

SEELOS CENTER

News



2030 Constance Street ❖ New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 525-2495 ❖ www.seelos.org

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Volume XLIV † Number 3
March 2005

Annapolis & New Orleans, Mary-Land

Father Seelos served as Pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Rector & Prefect of students at the Redemptorist seminary in Annapolis, Maryland, during the Civil War years of 1862 to 1865. In 1866, he was assigned as Pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans, until he succumbed to yellow fever on October 4, 1867. His national shrine is now located in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans.

In 2003, a collaborative endeavor was conceived to create two identical bronze statues of Father Seelos for Annapolis & New Orleans. Sculptor Franco Alessandrini was commissioned for this distinguished project. Father Seelos, depicted with his trademark smile, is resting on a bench, welcoming visitors. Because Father Seelos was pastor at both churches dedicated to the Mother of God, he is portrayed holding *The Glories of Mary*,



Franco & Margaret Alessandrini of New Orleans



The Glories of Mary by St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

the classic work authored by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation to which Father Seelos belonged.

The statue in New Orleans was dedicated on October 3, 2004, through the generosity of Kent J. Zimmermann of New Orleans and other friends of the Seelos Center; the statue in Annapolis was dedicated on November 1, 2004 on the Feast of All Saints, through the generosity of St. Mary's parishioners and the Redemptorists.



On All Saints Day 2004 Father Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R., pastor of St. Mary's, Annapolis, blessed the outdoor Seelos statue in a quiet prayer service. Annapolis parishioner, Steven Beard, who was involved in the project, submitted these photographs of Blessed Francis with his modern-day confreres at St. Mary's, and writes, "My hope and prayer is that but one seed for a vocation is soon planted in our Mary Garden beneath the tree under which Bl. Seelos so reverently sits."



Modern-day confreres & friends of Fr. Seelos, New Orleans

You are invited

to the 17th Annual
**BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS
DAY IN NEW ORLEANS**

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2005

11:30 a.m. Mass

St. Mary's Assumption Church

1:30 Luncheon at

Hampton Inn Convention Center

Grand Ballroom

1201 Convention Center Blvd.

(between Gaienne & Calliope Street)

New Orleans, Louisiana

(Additional Parking: Fulton Garage across Square)

Entertainment Provided

Door Prizes & Parade of Prizes

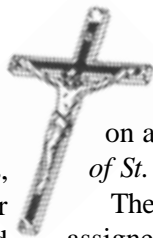
Contact the Seelos Center,

504-525-2495 for reservations

THE FORTY HOURS OF LENT!

Despite criticism and safety concerns, St. John Neumann was inspired to foster Forty Hours Devotion in the United States. One night, he nodded off to sleep while working at his desk. An overturned candle on the desk burned all of his papers, except the letter he wrote about Forty Hours -- a popular devotion with a spiritual fire that still cannot be consumed!

In 1853, Bishop Neumann began the Forty Hours Devotion on the feast of Corpus Christi in the Philadelphia diocese. "Forty Hours Devotion was known three centuries before Neumann's lifetime. It had been held occasionally in Philadelphia before 1853. What Neumann did was to inaugurate it on a diocesan level. A schedule was made calling for the devotion to be held in designated churches so as to cover the entire year. Neumann gave great edification by the way he joined in these devotions whenever possible. To Neumann the Forty Hours was not merely the pious practice of making visits. To him it was



the way of seeing that Catholic life in Philadelphia was rooted in the Eucharist; it was a parish mission on a small scale." (*The Autobiography of St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R.*)

The young priest, Francis X. Seelos was assigned to Pittsburgh in 1845 when Fr. Neumann was pastor. He later said of John Neumann, "In every respect he was a remarkable father to me. He introduced me to the practical life of a parish; he guided me as my spiritual leader. He cared for all of my needs; above all, the example of his virtues is vivid in my memory, his great humility and patience."

By 1858, Fr. Seelos had introduced the Forty Hours at Pentecost in Cumberland, Maryland. When Forty Hours was unfeasible, he was practical enough to know that a Holy Hour could also root the faithful in the Eucharist; it was a parish mission on a smaller scale! One of his more permanent works was the organization of the Holy Hour at St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans, which continued for decades after his death.


