

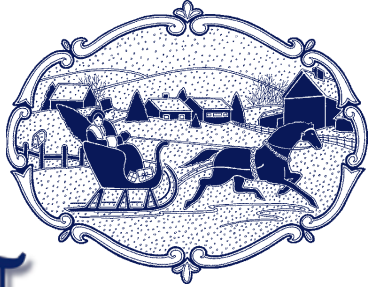


Seelos Center News

2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 525-2495 / 525-2499
www.seelos.org



National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos *Volume XLV* † *Number 12*
December 2006



The Civil War by far remains the deadliest war in American history with over a million casualties on both sides. Of the North and South, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other." Moreover, when Lincoln spoke kindly of the Confederate troops, he was given the rebuke that "we would be better advised to focus on destroying our enemies, rather than befriending them." He replied,

Peace & Goodwill To All!

"we destroy our enemies when we befriend them." Such a biblical attitude was not limited to the Commander-in-Chief of the American Civil War.

German and British troops during World War I provided an ironic dimension to European fraternal fratricide in the so-called "Christmas Truce" of December 24, 1914. The spirit of Christmas permeated barbed-wire trenches known as "No-Man's Land" between the two opposing sides as soldiers exchanged supplies, sang carols, and decorated a tree. The truce even spread over the lines to other places where

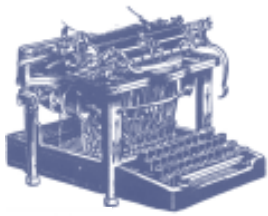
French and Belgian troops participated. Author Tom Morgan wrote, "The image of opposing soldiers shaking hands with each other on one day and then deliberately trying to kill each other the next is a powerful one, and one which is part and parcel of remembrance of the Great War. It was, perhaps, a last example of open-handed chivalry before the squalor and horror of the next three years changed the old world for ever."

Madeleine L'Engle wrote, "He did not wait till the world was ready, till men and nations were at peace. He came

when the Heavens were unsteady, and prisoners cried out for release. ... He came to a world which did not mesh, to heal its tangles, shield its scorn. In the mystery of the Word made Flesh the Maker of the stars was born. We cannot wait till the world is sane to raise our songs with joyful voice, for to share our grief, to touch our pain, He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!"

Union & Confederate pickets raise a Christmas toast to each other from opposite sides of a stream. Enemy pickets sometimes sent small hand-carved sailboats to the opposite shore exchanging coffee that the Southern troops favored for tobacco craved by the Union soldiers. Officers allowed the infractions, adopting the view that such displays of comradeship were harmless so long as the men did their duty when the battle call sounded.





Message from the Editor

Before my Louisiana family home gained a fireplace mantelpiece, my sister and I taped our stockings to dangle strategically from the underside of a countertop. The childlike thinking was that however Santa found a way into our Cajun home, he was sure to linger for pralines; and so, the empty stockings would be within his benevolent gaze! Thus, tack marks on the mantelpiece are not a part of my early Christmas memories. But at some point - and I cannot recall exactly when - came the realization of a benevolent God, who's Son was even willing to experience nail marks on a piece of wood as a mantle of supreme love.

On Christmas morning 1861, one of the seminarians in Cumberland, Maryland, asked Father Seelos if he could go

to Holy Communion. Seelos replied, "And why not? You know, don't you that such feasts are days of general Communion." "But I'm not fasting," the student answered. "So, you ate something after midnight then!" Seelos said. "Oh no. But are you fasting if after supper you are awake all night and don't go to sleep first?"



The student had the innocent idea that in order to fast for Holy Communion, sleep was first necessary, and he was evidently too anxious for slumber at Christmas! Seelos later described this incident as "holy simplicity," and added, "I had to get a hold of myself; otherwise, I would have had to laugh in the sacristy, where he asked me this. He was very happy that I could resolve his scruple in favor of Holy Communion."

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) writes, "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

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).



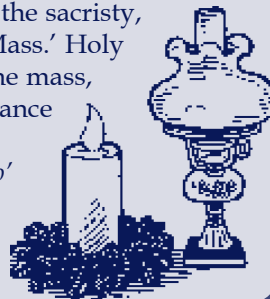
HAVE AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Did You Know?

During the early decades of Saint Mary's Assumption Church history, a revered German custom known as the "Rorate-Mass" was celebrated every Advent. It offered the

privilege of daily Exposition & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Benedict Neithart, C.Ss.R., who was stationed with Father Seelos at St. Mary's, provides an account of the custom:

"At 5 o'clock in the morning Bro. Hermann, after tolling the *Angelus*, rings the biggest bell of St. Mary's, to invite all our Catholics to rise and attend. At 5-1/4 all the gas jets about the altar and in the church are lighted, in order to symbolize the approach of Him who is 'the Light of nations & Savior of the world.' At 5-1/2 a Father, who is able to say a low mass in half an hour, leaves the sacristy, and, without a moment's useless delay, begins the 'Rorate-Mass.' Holy Communion, if necessary, is given both before and during the mass, but, of course, with great expedition. As soon as the monstrance is exposed, the choir sings a short, simple '*O Salutaris*,' and after the Postcommunion the two stanzas of the '*Tantum ergo*' are chanted, and the Benediction is given. During the mass the choir and some more musical and fervent faithful sing [various German hymns]. All is over in 35 minutes."



