

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 6
June 2005

REST IN PEACE: POPE JOHN PAUL II



Pope John Paul II at the Seelos beatification ceremony, April 9, 2000

On April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II entered into eternal rest at age 84 — one week before the fifth anniversary of the beatification of Father Seelos on April 9, 2000. When Pope John Paul II first emerged from the curtain at that Special Audience following the beatification of Francis Seelos, he appeared physically exhausted from the beatification ceremonies the day before. Then when the large crowd expressed their affection and enthusiastic support, it was like he was suddenly transformed to the vigor of his earlier pontificate. The exuberance of the faithful seemed to straighten his posture, widen his gait, and animate his words.

Our belief in the resurrection assures us that Pope John Paul II has been suddenly transformed upon his death. We are forever grateful to him for his providence in beatifying Father Seelos.



Very Rev. Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R., then Superior of the New Orleans Vice Province, greets Pope John Paul II during the Special Audience following the Seelos beatification, April 10, 2000.

DID YOU KNOW



HABEMUS PAPAM!

The new pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI, is the first German pope in a millennium. His hometown in the region of Bavaria, Markt am Inn, is only 150 miles from where another Bavarian, Francis Xavier Seelos, was born in Fussen. Fussen, with its fifteen hundred inhabitants in the early 1800's, all but twenty of them Catholic, had a profound influence on the faith of Francis Seelos. Likewise, the 2,800-person hamlet where Pope Benedict XVI was born is steeped in Catholicism. While Catholics make up approximately 30% of the German population at large, almost 70% of Bavaria is Catholic -- where it is an integral way of life.



Message from the Editor

In recent months, editors of other newsletters for non-profit organizations have communicated their growing difficulty in offering a free publication because of escalating postage, printing and distribution costs. For example, the Discalced Carmelite publication, *Apostolate of the Little Flower*, reported that it had no other option than to switch from a free bimonthly magazine to a subscription service in January 2005 at the annual rate of \$15 for their 11,000 readers. It was not able to "even afford to publish the last issue of 2004." In the Summer/Fall issue of *True Servant*, a publication of the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, the editor reminded readers how donations through a Guild Membership are necessary to help cover the annual cost of producing and mailing out the newsletter.

For the last forty-four years, *Seelos News* has been distributed to all fifty states and foreign destinations. The specific purpose of this newsletter is to foster the spirituality of Blessed Francis X. Seelos and encourage prayers for his intercession and canonization. *Seelos News* is circulated to 28,000 readers each month. Such a frequent and ambitious undertaking is worthwhile, but costly.

In order for us to continue providing this service on a monthly basis, please consider a gift to our 2005 Annual Appeal. A donation to help cover the production and postage costs of this frequent newsletter into your home would be welcomed and appreciated.



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

2005 Annual Appeal

Yes, Father Byron, I want to help support the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos with a gift of \$_____ for this Annual Appeal.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Visa Mastercard Discover

Exp. Date: ____ / ____

Last 3 digits on signature line: ____

Signature: _____

A gift of \$1,000 will be go directly to the Canonization Cause of Blessed Francis Seelos because of our reliance upon a God-given volunteer staff.

A gift of \$125 will continue to allow our hospital blessers to distribute complimentary rosaries, Seelos pamphlets, and other spiritual items to the sick and bedridden.

A gift of \$41.65 will help defray the monthly operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-A-Message, which had over 2,200 calls in the last 10 months.

A gift of \$9 will help defray the cost of printing and postage of this newsletter for one year.

THANK YOU.

Please cut and return to:
National Shrine of
Blessed Francis X. Seelos
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Your gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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

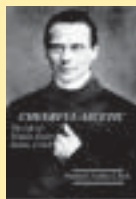
Slidell

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)

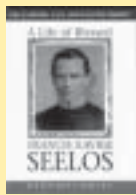
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



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)

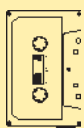


A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography by Fr. Carl Hoegerl & Alicia von Stammwitz. (Donation: \$9 - includes p/h)



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).



Father's Day Favorites



The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is pleased to offer a one-of-a-kind Seelos Perpetual Mass League as a lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear. The enrollment of a living or deceased person is perpetual.



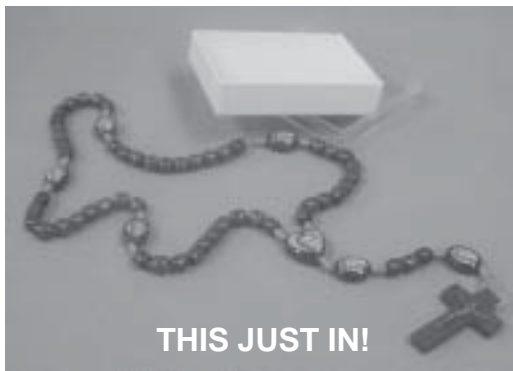
Photos: Bill Coskrey

What is different about the Seelos Perpetual Mass League?

