

SEELOS CENTER

News



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

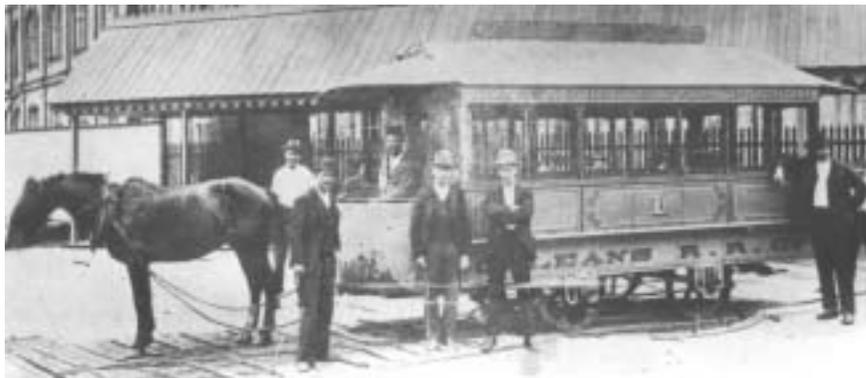
National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Volume XLIV † Number 9
September 2005

A STREETCAR NAMED *DISCERN*

The Saint Charles street railway of New Orleans has been in service since 1835, making it the oldest operating streetcar line in the world. In May 1866, shortly before Father Seelos arrived in New Orleans, a city ordinance authorized the discontinuation of steam engine operations within 18 months and the entire route was converted to horse (or mule) power by the end of 1867. Passengers entered the car by a step at the central rear door and sat on seats with their backs to the car's side panels. By resolution, the locomotives were not to run at a greater speed than 5 miles an hour, hardly creating a breeze to whistle through its mustachioed patrons. (The cars today run at a scheduled speed of 10 mph; with top speed of 27 mph). The fare was five cents from Canal Street to Napoleon Avenue. It was on a ministerial trip via a streetcar that Father Francis Seelos helped a young man discern his vocation to the priesthood.

It is recorded in *Cheerful Ascetic*, the biography of Francis Seelos, that in February 1867, eighteen-year-old Joseph Schwarz met Redemptorist Father Charles Stiessberger at a mission in Holy Trinity Church and chose him as his confessor. Though Schwarz expressed a desire to be a religious, Father Stiessberger took no action on account that Schwarz had interrupted his studies during the Civil War, and needed more schooling before advancing to ecclesiastical studies. Moreover, young Schwarz wanted his confessor to determine the Order he should join, and Father Stiessberger seemed hesitant.

By mere chance Father Seelos went to Holy Trinity on May 1, 1867, to preach at the First Communion of the children and to begin the May devo-



While riding the streetcar, Father Seelos helped a young man discern his vocation to the priesthood.



Fr. Joseph Schwarz, C.Ss.R.
(1849 - 1927)

tions. After the evening services young Schwarz was waiting for his father when the elder Schwarz and Father Seelos arrived. Father Seelos was getting into a streetcar to go home across the city when the senior Schwarz introduced Joseph to him. "This is my son, Joseph. Make a Redemptorist out of him." As Joseph Schwarz went along in the car for some distance, Father Seelos questioned him about his desire to be a religious. After the inquiry, Father Seelos assured him then and there that he had the makings of a good Redemptorist and that he should apply for admission to the Congregation. After Schwarz told his confessor what had happened, Father Stiessberger made the application on August 19, 1867. Schwarz was accepted. He was to have a distinguished career among the sons of Saint Alphonsus as promoter of the preparatory colleges in both Baltimore and St. Louis provinces of Redemptorists and as a long-time general consultor and procurator general in Rome.

It is also of interest to note that Father Schwarz was the canonist who aided Saint Katharine Drexel in Rome in 1907 for the Approbation of the Rule of her Congregation. Mother Katharine was often heard to express her gratitude for the assistance rendered by Father Schwarz on that occasion, and attributed the success of her mission to his unflagging labors, for she had the happiness of returning to Philadelphia with the approval she had sought for her Constitutions.

YOU ARE INVITED!

