

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

National Shrine of Blessed
Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church
of Saint Mary's Assumption

2030 Constance Street (504) 525-2495
New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 525-2499

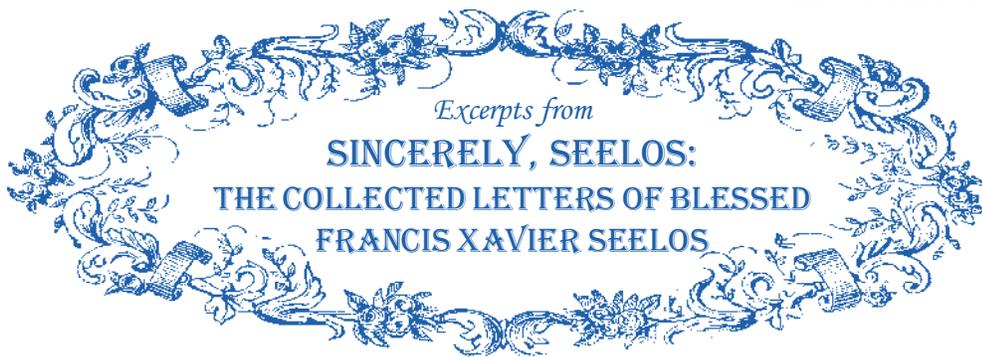
Volume XLVII Number 5 May 2008

www.seelos.org



AT LAST ...
FR. SEELOS IN
HIS OWN
HAND!

The Redemptorist Provincial requested that Father Seelos curtail his enthusiasm for letter writing. Fortunately for us, this request came just one year before Seelos' death in 1867. He leaves behind a collection of 201 extant letters that reflects his spirituality & sanctity, and a compendium that represents the life and the times.



Excerpts from
SINCERELY, SEELOS:
THE COLLECTED LETTERS OF BLESSED
FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS

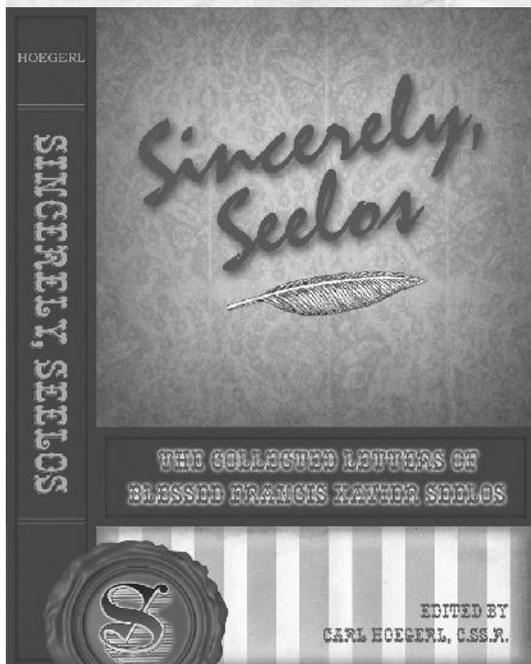
Edited by Carl Hoegerl, C.S.S.R.

"In the morning, get up at five o'clock; in the evening to bed at ten. Daily, if possible, attend Mass, and in the afternoon a visit to the Blessed Sacrament if there is some free time at your disposal. Every day try to say five decades of the Rosary. During your work see in your mind one or the other of the Stations of the Cross and then, in spirit, make personal applications about the mystery meditated upon. At the beginning take one Station to which you ordinarily have a great devotion and gradually you will be in condition to visit, one by one, all the fourteen Stations in a spirit of contemplation during your work and to make practical applications in your heart." -- Seelos, suggesting a rule of life, undated.

"Frater Lindenfeld is still too much inclined to odd ways, and so I have to keep an eye on him especially. He would rather be alone and has a great aversion to community life. But he lets himself be corrected but forgets again and again. He imagines some things; for example, formerly he had the idea that he would die soon, and that there was no fresh, pure blood in his veins, his body is already beginning to wither away, etc., while every day he's getting fatter and fatter." -- Seelos, in a student report to the Provincial Superior, 1862

"[Americans] are so anxious to know the events of the day that the paper carriers go running with the papers even before the break of day, as if they already were too late. Hardly has it dawned and daylight breaks in when you see during the summer the gentlemen sitting in front of their houses with the papers; and indeed, not in the most modest of postures. The papers are not merely read superficially but are actually studied; and the most important of all for them are the various announcements and advertisements, or sales of goods and wares." -- Seelos to his sisters in Germany, 1858

VISIT WWW.SEELOS.ORG
FOR AVAILABILITY IN LATE MAY OR
CALL SEELOS CENTER FOR ADVANCE ORDERS!



A Message from the Editor

While recently wandering through the 40-year retrospective of Cajun artist and iconic Blue Dog creator George Rodrigue at the New Orleans Museum of Art, I suddenly found myself in front of a large canvas depicting Leroy "Happy Fats" LeBlanc -- an appropriately nicknamed Cajun musician of the mid-20th century who became a local personality on morning television in the 1960s. Since childhood, I had little reason to ever think of this man or recall his likeness, and so it was emotionally powerful to be amid a group of strangers in a museum in 2008, but individually transported forty years earlier to a different place and time of pleasant memories.