The Seelos Center offers the following services:

◇ *Pilgrimages* to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Shrine & Museum of Bl. F. Seelos
For details & appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495 or 504-525-2499.

◇ *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/Innercity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213
Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432
Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

Covington

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
Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

New Iberia/Berwick/Baldwin

Rachel Gonsoulin 337-224-7855
Fred Roy 337-380-0646

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-9313

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

◇ *Veneration of Bl. F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix* 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 enclosed envelope.

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

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)



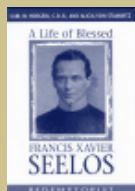
.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$52 - includes p/h).



Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$11, incl. 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: \$11 - 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. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s).



You're Invited!
A Special Healing Mass & Veneration to Commemorate the Birthday of Father Seelos

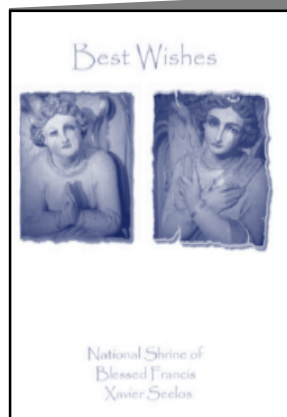
Saturday, January 13, 2007
 11:00 a.m.
 St. Mary's Assumption Church
 2030 Constance Street
 New Orleans



The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos Proudly Offers 3 Deluxe Remembrance Cards



Healing



All-Occasion



One-Year League

Please contact the Seelos Center for cards. A gift of \$12 per card supports the ministry at the Shrine.

Come All Ye Faithful!

Has it been a long time since you've visited "the old neighborhood"? If you grew up in the Irish Channel but moved elsewhere, or if it has been a number of years since you've prayed before the "tomb" of Father Seelos, much has changed! The neighborhood is quite different; the "tomb" of Father Seelos is now a beautiful reliquary in a shrine at St. Mary's Assumption Church, and the Seelos Museum has been renovated. During this busy time of year please "come home" and stop by for a prayer to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas.



A monthly newsletter for friends of Bl. Francis X. Seelos

Seelos Center News

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 70130-5004
 504-525-2495/2499 ♦ FAX 504-581-9181
 www.seelos.org
 Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly
 by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos
 Subscription is \$9 per year.

TESTIMONIALS

BETHEL PARK, PA

I thank and credit Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos for healing the osteomyelitis infection in my right leg. The severe wound is now healed after visiting the St. Anthony Relic Shrine in Troy Hill, Pittsburgh, where I had my leg blessed with the relic of Blessed Seelos.

LABADIEVILLE, LA

Twenty-five years ago a dear friend gave me a Father Seelos prayer card. She knew my husband was seeking a job. I said the prayer for only two days before my husband got the job. We were blessed with his job for 20 years. I have received countless little miracles over the years through Father Seelos' prayers, and I made a promise that I would write a letter to tell the world the power of his intercession.

CHURCH POINT, LA

Two years ago my nephew was born with wet lungs and multiple holes in his heart. While he was in ICU, I pinned a Blessed Seelos relic to his clothing. Each time we did so, his vital signs would again would again return to normal. So to this day I have a healthy nephew who runs and laughs all day long. I thank Blessed Seelos every day because I believe he helped my beautiful little godchild.

AUSTIN, TX

I had a pelvic exam last week, during which the doctor felt an abnormal nodule in my abdomen. A friend gave me her Father Seelos relic. I carried it with me today to the follow-up sonogram. I was scared to death, but, much to my joy, there was no sign of any abnormality, nothing at all. I truly believe that Father Seelos cleansed me and healed me. He gave me nothing to worry about.

SOLDOTNA, AK

In the 1980s, while visiting the French Quarter (& several years before my conversion to Catholicism), I was fascinated by the beckoning profile of St. Mary's Assumption Church and I walked down Constance Street to see it up close. It seemed holy to me then, although, I didn't understand why. Tonight, my wife was ill with chest pain. I was quite afraid she was having a heart attack. Thank God, it was esophagitis and stress (we have 10 children & are trying to run a small Catholic school here in Alaska). It seemed extraordinary that this happened on the anniversary of the death of Blessed F.X. Seelos, since I believe in coincidences only as failures of human perception.



As you review your year-end plans, please consider our noble canonization cause & ministry at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos (Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253). Federal tax laws & those of many states make it possible to bypass income, gift, & estate taxes on funds you donate for charitable purposes. This can result in a lower tax bill while you gain the satisfaction of supporting causes in which you believe. It is not surprising, therefore, that surveys show most Americans make charitable gifts in December.



Dear Reader

"Every Christmas as our mailbox is snowed in with cards & letters, we shovel aside the expected, keep looking for the friends who don't write; who've moved, don't forward their mail, or stop sending cards; somehow become lost. ... We still pray for the friends that drift away like snowflakes, their loss a wind-chill factor to us." (Adapted from "The Meteorology of Loss" by Barbara Crooker.) During the time that we have been mailing to a number of you, we have not heard whether you are still attracted to our Seelos Shrine & its ministry. Please let us know ONLY if you NO LONGER care to receive mailings from us. (Complete information box below.)



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!



Make a Self-Guided Advent Retreat with Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos through a Novena & five other inspirational pamphlets.

ALL SIX ITEMS FOR ONLY \$13 (INCLUDES P/H)
MENTION PROMO CODE "OSP"

I'VE MOVED!

- Please delete me from your mailing list.
- Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Please return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or CALL 504-525-2495 or 2499 Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.

