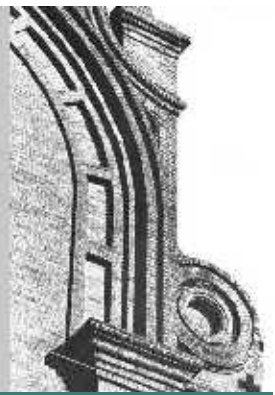


# Seelos Center News

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



## National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption

Volume XLVI  
Number 4  
April 2007

### Bl. Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans -- April 29

The 19th Annual "Blessed Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month, April 29. A memorial Mass will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church (at Josephine & Constance streets in the Irish Channel) at 11:00 a.m. (*please note new time*). Redemptorist Father John Schmidt, C.Ss.R., will be the principal celebrant & homilist. After the Mass there will be an opportunity to venerate a mission crucifix of Father Seelos and to view the National Shrine of Francis Seelos, where his mortal remains are permanently housed in a sacred reliquary. Parking for the Mass is available in an adjacent lot on St. Andrew Street.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon will be held at the Hampton Inn Convention Center Grand Ballroom, a cherished landmark in the historic Warehouse District of New Orleans (1201 Convention Center Blvd., between Gaienne & Calliope streets). A Parade of Prizes will support the canonization cause of Father Seelos. On-street parking & additional paid parking is available at the hotel & the Fulton Garage across the Square. Tickets for the luncheon are \$32 per person. Contact the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, or by calling 504-525-2495 or 2499.



Rev. John K. Schmidt, C.Ss.R.  
Director, Seelos House of Studies  
Chicago, IL



### "Doors to the Sacred"

In the Book of Exodus, we read how the Egyptians encountered plagues, including that of pestilence and hail storms. Moreover, every year at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday we recall how the Israelites were instructed to sprinkle their doorposts with the blood



of a lamb: "Seeing the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over that door and not let the destroyer come into your houses to strike you down." But for Pharaoh and all the Egyptians, "there was loud wailing throughout Egypt, for there was not a house without its dead" (Ex 12).

Over the centuries, doorposts in New Orleans have also served as indicators of pestilence and storms of biblical proportions. During some of the yellow fever epidemics in the 19th century, infected houses were marked by unpopular red and yellow quarantine flags. (The state law and city ordinance that enacted this house isolation came after Father Seelos had already died of yellow fever in 1867.) No one was allowed to enter or leave the infected premises without explicit permission, although permits were issued to medical personnel and clergy. Such persons were allowed to depart the infected house only after adhering to strict disinfectant and fumigation procedures.

One Protestant clergyman in 1853 wrote: "The pestilence came and swept over us like a hurricane." Ironically, in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina swept over New Orleans like a pestilence, officials again resorted to doorposts to communicate an urgent message. Few houses in the city were spared the spray painted cryptic information on or near its main door that indicated the date of entry, various identification codes, and number of dead bodies found inside.

In times past, doors to the sacred prevented death, as at Passover; and they alerted us to death, as during epidemic or disaster. The Good News of Easter is that the Lord has passed over the threshold of death so the destroyer no longer has any permanent power to strike down one's household! Alleluia!



Photo Credit: Bill Coskey

### Vatican Cardinal Visits Seelos Shrine

His Eminence Francesco Cardinal Marchisano, Archpriest of the Patriarchal Vatican Basilica, Vicar-General for Vatican City State & President of the Fabric of St. Peter's Basilica, was made President of the Permanent Commission for the Care of the Historical & Artistic Monuments of the Holy See in 2003. On a recent trip to New Orleans in January to oversee the opening of an exclusive Vatican Mosaic Exhibit, Cardinal Marchisano made a prayerful visit to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos.

The Old Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter is proud to host this exhibition of Vatican mosaic treasures through June 1, 2007 ([www.vaticanmosaics.com](http://www.vaticanmosaics.com) / 504-569-1401).

## DID YOU KNOW?

This newsletter is received in all 50 States. Those with the most & least subscribers are:

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Louisiana    | 45. IDAHO     |
| 2. TEXAS        | 46. N. DAKOTA |
| 3. PENNSYLVANIA | 47. UTAH      |
| 4. ILLINOIS     | 48. WYOMING   |
| 5. NEW YORK     | 49. ALASKA    |
| 6. CALIFORNIA   | 50. HAWAII    |

Can you identify anyone who would benefit from knowing about Father Seelos & his spirituality?

If they would like to receive this newsletter, kindly include their name & address in the enclosed envelope.

On January 13, 2007, the Seventh Annual Seelos Birthday Healing Mass & Anointing of the Sick attracted a capacity crowd at St. Mary's Assumption Church from far & wide.



Mary Jane Drndak of Dallas Texas is Lector for the Mass.



"We were most impressed by the beautiful Seelos Mass last Saturday... As always, it was neat to see seminarians there. Wow, what a crowd too! Congratulations."

