone wishing to help support this noble project is invited to contact the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 525-2495, or kindly designate your intention on the enclosed envelope.



Grand Organ to honor Franz Xaver Seelos, Füssen.
St. Mang's Church, Füssen, Germany.

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 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

Seelos Center News

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

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Seelos Lithograph Prints Now Available to the Public

Italian artist, Antonio Lomuscio, was commissioned by the Redemptorists to create these limited-edition prints to commemorate Father Seelos' beatification in the Jubilee Year 2000. Each print measures approximately 12" x 16.5" on quality parchment and is signed and numbered by the artist; the print comes in a matching folder with information on Blessed F. Seelos and the artist. A donation of \$29.50 (+\$3 for p/h) supports the Seelos canonization cause.



Supplies are limited. Mail request & payment to:

SEELOS CENTER

2030 Constance Street • New Orleans, LA 70130

"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/Innecity) 504-524-6591
Teresa LaCour (E. Jefferson) 504-887-0214
Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423
Jim Howard (St. Bernard & Arabi) 504-277-7949
Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213
Ethel Kuhn (Ochsner) 504-837-3957
Bill and Sunny Schulz (Mandeville) 985-792-5394
Carmelie Mancuso (Slidell) 985-641-6999
Mary Jo Stewart (Slidell) 985-643-5548
Pam Crutchfield, R.T. (Covington) 985-892-6560
Ethel Gallagher (Reserve) 985-536-1052
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.

Spiritual
Reading

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: \$17.00 - 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: \$9.00 - 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: \$15.00 - includes postage.)
- Messengers: After-Death Appearances of Saints & Mystics*, a 343-page hardbound book by Patricia Treece on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos; photos included. (Suggested donation: \$24.00- includes postage.)
- Seelos Medals: Blessed F. Seelos medal, made of nickel silver. Round (3/4" diameter), with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the United States. (Suggested donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5+(\$1p/h).
- 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: \$7.00 - 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

Delran, NJ

A prayer card and relic cloth was given to me. I started to pray to Blessed F. Seelos for my cousin, who has cancerous tumors in her body, is diabetic, and has had heart attack and by-pass surgery. Her doctor wanted to operate and remove the tumors. She underwent treatment and the tumors have shrunk. When the doctor examined her heart in preparation for the operation, he told her that the bottom of her heart was damaged in a heart attack and was not beating. The second time the doctor tested her heart, he found it beating where it had not been. She says it was because of the prayers; the doctor says it could be from a lot of reasons. Thank you, Blessed Francis.

St. Louis, MO

I am a priest who was ordained only two years ago at the age of 63, and right after my ordination I became quite ill and was diagnosed with complete kidney failure. I receive dialysis treatments three times a week and I am completely wiped out until the next treatment. My ministry suffered greatly from my illness and I am now on a part-time ministry basis. After watching the EWTN program on Seelos, and in conversation with one of my parishioners who had picked up a prayer card of Seelos when she was in New Orleans, another priest and I made three novenas to Blessed F. Seelos. There was no immediate change in my condition but I had a sense of well-being. Then on Pentecost Sunday during the Mass I felt as if I was covered in a very bright light, and then a tremendous joy touched my soul and my body, and I felt as if my illness left me.

After that I sensed a smell of tobacco in my room when I prayed to Blessed F. Seelos. But it wasn't like pipe or cigar tobacco; it was a very mild odor. And also from time to time I sense his gentle loving presence when I am in my room or at the dialysis clinic.

The clinic tests show that I am still very ill, but you couldn't tell it from the way I act and feel. All I know is that *physically* I have never felt better even though *clinically* they say I am very ill.

Atlanta, GA

On May 2 while in the hospital an MRI was done on my brain and three neurologists told me the results were abnormal. Scars from an old inactive Multiple Sclerosis and minor strokes showed up along with spots on both sides of my brain. They mentioned those spots could be cancer and they spoke about an operation, chemotherapy, and radiation.

I've been praying to Blessed Seelos and wearing his relic. The doctor did another MRI with the dye on May 9 and the report today was that my MRI was normal. Praise the Lord and Blessed Seelos for answering my prayers and the many others who were praying for me.

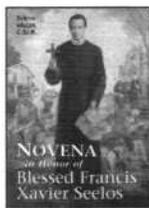
Marrero, LA

My sister, in her 80's, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001. It was decided that a radical mastectomy would be performed. As she has always included Fr. Seelos in her prayers, asking for his canonization, I called a volunteer from the Seelos Center who blessed her with a Blessed F. Seelos first class relic. The day before the pre-op test, her primary care physician suggested another opinion. The second surgeon was confident that the cancer could be removed by a simple lumpectomy. My sister attached a Bl. Seelos relic to her hospital gown before the operation, which prompted several inquiries.

Same-day surgery was successful and pathology report at the post-op visit indicated no evidence of cancer. We are deeply grateful to Blessed Francis Seelos for his intercession.

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

NOW in its 2nd printing!



32-page
Deluxe Pamphlet
with sturdy cover for
\$3.⁰⁰
(includes postage)
Send request to:
SEELOS CENTER,
2030 Constance Street,
New Orleans, LA 70130

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST CURRENT *Select one of the following*

- Have a new address Receiving more than one copy of the newsletter
(please return enclosed envelope with your correction(s))

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 - 3:30 PM
Tours available during the hours of operation - Other times by appointment. (504) 525-2495

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