As with all Perpetual Mass League enrollments, members are remembered in Masses and prayers throughout each year in perpetuity for as long as the Redemptorists exist. Saint Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists, wrote, "One single Mass gives more honor to God than all the penances of the saints, the labors of the apostles, the sufferings of the martyrs and even the burning love of the Blessed Mother of God." Members also benefit in the ministry at the National Shrine carried on in the name of Father Seelos. An offering given in faith also assists the canonization process.

Bring the Seelos Shrine into your home!

Jesus went off to the desert or mountains to pray. In addition to retreats in sacred spaces, special, set-aside spaces can be created in your own home. The Mass League is a religious image for your home altar. Let it accompany your cross, relic, icon, candle, and other symbols that grace your personal shrine. If the enrolled name on the Mass League is a deceased loved one, your "altar of the dead" might include photographs and sentimental mementos as well.



THIS JUST IN!

Cord rosary with brown wood. Laminated Seelos image between decades. Gift boxed.

Please contact the Seelos Center for Seelos Rosary (\$15 offering) & League Enrollments (\$25 offering):
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA, 70130
504-525-2495

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.

Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

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Please visit the www.seelos.org website

TESTIMONIALS

Thibodaux, LA

I had requested prayers from the Seelos Center in December for a successful kidney transplant for my niece. At that time, *her* niece had offered to be a kidney donor. After Christmas my niece called to tell me that the last test from her niece was not compatible. That meant she would have to go on dialysis. I told her to make a special effort to attend the Father Seelos Healing Mass on January 15 at St. Mary's Assumption. This she did and she received the anointing of the sick and blessing with the Seelos cross. A month later, a miracle happened. The day before she was to meet with the doctor to schedule dialysis, she was told a donor kidney was found and it was a perfect match. By late afternoon the transplant surgery was done and she now has a new kidney. She attributes the gift of the kidney from the prayers of family and friends and through Blessed Seelos' intercession.

Pass Christian, MS

In August 2003 I prayed to Father Seelos' intercession for the healing of an impact fracture of the humerus (left arm) and for a high blood pressure problem. At that time, I began wearing a Father Seelos scapular pinned to the left side of my gown every night as I slept. Thanks to Father Seelos' help my arm healed completely, painlessly, and in proper healing time. I was also guided in the right direction to find the help I needed to correct the blood pressure problem.

Arlington, MA

A mom of five was struck down about two years ago with a stroke. One doctor said to let her go, as the prognosis was so grim; better to let her slip away. A young doctor came on the scene and advised an operation; he could save her. After operation and rehab the mom returned home. She suffered two more strokes. The final one left her blind, not able to think straight, and not able to walk.

Three invasive skull surgeries left her bald with her head surrounded with holes. I took the Fr. Seelos relic to her at the hospital and prayed. She kissed the relic and thanked me. She has now received her sight back (many trips to eye & ear specialist). Last week she walked upstairs; she eats normally and is more "in" than "out" in her thought process. The recovery process is so dramatic and miraculous that the physicians felt no one would believe this was the same woman who underwent long months of treatments.



Outdoor Seelos statue in National Shrine of Blessed F. X. Seelos courtyard welcomes visitors for reflection & prayer

Annapolis, MD

I am a parishioner at St. Mary's Church, Annapolis, Md., where Blessed Seelos resided for a time. In January 2003 I was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Later that month I had surgery for it and was declared cancer free. However, this type of cancer is very aggressive and a spot was found on my aorta in November 2003. Chemo and radiation took care of that spot, but in May 2004 a PET scan (full body scan) was ordered and the cancer had already spread to my lungs, liver, stomach, back and sternum (as seen in the enclosed report from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore). The doctor told me that they could do no more for me and told me to go home and die. A different doctor gave me chemo for another 9 months but told me he could only keep these tumors at bay, for this was the best he could do and that I would likely be on chemo the rest of my life. My last chemo was January 2005. In late February, I had a CAT scan done with no cancer showing; two PET scans done in March & April, absolutely no cancer! I feel terrific and 20 years younger than I had ever felt before.

For the last nine months or so I have been praying to Blessed Seelos for my cure. Father Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R., our pastor, has started a novena to Bl. Seelos each Wednesday of the week and we conclude by kissing the first class relic.

(1) 24-pg. "People Ask His Prayers" \$2 (includes p/h)	(2) 27-pg. "The Blessed Immigrant" \$2 (includes p/h)	(3) 24-pg. "Bl. Francis X. Seelos, Redemptorist" \$2 (includes p/h)	(4) 36-pg. "Meet Bl. Francis Seelos" \$2 (includes p/h)	(5) 48-page Guided Retreat with Bl. Francis Seelos \$5 (includes p/h)	(6) 32-page sturdy cover Seelos Novena \$3 (includes p/h)

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NAME _____

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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.