-- Dr. Peter & Jane Moulder, New Orleans

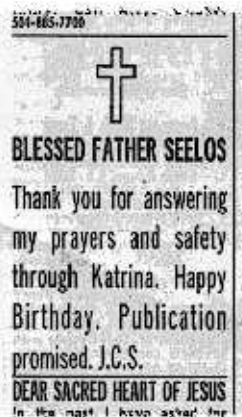


"I just wanted to let you know what a pleasure it was to be at the Healing Mass. It gave so many people hope and the spirit to go on. After all the things I have read about Blessed Father Seelos and his kind manners with people and how they felt at ease with him, [all of you] are following in his footsteps with his blessings. God has blessed the people of New Orleans & St. Mary's Assumption Church."

-- Lisa Thompson, Houston TX

"I was at the Seelos Mass on January 13 and I received the blessing of the anointing. It was a beautiful service. I was able to go with a friend and we all came away with some feeling of peace. My whole family was blessed by my going to the Church. It is such an awe-inspiring experience to be in the presence of Father Seelos' relics & in the atmosphere of St. Mary's Assumption Church."

-- Fara Impostato, Lacombe LA



Prayer of Thanksgiving published in the New Orleans Times-Picayune newspaper.

Photo Credit: Bill Coskey

## The Seelos Center offers the following services:

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

U *Daily Spiritual Message*

Call 504-586-1803.

U *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

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

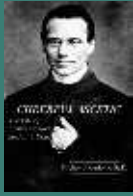
Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

U *Veneration of Bl. F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix* in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

U *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

## 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: \$23.00 + 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).

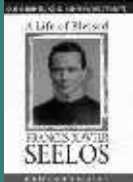


**Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story**, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$11, incl. p/h)



**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.

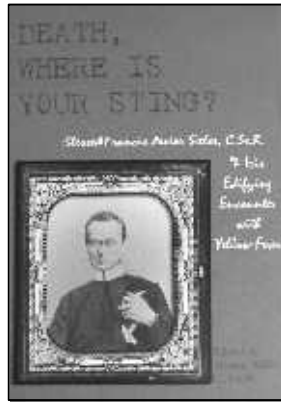
☐ **A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

☐ **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).



## DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?



*Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. & His Edifying Encounter with Yellow Fever* is a tender account of Father Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his heroic death.

Seldom revealed details surrounding his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr.

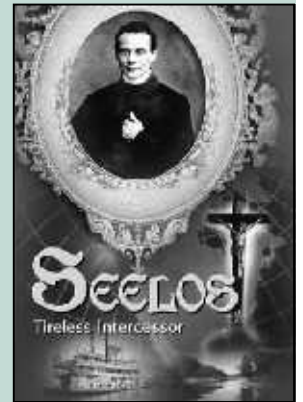
- ✓ Read how Father Seelos foretold his own death.
- ✓ Learn why the doctor was so amazed.
- ✓ Discover the irony of the person who spoke last into Father Seelos' ear.
- ✓ Meet the one who was cured with a touch to Father Seelos in the casket.

**Death, Where Is Your Sting?** Hardcover, 175 pages, with photos (\$19.00 + \$4.00 p/h or \$7.00 p/h for 2 or more)

1 VHS video & 1 *Sting* book (\$50 including p/h)

## SEELOS, TIRELESS INTERCESSOR

This documentary chronicles the heroic & miraculous life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Father Seelos possessed great mystical gifts due to his intense prayer life. His ability to minister with cheerful holiness made



him a spiritual father to tens of thousands. Despite his early death, so profound was his missionary zeal that sickness, persecution, and even the upheaval caused by the Civil War, could not stop him.

Please send request & payment to:  
Seelos Center  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

68 min. DVD (\$29.00 + \$5.50 p/h) **\$25**

68 min. VHS (\$24.00 + \$5.50 p/h) (\$8.50 p/h for any 2 or more)



## MORE READER / VIEWER RESPONSES!

*"I have watched "Seelos: Tireless Intercessor" and read the book, Death, Where is Your Sting? The DVD is very well done. It captures the spirit of the Seelos Center and of our devotion to Father Seelos. The book is most interesting. The information and reflections help provide an appreciation for the yellow fever epidemics, the state of New Orleans in 1867, the final days of Father Seelos' earthly life, and the respect and affection he enjoyed at St. Alphonsus Parish. I pray that both the DVD and book will be instruments of God's grace for many people. May God bless all who serve at Blessed Seelos Center."*

+ Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, Bishop of Biloxi, MS

*"Death, Where is Your Sting? is a stroke of genius. I'm almost finished reading it; it is a delight and an education. The background articles help so much to get a real picture of the sickness and Blessed Seelos in the midst of it."*

-- Brooklyn, NY

*"I needed to write you a message of thanksgiving for producing the great DVD on Father Seelos. I have surely seen incredible emotional devotions in my experience, but the DVD has done a marvelous task of integrating devotion with humanness to truly balance what I consider a real love and affection for a man of faith & hope. It really invites people to seek further into his life so they can look further into their personal life."*

-- Oconomowoc, WI

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

Denver Provincial Superior:  
Very Rev. Thomas D. Pictou, 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

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Seelos Center News

# TESTIMONIALS

## SYRACUSE, NY

We will never forget our experience at your Shrine. My husband and I were in New Orleans for a big WWII reunion; somehow somebody at the hotel told us about the Shrine. We had quite a time trying to find it, and finally was told about a trolley that got us close to it. I bless the person whoever it was that told us about Blessed Seelos. We loved the Shrine! The volunteers were wonderful to us, took us over to the Church and let us kiss the special crucifix, and kept the gift shop open for us. I obtained a relic that I am privileged to have. May God continue to bless all your good works.

