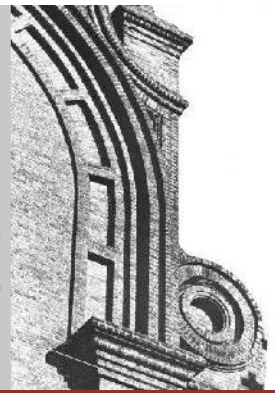


Seelos Center News

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



National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church of Saint Mary's Assumption

Volume XLVI
Number 10
October 2007



140TH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. SEELOS' DEATH

The Daily Picayune

The New Orleans Bee

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCT. 5, 1867

SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 6, 1867

DEATH OF A CATHOLIC PRIEST. – The Rev. Father [S]EELOS, of St. Mary's German Church, Fourth District, succumbed, yesterday, to the prevailing epidemic, after a long and severe struggle. A solemn high mass of requiem was celebrated at 8 o'clock this morning in the church of the deceased. Solemn funeral obsequies will take place at 3 o'clock this afternoon. There is no need to tell how a good priest, and he a Redemptorist, takes his final leave of this scene. So we will only add that the beloved Father Seelos was an ornament even to his order. No one could look upon him, especially when at the altar or in the pulpit, without feeling that there was immeasurably more of Heaven than earth about this devout servant of Christ. The few who knew him – the Redemptorists have no time for mixing with the world – and the many who sought his spiritual guidance knew that his only human weakness was his overflowing sympathy and charity for poor erring humanity. Requiescat in pace.

V

DEATH OF REV. FATHER [S]EELOS. – The profession of a clergyman is the noblest of all employments. The physician heals the body but the divine brings comfort to the soul, when the physician has exhausted the resources of his mind in battling with "the last enemy" and surrenders to the conqueror. Just as it is disgraceful in a soldier to manifest cowardice in the presence of the foe, so must the clergyman stand in "the imminent deadly breach." The "business" of the soldier is to die – that of a divine is to leave himself in the hands of a wise and kind Providence, knowing he will order all things as "seemeth unto him good."

There are many self-sacrificing soldiers of the cross in this deeply afflicted community, and none were more devoted to their calling than the godly man who has just been removed in the midst of his usefulness to the reward prepared for the righteous. He has fallen in the fight, with his armor on, and gone to the Master whom he so faithfully followed, to receive the plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

(continued on pg. 2)

UNITED IN PRAYER

Fr. Seelos died of yellow fever in New Orleans on October 4, 1867 at 5:45 p.m. The Angelus bells of St. Mary's Assumption Church, where he was pastor, chimed shortly thereafter. To commemorate this special milestone of his death, please join with Seelos devotees in all fifty states and beyond in a moment of prayer & solidarity ...

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2007 at 5:45 p.m. (CST), you are invited to kneel & recite the Angelus for the Canonization Cause of Bl. Francis Seelos. If circumstances do not allow, please offer 3 Hail Marys for this intention.

"If you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted by my Father in heaven" (MT 18:19).

THE ANNUAL SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS

Sunday, October 7, 2007 - 11:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Assumption Church
(corner of Josephine & Constance streets)
New Orleans, LA

FOURTH ANNUAL SEELOS GALA DINNER & AUCTION

Sunday, October 7, 2007 - 5:30 p.m.
Sheraton New Orleans Hotel
Armstrong Ballroom
500 Canal Street, New Orleans

Contact the Seelos Center 504-525-2495 for Gala reservations by Tuesday, Oct. 2.

Vietnamese Memorial Mass in Honor of

CHÂN PHƯỚC
PHANXICO XAVIÊ SEELOS, C.Ss.R.
with Seelos Crucifix Blessing
Sunday, October 7, 1:30 PM
St. Mary's Assumption Church,
Fr. Luong Uong, C.Ss.R., Presider

Message from the Editor

It is said in jest that the reason crime doesn't pay is because it gets you involved with lawyers! Likewise, on one particular occasion, criminal activity did not pay when it involved Fr. Seelos as a target! In 1865 he had no choice but to sit next to a pickpocket on a train from Cleveland to Toledo. Upon taking his seat, Fr. Seelos was already wary of the man, so he put his traveling money in his breast pocket and only his baggage claim in his side pocket. While Fr. Seelos was asleep, the pickpocket cut open his overcoat from the side and took his wallet, thinking it contained the money. When Fr. Seelos eventually felt a big hole in his pocket, he did not want to be detained in Toledo where the train for Detroit was waiting and ready to leave. Fr. Seelos had to quickly convince the baggage clerk that the luggage he pointed out was his, so as to barely make his connection.

