

SEELOS CENTER

News



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

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

*Volume XLV † Number 1
January 2006*

Bavarians in Solidarity

Füssen, Germany is a paradise of picturesque beauty nestled in a unique landscape of unspoiled nature. Throughout its illustrious history, Roman emperors and medieval royalty have adopted Füssen as their home. But one native son stands out as a source of regional pride and a source of heavenly intercession: Franz Xaver Seelos. The Baroque church of St. Mang -- where Francis was baptized on January 11, 1819, & where his father later became sacristan -- is still an active church parish.

The parishioners of St. Mang & the citizens of Füssen wanted to help the people of New Orleans who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. In October 2005, they organized a cookout that attracted nearly 200 people and collected 1,220 (Euros) for the cause.

Conversely, it is their native son who must be quite proud of this Christian act of charity! May Father Seelos' heavenly intercession continue to be felt by those in his homeland and by those recovering from the storm.



Left: Monsignor Karlheinz Knebel of St. Mang's



You're Invited!
A Special Healing Mass & Veneration to Commemorate the Birthday of Father Seelos
Saturday, January 14, 2006
11:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Assumption Church
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans

Message from the Editor

Jesus was born in a manger, “because there was no room in the place where travelers lodged” (Lk. 2:7). As a student, Benedict Neihart recalled how Father Seelos was a hospitable innkeeper for weary travelers in need of lodging:

I saw Father Seelos for the first time on October 1, 1855, when he was Rector at St. Alphonsus’ in Baltimore. In the company of two other candidates for novitiate, I arrived there on a Monday night at eleven o’clock. Scarcely had we rung the bell, when a tall, slight, saintly looking person opened the door. It was the venerated and renowned Father Seelos himself who in his religious habit, but without shoes, with a candle in his hand, inquired in a gentle and cordial manner what was our wish.

I can never forget the impression made upon me by his figure, his gentle step, his pallid face, and his winning smile. ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘we heard that you were coming. God bless you. You must be hungry and tired; come at once into the dining room and refresh yourselves; then you can sleep, and tomorrow morning, at nine o’clock, take the cars for Annapolis [the novitiate].’

It is not possible for me to describe with what cordiality he spoke these words. He then conducted us to the refectory and finally to our sleeping room. He did not leave us until he saw that we were provided with everything necessary. The next morning after we had heard Holy Mass and taken our breakfast, he gave us a companion to the depot. He said farewell to us at the door, and earnestly encouraged us to pray diligently and to persevere in our holy vocation.

Another student said of Father Seelos, “The whole external appearance of the man showed him to be a man apart from earthly things and filled with zeal for God’s glory. The first time I saw him he left a profound impression on my heart.” “His face and his actions manifested a man withdrawn from worldly things,” said another. One man summed up Seelos’ appearance, saying, “His look was piety; his glance was comfort; his expression, love; charity glistened in his eyes and benevolence played around his venerable aspect.”

As this newsletter begins its 45th year publicizing the inviting spirituality of Father Seelos, can you recall when you first met him? How has he left a profound impression on *your* heart?”

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.



Photo: Diane C. Garcia

Father Seelos welcomes you back to his Shrine!

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 area hospitals. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-554-1912
Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

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: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

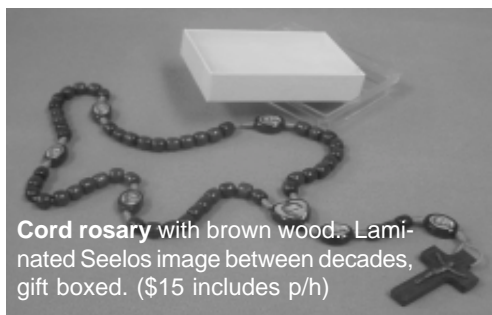
Sulphur/Vinton

Warren Touchet: 337-527-2607

◇ **Veneration of Bl. F. Seelos’ Mission Crucifix** in historic St. Mary’s Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets). Contact the Seelos Center for details.

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

**Does your employer have a matching gift program? Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos
Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253**

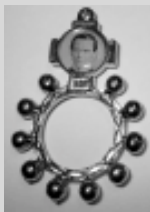


Cord rosary with brown wood. Laminated Seelos image between decades, gift boxed. (\$15 includes p/h)

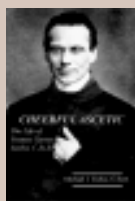
SEELOS ROSARY RING

Made in Italy
(\$2.50 offering includes p/h)

Please contact the
Seelos Center
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA, 70130
504-525-2495



The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:

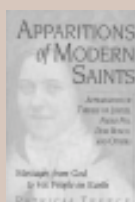


Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

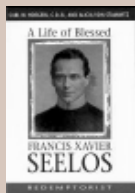
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



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)



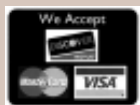
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

◇ **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).