Booksigning at National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos

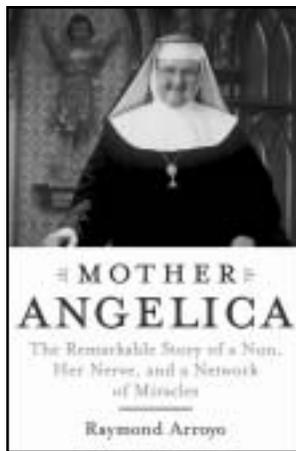


Sunday
September 25, 2005
1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Assumption Church & National Seelos Shrine will provide a unique New Orleans setting for Eternal Word Television Network personality and author, Raymond Arroyo, to offer his anticipated biography of Mother Angelica. All are invited to meet the popular EWTN host as he shares insights and anecdotes, and autographs copies of his new book, printed by Doubleday. The hardcover book sells for \$23.95 and will be made available for purchase in the Seelos Museum by the co-sponsor of this event, Garden District Book Shop. If you cannot attend the event, but would like signed or personalized copies of the book please call (504) 895-2266 or email gdkrewe@aol.com



Raymond Arroyo



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

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
Dr. Ann Logarbo, MD: 985-886-0218

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

Sulphur/Vinton

Warren Touchet: 337-527-2607

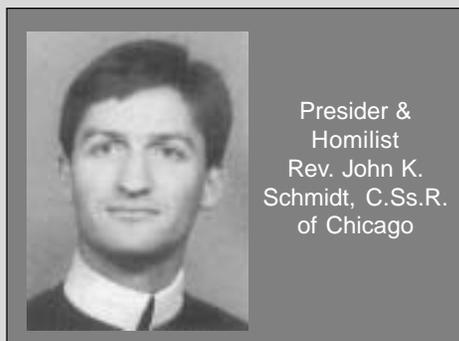
◇ **Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** every Saturday after the 4 p.m. Mass & Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

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

COME JOIN US!

The Annual Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Memorial Mass

Sunday, October 2, 2005 - 11:30 a.m.
St. Mary's Assumption Church
(corner of Josephine & Constance streets)
New Orleans, LA



Presider & Homilist
Rev. John K. Schmidt, C.Ss.R. of Chicago

Third Annual Blessed Francis Seelos Gala Dinner & Auction

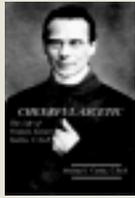
Sunday, October 2, 2005 - 5:30 p.m.
Andrea's Restaurant
3100 19th St. at Ridgelake
Metairie, LA

Contact the Seelos Center 504-525-2495 for Gala reservations (seating is limited).



Voted Best Italian Restaurant by *New Orleans Magazine* & AOL City Guide

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:

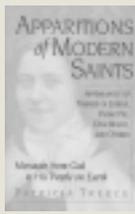


Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

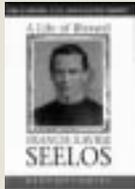
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



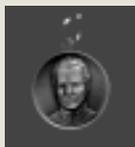
Nothing Short of a Miracle, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two chapters feature Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$15 - includes p/h)



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)



Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

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

◇ **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).



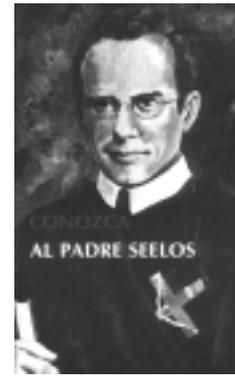
13 Bon Mots of Francis X. Seelos

selected from M. Curley's *Cheerful Ascetic*

by Joseph W. Oppitz, C.Ss.R.

1. Someday, I will become a second Francis Xavier.
2. Dear Mother, how I thank you for having taught us children a great devotion to the Mother of God. Such an inheritance from parents is worth more than gold or silver.
3. Today we will have no writing. The Blessed Mother has appeared to me and told me to become a missionary.
4. I was John Neumann's subject, but was more like a son who needed help. In every respect, he was a remarkable father to me.
5. Baltimore is one of the loveliest and most beautiful cities in all of North America.
6. If these riots continue, I may even have the privilege of becoming a martyr — a wonderful way to go to heaven.
7. According to people I am a thorough saint. In reality, I am a thorough scoundrel.
8. If the Church should ever decide to celebrate the feast of a rude rascal, [Secretary of War] Stanton would easily qualify — even with an octave.
9. I love the work of the missions more than all other labors; it is a complete apostolic employment in the Lord's vineyard.
10. If the Americans were as expert in spiritual matters as they are in business affairs, all of them would be saints.
11. I have made the rounds of all the houses in the province. Only New Orleans yet remains. I have come here to pass the rest of my days and find a lasting resting place at Saint Mary's. I feel I have traveled enough. I shall never leave New Orleans.
12. So the doctor says I am to die! Oh, what pleasant news! How thankful I am! And to you, doctor, how much I have to return thanks for your kindness and attention to me!
13. I never thought it was so sweet to die in the Congregation. I now begin to know what happiness it is to live and die a Redemptorist. Oh, let us love our vocation and strive to persevere in it! Then everything will be all right with us.