The journey from Jerusalem to Jericho was notoriously dangerous because

of bandits. When Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan (LK 10:25-37), he was making a connection to his listeners who could relate to the possibility of being robbed on that road. Listeners of the story would have also expected the arrival of the Samaritan to be a villain, because of their hatred toward the Samaritan people. Jesus' surprise ending about a "good Samaritan" was intended for those who needed convincing that there are some redeeming qualities in everyone.

Moreover, the priest and the Levite in the story were presumably moved to pity for the wounded man, but they *did* nothing. Compassion leads to action! When a teacher asked a little girl in catechism class why she thought the priest in the Good Samaritan story passed by on the other side, she replied, "Because the man lying by the road had already been robbed." Now, that's a surprise ending!



(continued from pg. 1)

Father Seelos was a priest of the Catholic Church, attached to St. Mary's Church, in this city. Broken down by arduous labor, he was an easy prey to the epidemic now prevailing here. It is no respecter of persons, and could not have selected a more shining mark than this excellent man. Father Seelos died on Friday, and was followed to the grave yesterday by a sorrowing flock. He has left behind him a name fragrant with the good deeds of a useful life.

V

This vintage stained glass window in the balcony of Saint Mary's Assumption Church was dedicated by an anonymous donor to Father Francis X. Seelos in thanksgiving for favors received.



that a gift of \$10 to our Annual Appeal will help defray the cost of printing & postage of this newsletter for one entire year.

Visit our redesigned www.seelos.org as we celebrate

our 100,000th-plus visitor!
Check for online promotions.
Also, view Fr. Seelos on YouTube!

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

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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www.seelos.org
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Seelos Center News

The Seelos Center offers the following services:

☐ **Pilgrimages** to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. Call the Center at 504-525-2495 or 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/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

Lacombe/Abita Springs

Billy Bachemin: 504-232-0349

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

Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-925-9975

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

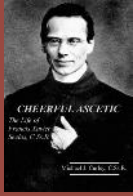
St. Bernard/Arabi

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 space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



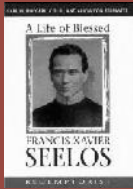
Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$23.00 + 6.95 p/h)



.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: \$12, incl. p/h)



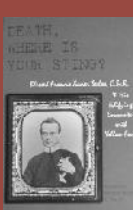
A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography by Fr. Carl Hoegerl & Alicia von Stammwitz. (Donation: \$11 - includes p/h)



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)



Death, Where Is Your Sting? is a tender account of Fr. Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details surrounding his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$23 - incl. p/h)

☐ **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).



DID YOU KNOW?

Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, published a book in 1939 entitled *Sanctity in America*. The book presents 17 notable figures of the American Church & their status in regard to canonization. Chapter 10 (pp. 92-96) was devoted to Father Seelos.



"In October 2000, the remains of Father Seelos were exhumed ... and carried to the cathedral for a repeat of his funeral, this time with the archbishop as principal celebrant. He was taken back, with a police escort that he did not have at his first funeral, to St. Mary's Church where, it is hoped, he will rest in peace without being dug up again. The old Latin Mass for the dead, which was used at Father Seelos's first funeral in 1867, begins *Requiem aeternam dona ei Domine*, "Lord, give him eternal rest." One hopes the saint will now be allowed to rest in his grave in peace."

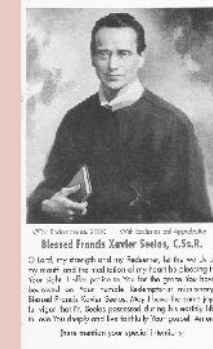
"Do not lose courage, but continue until you see prepared the crown for those blessed souls who have their Spouse in heaven and who will enjoy spousal love in heaven forever at the great wedding feast."
-- Francis Xavier Seelos, 1857

ALL SOULS DAY SPECIAL
\$20 offering to enroll deceased spouses in Perpetual Mass League only through November 2!

TIMELY READING
for the 140th Anniversary of Father Seelos' Death

-- Earl J. Higgins,
The Joy of Y'at Catholicism
(Pelican Publishing Co., 2007)

NOW AVAILABLE! Printable Seelos Prayer Cards



Use as Funeral Memorial Cards or for Anniversary & Special Occasions
4-color image & prayer on front; blank on back for printing;
size: 2-5/8" x 4-1/2"
\$9 per 100 (incl. p/h)

- ✓ 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.