## PORTAGE, PA

I became familiar with Blessed Seelos through EWTN & Mother Angelica, and have been praying with Blessed Seelos since then. My mom, age 91, died last October. Six days before her death, a feeding tube was inserted in her abdomen because she could no longer swallow. On that day, I prayed for her at the hospital with Blessed Seelos and held a first class Seelos relic on her arm. Our dear Lord placed my mom in a quiet, private hospital room during the last hours of her life. My sister washed her face with holy water and a priest came to anoint her just hours before her death. My mom passed on very peacefully. Thank you Jesus, Blessed Mother & Blessed Seelos!

## MANDEVILLE, LA

We are writing in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for answering our prayers. My husband and I went to the Seelos Center one week after our son was missing. We were prayed over; the next day he was found.

Please

Visit Our Redesigned [WWW.SEELOS.ORG](http://WWW.SEELOS.ORG)

## OPELOUSAS, LA

I have been praying for peace in my family for many years. In June I visited the Seelos Shrine and it was a beautiful experience. I was prayed over and there was a strong feeling that something was definitely present. I obtained a relic and prayed for Father Seelos' intercession for peace and unity in my family. Each time I placed the reliquary with the theca in my hand, I smelled his bone. At first I thought I was imagining it. But every time I placed the reliquary in my hand to pray, I had the same smell. This happened for about two weeks. It was a very peaceful feeling, and I began to feel a sense of peace from my heart. When I stopped smelling the bone, I received an insulting letter from a family member blaming me for the division in the family. Even though I was angry, I could feel that peace taking over my heart when I had the theca in my hand. We talked and came to an understanding. The next day, my sister called to ask me if we could put all these issues behind us and try to be a family again. Hearing her voice was like music to my ears. This time I can truly say that I forgive her, and I am willing to forget about everything. We've been together several times. We are calling each other on the phone and we're actually laughing and enjoying ourselves. After praying for about twenty years with no positive feelings or reactions from the family-- and after three years of no communications whatsoever -- I feel that Father Seelos has definitely worked a miracle for us.

## METAIRIE, LA

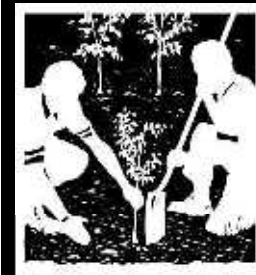
I was referred to Father Seelos by a friend after having female problems. I had to have a surgical procedure and was told I had mild squamous dysplasia (pre-cancerous cells). I prayed morning and night, with the help of my mother. I went to many Seelos events and was blessed with the cross. I always wear his scapular. My latest biopsy recently showed zero signs and symptoms of pre-cancer.

Plant  
a  
Tree



Father  
Seelos

*The best time to plant a tree was thirty years ago; the second best time is today!* Historically, the founder of Arbor Day thought that a day set aside (April 30; Jan. 19 in Louisiana) to show our appreciation of nature would be a positive event to uplift people's spirit and energies. He chose the planting of trees as a symbol of birth & renewal for that celebration. He saw the interdependence of people & nature in the biblical sense -- that the Creator had given us all the good things of the earth to be put to God's use. He also recognized the biblical admonition that we must be good stewards of the earth and added, "we ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed." As Teddy Roosevelt said so aptly on the first Arbor Day in 1885, "Any nation which in its youth lives only for the day, reaps without sowing, and consumes without husbanding, must expect the penalty of the prodigal."



Please help us beautify New Orleans again and leave something behind for generations to come. Designate "Seelos Trees" on the enclosed envelope with your contribution.

## "Seelos Window"

Inspired by the lifetime works of artisan & iconographer, Fr. Norbert Hess of Notre Dame University, this Seelos Window brings beauty, ritual power to everyday settings. A timeless treasure featuring a profound ceramic image: the tile print is not a decal -- the ink actually permeates the tile to ensure a vivid, long-lasting image. This is an expensive process but with dramatic results. Tile mounted on raised panels to create a three-dimensional effect and set in a natural wood frame that is finished front-to-back. Excellent craftsmanship! Measures 15.5 x 16.5 in.; weighs approx. 6 lbs. \$95, includes certified postage & handling. Specify black, brown or dark green wood frame color.

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## I'VE MOVED!

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

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Kindly 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.