

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 4
April 2005

Bl. Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans -- April 24

The 17th Annual "Blessed Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month, April 24. A memorial Mass will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church (at Josephine & Constance streets in the Irish Channel) at 11:30 a.m. Reverend Martin Lawrence, Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Cathedral of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Diocese, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. After the Mass there will be an opportunity to venerate a mission crucifix of Father Seelos and to view the National Shrine of Francis Seelos, where his mortal remains are permanently enshrined in a sacred reliquary. Parking for the Mass is available on the two adjacent lots on St. Andrew Street.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon will be held at the Hampton Inn Convention Center Grand Ballroom, a cherished landmark in the historic Warehouse District of New Orleans (1201 Convention Center Blvd., between Gaienne & Calliope streets). Entertainment will be provided. A Parade of Prizes will support the canonization cause of Father Seelos. On-street parking & additional paid parking is available at the hotel and the Fulton Garage across the Square. Tickets for the luncheon are \$29 per person. They may be obtained at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, or by calling (504) 525-2495.



Rev. Martin Lawrence

BEATIFICATION BEGETS BEAUTIFICATION

by Lawrence Shor

The beatification of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. at the turn of the millennium attracted worldwide attention in religious, secular and humanitarian communities. It also inspired a flurry of activity in artistic and restoration circles with the creation of a shrine honoring him at the 19th century Roman Catholic church, St. Mary of the Assumption. Father Seelos was pastor there in 1866, where he was singularly concerned for the poorest and most abandoned. He died of yellow fever in 1867 after caring for victims of that epidemic.



The church was built on Josephine & Constance Streets in the 1850s to serve New Orleans' German-speaking Roman Catholic community. Directly across the street is another magnificent church, St. Alphonsus, which is now a museum. St. Mary's, with the German Baroque Revival facade and breathtaking interior, incorporates superb examples of 19th century artistry and craftsmanship.

In 2002, I was honored to be asked to restore the magnificent Perpetual Help altar near the main sanctuary. This was effected through the efforts of my longtime patron and friend, renowned interior designer Buzz Harper. A devout Roman Catholic, Buzz has always worked tirelessly, quietly and selflessly to further the work of the Church, in addition to his innumerable philanthropic endowments to religious, civic and cultural communities.

My first project was to parcel gild ornamental detailing in the shrine of Blessed Seelos, which contains a large, breathtaking gold & jeweled reliquary housing his remains. This was followed by a complete restoration of the Perpetual Help altar, an exhilarating, exhausting undertaking which took nine months to complete.

The process involved re-gilding surfaces, stripping away paint layers (during which original stenciling was discovered and recreated) and polychroming numerous cherub and seraphim angel carvings attached to the altar. Peeling *faux marbre* on the altar's columns was re-created, and we added further enhancement by gilding appropriate surfaces.

Although an Episcopalian, I attended both Shreveport's Jesuit High School and New Orleans' Loyola University and hold the Roman Catholic Church's orders, both Jesuit & Redemptorist, in the highest regard. Restoring this exquisite altar brought such pleasure and pride knowing that I was perhaps in some small way reciprocating the Church's gift to me.

Excerpts reprinted with permission from PORTFOLIO, the cultural and social news magazine of Shreveport, LA. Mr. Shor is Associate Editor.

Message from the Editor

"Of Bricks & Mortar"

Wherever Father Seelos was assigned, he was noted not only for helping others make improvements in the spiritual realm, but also for attending to the material needs of the church. In Cumberland, Maryland, Father Seelos increased the seating capacity in Sts. Peter & Paul church, improved the plumbing, and provided a new laundry and bakery. In Annapolis, he supervised the establishment of the parochial school at St. Mary's parish. During the 21 months of his first term as pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore, a new school was built for the children at Federal Hill. His biggest challenge was the completion of the large St. Anthony's Orphan Asylum begun before his arrival, which was reportedly capable of housing 300 orphans. He had the vision to purchase a spacious lot behind St.