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

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TESTIMONIALS

raceland, LA

I write in thanksgiving to God & Fr. Seelos that my life was spared when I crashed my car into a utility pole. I first heard about Fr. Seelos when I had surgery in 1971. A friend of mine gave me a book and prayer card of Fr. Seelos. I wear a Fr. Seelos medal on me at all times. I am sure God and Fr. Seelos were there to help me.

cameron, LA

I recently had a routine mammogram that showed the need for further evaluation. At my age of 43, I was praying for it all to be okay & it was, with just two simple nodules and no sign of anything more. I cannot tell you the enormous relief I felt hearing that all tests were normal. I was very blessed to have been given a card with a piece of cloth touched to the relic of Fr. Seelos & I carry it with me always. I thank Fr. Seelos from the bottom of my heart & I will continue to pray to him in the future.

Metairie, LA

I am 70 years old and was diagnosed in 2006 with inoperable lung cancer in both lungs. After my diagnosis, my niece mentioned Fr. Seelos and how she prayed to him during her father's illness. Soon after, a friend brought me a relic and I began carrying it with me through all the procedures. In January 2007 I started six treatments of chemo that were scheduled every 21 days. I also attended the Seelos Birthday Mass and received the blessing with Fr. Seelos' old missionary cross. I immediately started praying the Fr. Seelos Novena, which gave me a feeling of peace, and I wore a Seelos medal. After my third chemo treatment, the doctor gave me the wonderful news that my CT scan showed no trace of tumors in either lung. I had tears of happiness. It crossed my mind immediately that Fr. Seelos answered my prayers. I am six months in remission and will continue to wear his medal indefinitely. Just wearing it gives me a good feeling, and I often touch it at some point during the day, with a

silent "I love you." I would like to thank Fr. Seelos and God for this was a miracle granted through Fr. Seelos' intercession.

pittsburgh, pA

Excerpt from the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, 8/12/07 by JoAnne Klimovich Harrop:

Upper St. Clair football player Grant Serdy lay in a hospital bed, an IV in his arm, his WPIAL gold medal hanging from the pole holding the fluids dripping in his body, keeping him alive. It was seven days before his teammates would play for the PIAA title. Serdy had a fever and was unable to keep food down, and he was not sure he would get out in time for the game. Tests were inconclusive. He eventually did recover and made it to the title game in Hershey, but he was unable to play even one down. He was too weak to stand while wearing his helmet. Barb and Rich Serdy watched their son's condition weaken from not eating while his temperature rose to 105. Serdy was admitted to St. Clair Hospital and wasn't allowed to have visitors, other than his parents. Doctors weren't sure if his condition was contagious. Meanwhile, people prayed for Grant's recovery, and soon after his girlfriend brought a medal of Father Seelos, who is up for sainthood, the fever started to come down.

CORDOVA, TN

I was not familiar with Blessed Seelos until a woman approached me after Mass and handed me a prayer card & 1st class relic of Fr. Seelos, when she heard that I was having surgery. I did my holy hour after Mass that day and sat before the Blessed Sacrament & prayed the Seelos prayer with the relic in my hand. I felt great peace and anxiety left me. I had been in atrial fibrillation since last December and no medication had worked in controlling my heart rhythm. When I checked into the hospital, I had the relic with me & I placed it on my chest and prayed while I was waiting for surgery. They stopped my heart & restarted it and I have been fine since then. I am praying in thanksgiving for Bl. Seelos' intercessions.



Gerard Miller of Denham Springs, LA, displays his Seelos memento while on duty in Iraq.



KEEPSAKE BOX features a profound ceramic image of Father Seelos. 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 set in natural, white or black wood box with excellent craftsmanship! Measures 7" x 7" x 2.25". Specify wood color. \$26 (incl. p/h)

While Supplies Last!



Seelos Rosary Ring for October, Month of the Rosary

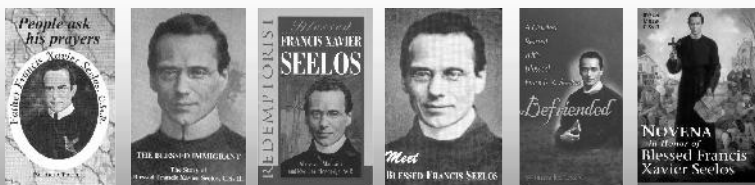


Made in Italy. \$3 (includes p/h)

Featured cover story by Mark Regis on "Bl. Francis Seelos, Powerful Intercessor" in the *Garabandal Journal* (Sept/Oct 2003 Issue). \$5 (includes p/h)



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