During the forty days of Lent, may we find time to root ourselves in what matters most in our lives. And may the practical example of Father Seelos be a reminder that when we cannot offer an ambitious "forty hours" to our Lenten spiritual life, one good "holy hour" with the Lord will suffice!

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R. & Deacon Maurice J. Hartson III perform the sprinkling rite at the Seelos Birthday Mass

Seelos Rosary Ring, made in Italy.
\$2.50 (includes p/h)



DID YOU KNOW?

Do you have a friend or loved one living outside the U.S. or overseas in military service who would like to stay up-to-date with the Seelos Cause? Now, each month this newsletter is posted on the www.seelos.org website, under "Newsletters"!

On Saturday, January 15, 2005, a capacity crowd filled St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, to celebrate Father Seelos' birthday with a Healing Mass and Sacrament of Anointing service. This was the fourth year that the birth of Fr. Seelos (January 11, 1819) has been commemorated.

The Seelos Center offers the following services:

◇ **Pilgrimages** to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Shrine & Museum of Bl. F. Seelos in New Orleans. For details & appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.

◇ **Daily Spiritual Message.**
Call 504-586-1803.

◇ **Blessings of the Sick** with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans & other areas. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-482-4404
Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

Ochsner

Marie Giorlando: 504-288-9977

Uptown/Innecity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

St. Bernard & Arabi

Jude Noote: 504-756-2692

Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213
or 504-328-0648
Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432

Covington

Pam Crutchfield, R.T.: 985-892-6560

Houma/Thibodaux

Dan Montz, L.P.C.: 985-446-1805

Lafayette/Abbeville

Rita King: 337-984-4607

Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-0039

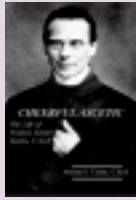
Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

◇ **Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** every Saturday after the 4 p.m. Mass & Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

◇ **Weekly Mass** celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos benefactors. Please list Special Intentions in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

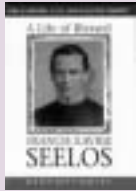
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



Nothing Short of a Miracle, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two chapters feature Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$15 - includes p/h)



Apparitions of Modern Saints, a 293-page abridged & updated paperback version of the book formerly entitled *Messengers* by Patricia Treece on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography by Fr. Carl Hoegerl & Alicia von Stammwitz. (Donation: \$9 - includes p/h)



Seelos Medals: Made of nickel silver, round 3/4" dia. with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the U.S. (Donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5 + \$1 p/h)

◇ **Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** of Bl. F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese.



Audio Cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father & Bl. F. Seelos, given by Fr. Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Donation: \$7 - includes p/h)

◇ **A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

◇ **First, Second & Third-Class Relics** of Bl. F. Seelos. Contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495.

Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s).



Chicago Cardinal Pastorally Responds to Seelos Testimonial

Dear Cardinal George,

I'm writing on behalf of Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. I have been away from the church a long time. I've managed to fail at every test God gave me. ... I feel I failed in life. I went to church and a friend gave me his card. I was impressed with his life story. I feel he hears me when I pray to him and I'm not ashamed anymore. You can always start brand new. ... Francis Xavier deserves to be a saint. I want to see it in my lifetime. Please pray for me also.

[name withheld]

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

... Thank you for your letter of testimony about the graces you have obtained through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. I lived for a while in New Orleans and there came to know of Blessed Francis X. Seelos and his reputation for holiness. I will be more than happy to keep you in my prayers. I ask for a place in your own prayers as well. ...

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

P.S. I have sent your letter to the Redemptorist priest who is responsible for bringing Fr. Seelos' cause forward.



New

Introduce Youth, ages 7 through 12, to Father Seelos in "Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story" by Joan Stromberg (110 pages, with illustrations). \$11, includes p/h.



The National Seelos Shrine is an official member of the New Orleans Visitors Bureau.

Seelos Center News

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

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Very Rev. Thomas D. Pictou, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

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TESTIMONIALS

Wexford, PA

A cousin of ours who is a Redemptorist priest gave my husband a pamphlet and relic of Father Seelos along with anointing him before very serious cancer surgery in 2003. The doctors told us of serious side effects from the surgery such as loss of taste, drooped mouth and trouble eating. They removed his saliva gland, which was malignant and he experienced no side effects whatsoever. We laid the relic on the surgery site right before he went into the operating room and he has worn the relic since Fr. John gave it to him. We thank Father Seelos and all the other prayers for this remarkable recovery. All scans show he is cancer-free.