Where'd I hear that name?

You may never have heard of the city. You may barely have heard of the country. But you know the name of the house.

Seelos House is to be found in Chiangmai, Thailand's second largest city. The spacious building is in an area of bougainvillea, lilies and orchids, all blooming intensely in the lush tropical climate.

With much help from generous friends the newly dedicated Seelos House is the central headquarters for a unique Redemptorist missionary venture that spreads over several of northern Thailand's mountainous jungle provinces. Here Redemptorists and lay associates can come for R & R, retreats and conferences. The house contains 12 bedrooms to also accommodate trainings for outside groups.

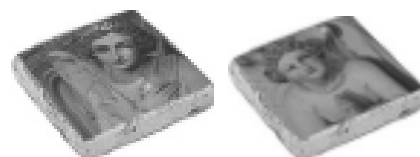
Inspired by Blessed Seelos' own long trips as a missionary throughout much of what comprised the U.S., Thai Redemptorists spread out from their new house for Nan Province, four hours away over inferior roads. There they are currently building the first Catholic church in

Nan City to serve many of the hill tribes of the area. These are some of the best Catholics in the world, though their names, Kmhmu, Thin, Hmong, Thaidam and Karen, are hard for Americans to pronounce. A difficult two-hour drive in the opposite direction is where other Redemptorists have a church in Mecham. From there they spread out again to bring Mass and the sacraments to 75 smaller villages.

Article by Donald MacKinnon, C.Ss.R. Father MacKinnon works among the Laotian Catholic community in Berkeley, California.

Valentine's Gifts For Loved Ones!

Cherub Marble Paperweights



Made from 100% natural marble. Feel the quality! "Old World" look depicting "Praying Cherub" and "Pious Cherub" from St. Mary's Assumption Church High Altar, New Orleans. Each approx. 4" x 4". \$26.00 (includes p/h).

Cherub Cards Boxed Set



Detail of St. Mary's Assumption Church High Altar. Gift-boxed set of 20 cards/

envelopes. Each card measures 5-1/2" x 4-1/4"; blank on inside; scripture verse on back. \$10.00 (includes p/h).



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.

TESTIMONIALS

Mandeville, LA

My father had been in critical care for 45 days due to a staph infection from heart surgery. We began praying to Father Seelos at the urging of a friend. The doctors repeatedly told us he would not make it. Once we began praying to Father Seelos, we started to see small signs of the miracle to come. The doctors reopened his chest wound to drain the infection, a very risky procedure for someone fully supported. After this procedure, he did not move for over two weeks. During this time, Anthony Catalano [Seelos Center volunteer] came with the relic and prayed with us for my Dad. It was very powerful and as he predicted, Father Seelos provided us with a miracle. My Dad was moved to the respiratory rehab floor. He is still on a ventilator but we know he will survive. He just began communicating last week. The nurses and doctors are all amazed by this recovery.

Undisclosed Location

I wanted to write and tell of my experience with Blessed Francis Seelos and his intercession. I was operated on by one of your faithful church members, Dr. Joseph Bellina (world renowned female reconstructive surgeon). Before the surgery Dr. Bellina gave me a relic of Blessed Seelos. I am Catholic and am aware of the power of relics. Things started to go terribly wrong in the middle of the surgery. I

was hemorrhaging on the table and the mass that needed to be removed proved stubborn. Midway through the surgery Dr. Bellina again asked for the guidance of God's hands and the intercession of Blessed Seelos. My surgery quickly turned from bad to good. Dr. Bellina and his



associate were able to save my uterus and one ovary. I had no pain in recovery. It has been months now since the surgery, and your city has endured much, including the passing of our beloved Dr. Bellina just shy of two weeks before Hurricane Katrina hit. I called before he passed and talked to one of your shrine volunteers. She mentioned that Dr. Bellina visited the Seelos Shrine almost daily when he was in town. She added that the very week of my surgery, he went to the shrine with thankfulness that God had guided his hands along with the intercession of Blessed Seelos, because he said a patient survived a most difficult surgery. That patient was me! I just wanted people to know of the faith I now have in the intercession of Blessed Francis Seelos.

Metairie, LA

I have a strong history of breast cancer. In August 2005 I had a routine mammogram and received a call to return for magnification views due to suspicious calcifications. I began praying to Blessed Father Seelos for his intercession. My husband and I visited the shrine and I was blessed with the mission crucifix. The scheduled surgery was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina. We evacuated to Texas and wonderful friends assisted me in finding an excellent surgeon. Thanks to Blessed Fr. Seelos, the biopsy was negative.

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Center
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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

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

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(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)

I've moved!

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.

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