Meet Padre Seelos



Are you willing to help introduce Father Seelos to the Spanish-speaking in your community and parish? This 32-page pamphlet, *Conozca Al Padre Seelos* ("Meet Father Seelos"), was written to document miracles through Father Seelos' intercession during his lifetime and the decades following his death. Special bulk rate of 50/\$13 (includes p/h).

Miami Beach, FL

Thank you for allowing us the beautiful experience of visiting the Seelos Shrine and meeting such wonderful people like Joyce (Bourgeois), Anthony (Catalano) & Elizabeth (Fitzpatrick). We hope to visit the Shrine once a year to thank Father Seelos for the miracle he is continually granting us in Gabby's recovery! We pray hard every day that Gabby will be able to see, walk and talk, and progress developmentally. It is evident that Father Seelos is healing her through the Lord's blessings. She is now seeing light, able to lift her neck up, and to every doctor's wonder, the terrible daily fevers that refused to go away have stopped!



Seelos Center News

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

Denver Provincial Superior:
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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Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos
Subscription is \$9 per year.

TESTIMONIALS

New Orleans, LA

I started seeing an endocrinologist when I was diagnosed with Graves' Disease. With all the drugs he prescribed for me, my health became progressively worse. When I complained about the side effects, the endocrinologist would only increase the dosage. I went to pray at Fr. Seelos' remains for his intercession. Soon I found an acupuncturist who is an M.D., who not only helped me, but cured me. Anemia sometimes follows Graves' Disease and Fr. Seelos helped me through anemia this time. I thank Fr. Seelos over and over again for this miracle, for giving me back my life and health.

Memphis, TN

I promised Fr. Seelos that if a miracle happened with a relative of mine I would write. In March 2005 my brother-in-law had multiple aneurysms. After 14-hour surgery, he had very little hope of surviving; however, the first miracle was that he did survive. After that the family was told that there was little hope due to brain damages. They were even advised to unplug the respirator. They did not, and little by little, he finally made some improvement. Today, he is walking and talking. He still has more recovery needed to be back to perfect health, but with the grace of God, Father Seelos' help and prayers, we all feel he'll make a perfect recovery.

Dallas, TX

A nun in the Boston area, who is in her 70s, fell during the night as she was walking to the bathroom and broke her wrist in two places. The doctors didn't know if she would need surgery because the arm that she fell on had all of the lymph nodes removed due to previous cancer surgery. This is an arm that did not have the ability to heal because it would swell up. The doctors told her to be very careful with it so as to never get a cut, for truly she'd have

a bad infection that probably wouldn't heal. Lo and behold, I sent her a relic of Fr. Seelos, along with a prayercard and booklet on his life, and told her to touch the relic to her wrist and arm every day and say the prayers. Today the doctor told her, "You must have somebody praying for you," because surgery was not needed and her wrist and arm have no swelling. They will remove the hard cast in one month! Praise God! Thank you Blessed Seelos for another miracle!

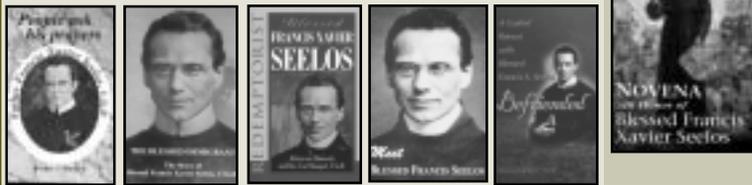
Destrehan, LA

My precious granddaughter was hit by a car in May. She was thrown under a vehicle and hit her head on the street curb, resulting in a fractured skull and swollen brain. She went through two surgeries and lived six days. She was blessed with a Fr. Seelos cross and we went to his shrine in St. Mary's to pray that he would perform a miracle to bring her back to us like she was before the accident. Our granddaughter performed two miracles through our prayers to Fr. Seelos. Her parents donated her organs: her kidneys were transplanted into an adult somewhere in the U.S., allowing for someone else to live. The second miracle was that a family member attended Mass for the first time in 30 years.

Joliet, IL

My 78-year-old father-in-law recently had carotid artery surgery. We were all very nervous about this because years earlier he had this surgery performed on the other side and suffered a brain embolism. He was in very serious condition but gratefully only came out with problems to his right arm and his speech. So before this surgery my husband took my first class Fr. Seelos relic and touched it to his father's head and prayed. My father-in-law came out of the surgery just fine; no complications at all. Thank you Blessed Father Seelos for answering our prayers.

Did You Know? *The Novena in Honor of Blessed Francis X. Seelos* is now in its 3rd printing since August 2001 with close to 25,000 copies distributed.



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|--|---|---|
| (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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