

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 3
March 2006

“No Place Like New Orleans”

C.M. Nichols, a memoirist, portrayed New Orleans in 1859 as such, “There was at this period a charm in the life and society of New Orleans, difficult to understand and impossible to describe. ‘No place like New Orleans’ was the verdict of all who had lived there long enough to know what it was.” This period of charm was challenged a few years later when the Civil War began in 1861. Throughout the war and until 1877, New Orleans was a city under Federal military occupation. During the years of Reconstruction, opportunists and profiteers came from elsewhere to make fortunes, mostly in collusion with accommodating politicians. By 1874, Louisiana was bankrupt with a \$53 million debt, on which it could not even pay the interest, much less the principal.

Military occupation and reconstruction politics in postwar New Orleans was difficult enough, but the return of a yellow fever epidemic in 1867 seemed too much to bear, especially on those whose resistance to the disease was compromised by their postwar poverty. An eyewitness called this time “one of the most distressing to those of limited means ever experienced in New Orleans.” High rents and high prices for basic commodities intensified the plight of the poor. As a result, more than 3,300 people died of the disease in 1867. Father Francis Xavier Seelos was one of them.

Father Seelos lived in a postwar New Orleans not too unlike the present post-Katrina one. In his day, military personnel were as prevalent in New Orleans during reconstruction as were the troops who occupied the city to provide order and rehabilitation immediately after the hurricane. Teetering government bankruptcy, high profit margins, and costly real estate were topics of lively discussion in Father Seelos’ time in New Orleans as they are now.

In 1867, those who had the wherewithal evacuated the city until the yellow fever epidemic was over, leaving a disproportionate number of the poor to remain in the city, along with physicians, clergy, and religious to care for them. It was when Father Seelos remained to work tirelessly with the victims that he was stricken with and succumbed to the dreaded disease himself.

In 1871, four years after he died, a big break in the levee allowed waters to reach the city of New Orleans.

When Hurricane Katrina blew the shingles off roofs and the shackles off prisoners, it also exposed the existing shambles of the New Orleans infrastructure. “Charming, difficult to understand, and impossible to describe,” there is truly “no place quite like New Orleans.”

NEWS RECEIVED AT THE
TIME OF THIS PRINTING

Rest in Peace
REV. JOSEPH ELWORTHY, C.Ss.R.
(1915 - 2006)
Longtime Seelos Center Director

A tribute will follow
in our next issue
Memorial Service on
Saturday, May 6,
11:00 a.m.
St. Mary’s
Assumption Church



1871 New Orleans flood from *Every Saturday*, July 8, 1871

You are invited

to the 18th Annual
**BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS
DAY IN NEW ORLEANS**

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2006
11:00 a.m. Mass
St. Mary’s Assumption Church

Note
New Time!

1:00 p.m. 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

On Saturday, January 14, 2006 the Fifth Annual Birthday Celebration attracted a capacity crowd at St. Mary's Assumption Church from far and wide. This Healing Mass & Anointing of the Sick welcomed Robert and Cheryl Seelos from San Diego and their daughter Marisa from New York City (shown at presentation of gifts - bottom left). The Seelos family traces their ancestry to Ambrose Seelos, Fr. Francis Xavier's older brother.

Post-Katrina Seelos Birthday Mass Draws Record-Breaking Crowd!



Photo Credit: Bill Coskrey

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

Ochsner

Mark/Monica Surprenant 504-895-5371

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
Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

Covington

Pam Crutchfield: 985-626-8823
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.

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for your employer matching gift program.
Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

You are invited

BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006
(Solemnity of the Annunciation)

Father Byron Miller, Director of the Seelos Center, will give a presentation on the life of Father Seelos and his message for our times.

Time: 9:00 am — 1:00 pm
Where: National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Requested Stipend: \$18
Refreshments provided
RSVP: No later than Monday,
March 20, 2006

Contact the Seelos Center,
504-525-2495 for more info
To register, please submit
the form below.

Registration Form

Seelos Day of Recollection - March 25, 2006
2030 Constance Street + New Orleans, LA 70130

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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.

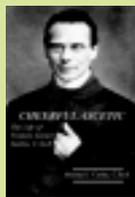
Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

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by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos
Subscription is \$9 per year.

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)

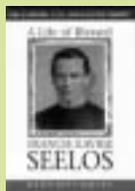
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



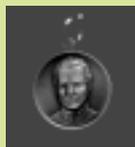
Nothing Short of a Miracle, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two chapters feature Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$15 - includes p/h)



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).



Make Peace, Not Press! by Rev. Peter Connolly, C.Ss.R.

To paraphrase a comment once made by Saint Alphonsus, "as long as Redemptorists work among the poor and abandoned souls, their works will go unnoticed."

In September 2005, I was in Ireland. During that time, the most important story in over a decade was being headlined by Ireland's news media: the leadership of the Irish Republic Army (IRA) had announced that they were going to abandon their thirty-year "armed campaign" against British rule and resume disarmament. All IRA units were ordered to dump arms and to fully participate in the political and democratic process of Northern Ireland through peaceful means.

The pro-British party in Northern Ireland, Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), demanded that there be independent witnesses to verify the disarmament process. Over the past thirty years, Father Alex Ried, C.Ss.R., and Harold Good, a Methodist minister, had established themselves as peacemakers, individuals who could be trusted to stand above politics and speak the truth. These two clerics were requested to verify the commissioning of IRA weapons, rendering them inaccessible and permanently unusable. Interesting but not surprising, the name of the Redemptorist priest was not mentioned by any of the major news outlets. Basque News and Information Channel reported, "Methodist minister, Harold Good and a Catholic priest to verify IRA's disarmament work."