Alphonsus church at the corner of Park & Pleasant Alley for \$6,000 where later, a school and hall were built as the parish expanded. And, it was also at St. Alphonsus parish that Father Seelos oversaw the final touches to the church -- adding various statues of saints in the interior high altar niches, erecting the steeple, surmounting it with an imposing cross, painting the entire exterior and adding a decorative iron railing around the church itself. While under construction, three workmen and the scaffolding upon which they labored fell to the ground. One of them, a non-Catholic, died days later. The widow was so impressed by Father Seelos' compassion and offer of financial assistance to her and her little daughter that she resolved to embrace the Catholic faith. Soon, she was taking convert instructions from Father Seelos himself.



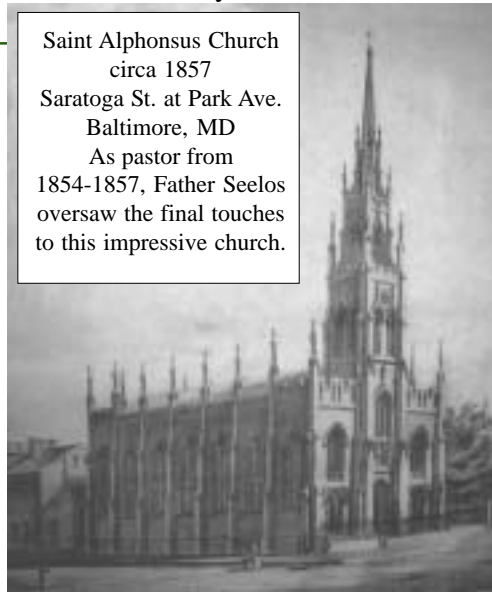
Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD CHURCHES!



For decades, a hurricane fence surrounded the property of St. Mary's Assumption Church. A new architecturally appropriate fence and inlaid brick entrance to the church is presently under construction.

Saint Alphonsus Church
circa 1857
Saratoga St. at Park Ave.
Baltimore, MD
As pastor from
1854-1857, Father Seelos
oversaw the final touches
to this impressive church.



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

The Lower Garden District of New Orleans (location of St. Mary's Assumption Church & Seelos Shrine) was recently listed as one of the 11 top neighborhoods in continental North America by the New York-based Project for Public Spaces. Neighborhoods selected by PPS were based on use of public space, public transportation and ease of pedestrian traffic. The project's findings reported that these types of neighborhoods are "very interesting and make outsiders feel relaxed, comfortable and engaged. They are sacred places within their cities and we need to create more of them."

We would like to think that the Seelos Shrine is a sacred space within a "sacred place" where outsiders can feel relaxed, comfortable and engaged with the Lord!

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

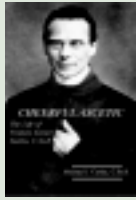
Slidell

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)

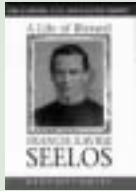
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



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 Stamwitz. (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).



"Tears poured down his face: He was not at the moment afraid of damnation -- even the fear of pain was in the background. He felt only an immense disappointment because he had to go to God empty-handed, with nothing done at all. It seemed to him at that moment that it would have been quite easy to have been a saint. It would only have needed a little self-restraint and a little courage. ... He knew now that at the end there was only one thing that counted -- to be a saint."

-- Graham Greene

Share in The Glory

5th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos April 9, 2000



Left: The Holy Father & Reverend Antonio Marrazzo, Redemptorist Postulator General, April 9, 2000.



Below: Overflowing crowds spill beyond Bernini's famous columns in St. Peter's Square for the April 9th, 2000 Beatification Ceremony

While Supplies Last!