Bellingham, MA

My lower left molar tooth has caused me much discomfort for more than 10 years. I have had extensive dental work done, but still experienced as much pain on and off through the years. About a month ago, my husband and I were dining out when I experienced a loud cracking sound and severe pain after biting a small amount of food. The pain continued for about a week so the dentist took an x-ray, but couldn't see any crack or abscess. He said I should chew on the opposite side of my mouth. After my visit with the dentist I went to my room and prayed to our Blessed Mother & Bl. Francis Seelos and applied my first class relic of him to my cheek near the tooth, begging them to heal me so I wouldn't lose the tooth or need more dental work. Right after my prayers, very gradually the pain left, and I could eat on the side where my painful tooth was located! That awful hot-cold sensitivity is gone, which I've had to endure for years! Once again, I am so very grateful to our Bl. Mother and Bl. Francis for helping & healing me when the dentist could not.

Baton Rouge, LA

Not too long ago I requested prayers for my great-grandson. Blessed Francis Seelos came to our rescue. My great-grandson was given a piece of his father's liver and after many trials, he is doing very well as a happy one-year old. My family and I are grateful to Father Seelos for making this possible.

Custer, OH

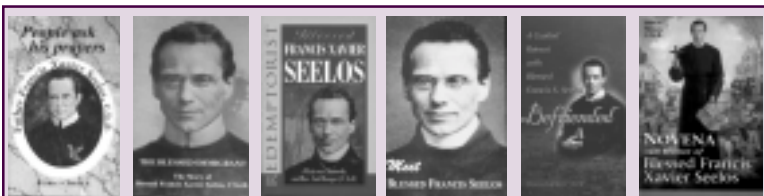
October 1, 2004, I had received what I believe a special favor. After being diagnosed with breast cancer, chemo was started to shrink the tumor. After a series of harsh drugs no noticeable change was apparent. Fervently my prayers were for a sign that the next chemo drugs would work, that I'd be okay. This morning I went to Mass and I grabbed my Bl. Seelos third class relic and medal of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and put them in my right pocket of my white jacket. Praying during the chemo treatment that I'd be okay when finished, I looked at the jacket I had on to find the outer pocket pink. The jacket was totally dry, no smell apparent, no explanation. I am a registered nurse, and that evening I realized that October 1 is "Breast Cancer Awareness Day," symbolized with the color pink. The area remains pink to this day.

Tell City, IN

I live in a high-rise building and the lady down the hall (who isn't Catholic) found out she had cancer. She took chemo & radiation treatments, which made her scared and sick. I gave her the Bl. Seelos relic and prayer card and told her to put it above the bed and pray the prayer every day, which she did. She still has a knot under her breast they are taking care of; however, she called to tell me her doctor said she is cancer-free. We both cried. She said, "Thank you for the relic and prayers. You're a dear friend and I now will believe in miracles and your friend Blessed Seelos."

Belmont, NC

For 3-1/2 years, after having my gall bladder removed, I was left with Chronic Nausea, 24-hours-a-day without letting up. Several months ago in the Abbey Chapel I met a lady who gave me this newsletter so I could obtain a first class relic. I have now been praying to Fr. Seelos, among other saints for help. Three weeks ago in desperation I started holding the first class relic of Fr. Seelos every morning after eating some breakfast (and because of the nausea, I had to lay down to keep the food down). I begged Father Seelos to help me and I want to witness to healing received from Fr. Seelos. It has been three weeks without nausea!



(1) 24-pg. "People Ask His Prayers" \$2 (includes p/h)

(3) 24-pg. "Bl. Francis X. Seelos, Redemptorist" \$2 (includes p/h)

(5) 48-page Guided Retreat with Bl. Francis Seelos \$5 (includes p/h)

(2) 27-pg. "The Blessed Immigrant" \$2 (includes p/h)

(4) 36-pg. "Meet Bl. Francis Seelos" \$2 (includes p/h)

(6) 32-page sturdy cover Seelos Novena \$3 (includes p/h)

ADDRESS CHANGED?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

You receive this mailing at your own request or because someone suggested that you were interested in the Shrine. However, if you no longer wish to receive mailings from us, please let us hear from you.

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

Please return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or CALL 504-525-2495. Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.