On September 26, 2005, Harold Good appeared before the world media and reported that he was thoroughly convinced that IRA's guns and bombs have been destroyed. Later that day, with no media present, Father Alex Ried reported to officials of the DUP that the IRA weaponry had indeed been destroyed, and there were no longer any obstacles to stand in the way of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. Father Alex Ried's lifetime mission is for peace and justice for the Catholic community in Northern Ireland and not for good press.

Ministering without public recognition and distinction is just as characteristic of Redemptorists today as it was in Father Francis Seelos' time.

Rev. Peter Connolly is Vicar of the Redemptorists of the Denver Province.

A story was told about Francis Xavier Seelos' command of the English language, after less than two years in America: "He could not preach very plainly in English, and one day, after he had been trying his very best, an Irish lady remarked that she understood very little of what he said, but she added, 'It does me good to see that holy priest struggle so hard.'" Years later his preaching was of such calibre that the faithful walked miles to hear him.

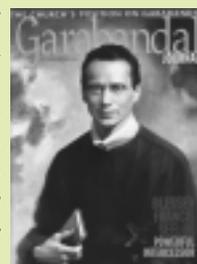
When Father Seelos was considered for the office of bishop of Pittsburgh, Archbishop Francis Patrick Kenrick declared that Father Seelos knew English very well and therefore would be acceptable to either German or Irish. Of Seelos he said that he was "equally dear to Irish and German for his gentle kindness."

While Supplies Last!

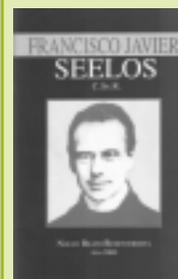


Seelos Rosary Ring, made in Italy. \$2.50 (includes p/h)

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)



TESTIMONIALS

Pensacola, FL

My mom passed away last June from pancreas cancer. She was a devoted follower of Blessed Father Seelos. In 1986 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, my sister brought mom to the shrine. Mom survived almost 19 years from the breast cancer. When she started having problems in 2003, I brought her back to the shrine. We visited often following her treatments. The doctors kept saying mom was a walking miracle. Mom died on her own terms. She said she was ready to go, surrounded by her family at her bedside in her home. Death can be beautiful. We attribute mom's strong faith and belief in Bl. Francis Seelos to having her for so long in our lives. I enjoy the newsletters; it keeps me connected with my mom's source of faith.

Montgomery, AL

A mass was found in the common bile duct of my 80-year-old mother. The surgery was 6 hours. They took out part of her stomach, intestines, and gall bladder. She had the surgical procedure called "the whipple." Through prayer and the obvious intercession of Blessed Seelos, my mother is now 75% back to her normal self. She just returned from flying to Milwaukee to see her new great-granddaughter. She is back to playing the good time band for seniors and making teddy bears to give to kids in hospital rooms. The mass in the bile duct was found to be abnormal tissue. She did not need any chemo or radiation. Her doctor said she is the first person he's ever seen that survived this type of surgery, let alone an 80-year-old woman! She sleeps with the relic of Blessed Seelos under her pillow!

Emporium, PA

My 12-year-old grandson had been ill and hospitalized with pancreatitis three times in four months. No answers were coming forth. Finally my sister sent my grandson a medal and prayer to Father Seelos for a diagnosis to be found. Two days later the doctors did a scope in his pancreas and found leakage in the duct. A stent was put in to stop the seepage, which has since been removed. My grandson prays every night in thanksgiving to Father Seelos and I thank him too.

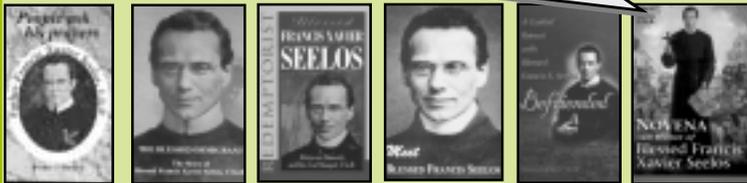
Nashville, TN

Four months ago, I experienced a miraculous healing that I believe is largely the result of Fr. Seelos' intercession. While carrying my first-class Seelos relic, I served on a prayer team at the Mid-South Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference. When we had finished our work, I asked the deacon to pray for my left knee, which had been very painful and swollen for almost a year. I had been previously diagnosed at Vanderbilt University with misaligned kneecaps, severe osteoarthritis and a torn meniscus. Because I couldn't tolerate anti-inflammatory medication, I was in constant pain. I had to keep dragging my left leg behind me while going up or down stairs. My doctor told me that I needed a knee replacement and insisted on immediate surgery if my leg became more unstable. After receiving prayer at the conference, I felt instant relief from pain, and my knee hasn't hurt or been swollen since that time, even on stairs. I'm convinced that a true miracle has taken place. I've taken up walking and hiking again. The relief seems permanent. I'm very grateful to the Redemptorist Order for their faith-filled priests!

"The benefits of a doctor's role can often be measured. The results of faith and the actions of saints for the benefit of the relic bearer cannot. It does not mean that the miraculous does not exist. While it may seem that science and religion are at odds, in the future that may change. For now, science is just too young to understand."

--Steven Sora,
Treasuries from Heaven

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



(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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