CHOICE PICKS



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

Featured cover story by Mark Regis on "Bl. Francis Seelos, Powerful Intercessor" in the *Garabandal Journal* (Sept/Oct 2003 Issue). \$5 (includes p/h)



Francisco Javier Seelos a 24-page booklet in Spanish by Redemptorist Fr. Noel Londono of Colombia. \$4 (includes p/h)

Saints are persons who make it easier for others to believe in God.

-- Nathan Soderblum

Seelos Center News

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

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

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

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TESTIMONIALS

Mandeville, LA

Fr. Seelos' presence was always around our home growing up. My Mom received the newsletter and was a devotee. She and other relatives faithfully attend the Seelos Masses. Last spring when a suspicious area showed up on a routine mammogram, we turned to Fr. Seelos' intercession to help me accept whatever outcome. After a fine needle biopsy, I was told I had ductal carcinoma in situ (breast cancer). Three pathologists had viewed the slides and confirmed the diagnosis. My surgeon said she had never known them to be wrong. At 43 years of age, with a husband and two young children, I was devastated. The next step was an open biopsy. Because of Fr. Seelos' intercession, the pathology report from this procedure showed no cancer!

Tell City, IN

My nephew who lives in Texas has had diabetes for at least 15 years. Both of his legs are artificial ones. He's been in the hospital so many times that they gave up on him and sent him to the Mayo Clinic in Minneapolis, MN. Then finally after nine days of tests they used a telescope and found his most recent trouble was colitis. He does not have cancer and they thank God and Blessed Seelos for this miracle. I've sent them the relic to put in their pockets and above his bed.

Buras, LA

In December I was diagnosed with a tumor around my spinal cord. I had been suffering with pain for about a year and could never find out the cause until I had an MRI. The 3-to-4-hour surgery lasted 9-1/2 hours. The tumor had been imbedded in my spinal cord and it was more extensive than my doctor thought. The results were a miracle with no complications or loss of feelings. The tumor was benign and I know it was the prayer others and myself said to God and Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

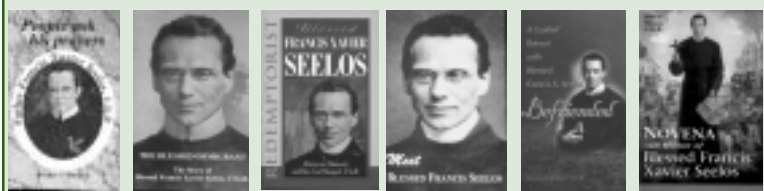
My daughter's godfather, who lives in Santa Fe, was jogging and was hit by a car. He was in critical condition with a massive blood clot on his brain. When word reached us in New Orleans we were told there would be brain damage and we would have to wait and see how he would recover. We immediately started praying for Father Seelos' intercession with my relic of Blessed Seelos. Two weeks later after many prayers, our friend was off the ventilator, sitting in a chair and talking! The brain is still healing, but the doctors expect a 100% recovery. We love you Father Seelos, and we thank you.

Opelousas, LA

In August 2004 I noticed a trio of flat, small moles on the cartilage part of my ear. Within a couple of months, one began to grow. A dermatologist did a biopsy and the pathologist couldn't make a definitive diagnosis. The slides were sent to a world-renowned specialist at Harvard. After another long wait, this doctor also could not make a definitive diagnosis, except to say that "it was probably malignant melanoma." In the meantime, I made an appointment at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. My physician there took a fine needle biopsy of a lymph node. After all of this the results were negative. I had the surgery and it was indeed melanoma but was not invasive at this point. Although I had cancer on the surface, I do not have it now. When I first went to the local dermatologist, I already had candles and I prayed the novena to Fr. Seelos and held his relic on the portion of my ear and lymph node while praying. My prayers were answered. It is my miracle from him, and for this, I will always be grateful and never cease to spread the good news about him.

Did You Know?

Doctors say they have seen treatment results in patients that they would consider to be miracles. 55% of doctors said they would describe some results that way, compared to 45% who did not, according to a nationwide HCD Research survey of 1,100 physicians released in December 2004 by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.



(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)

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