Memory recall is an ability that makes us human, but perhaps we are seldom more prayerfully divine than when a song or sunrise, scripture or sacrament, work of art or work of creation, can evoke feelings in us that transport and transform.

In the last several years, a consistent vision at the Seelos Shrine has aimed to immerse visitors in the mid-19th century world of Father Seelos. By being transported to his place and time, it is hoped that we can better appreciate his spirituality and emulate his fine example.

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Your April newsletter brought back some wonderful memories for me. I immediately went to locate a book issued by my childhood parish & saw so very many similarities I wanted to share them: the church name, St. Mary of the Assumption in Manayunk PA, its German history & the fact that we owe so much to the Redemptorist Fathers who initially staffed it. Isn't it a pity that at close to 80 years old, it has taken me this long to give credit where it is owed. Your article on the 150th anniversary [of the cornerstone of St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans] has brought me much joy & rekindled the wonderful memories (blessings) of my childhood. Thank you and God bless you and your wonderful work.

-- Agnes E. O'Brien, Brunswick GA

Dear Father Miller,

I am George's son and I work with Rodrigue Studio. Thank you so much for your touching email. I am so happy that the exhibition touched you in a special way. It has been unbelievable how many people have had such strong emotions after visiting the museum. I told my dad how the portrait of Happy Fats & the Rayne Bo Ramblers brought back great memories for you. He really loves that painting and is so happy that it was able to be included in the exhibition. He always loves to find out that his artwork evokes strong feelings in people. Sincerely,

Jacques Rodrigue

Calling all Cajun & Jazz Lovers!

Why not take in a cultural experience ... and religious one too. While in New Orleans for Jazzfest (thru May 4) or the Rodrigue exhibit (thru June 1), please visit Fr. Seelos at his historic shrine.



Artist Riece Walton paid homage to historic St. Mary's Assumption Church on one of his large colorful canvases for a successful solo exhibit at a New Orleans gallery in October 2007. Quality color prints are now available with a wide border in suitable sizes for framing, each signed by the artist.

- 20" x 24" on watercolor paper, \$40
- 12" x 16" on watercolor paper, \$30
- 11" x 14" on matted paper, \$20

Prices above include P/H during the month of May

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 Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in designated area hospitals. Please call:

East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-482-4404

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

Pearl River

Gail Garay: 985-863-7562

Ponchatoula/Hammond

Gasper Corpora: 225-294-5938

Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-9313

Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-925-9975

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

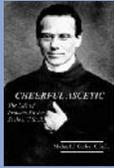
St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

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

☞ *Weekly Mass* celebrated for Seelos benefactors. Please include Special Intentions in the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



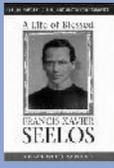
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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. (Donation: \$12 - 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)



Seelos, Tireless Intercessor, a 68-minute documentary on the miraculous life of Seelos, as seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$35 DVD / \$29 VHS - incl. p/h)



Death, Where Is Your Sting?, a tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details of 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.

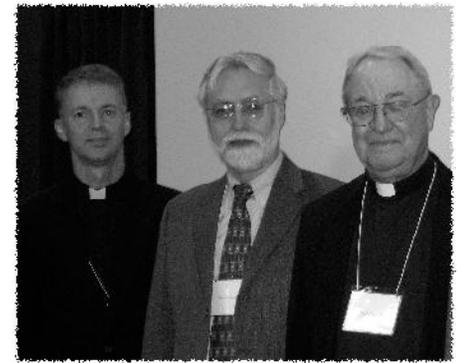
First, Second & Third-Class Relics of Bl. F. Seelos. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

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



ACADEMIC CIRCLES SEELOS

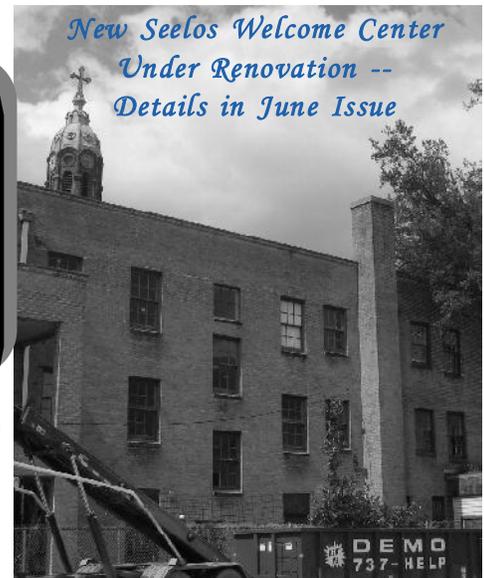
On April 3-5, 2008, the American Catholic Historical Association's gathering at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN, included specialized presentations on such ponderous topics as, "Post Thomas Scholasticism, 1280-1312," & "Theology, Philosophy & Conversion from Augustine and Pseudo-Denys to Ratramnus." This year, Dr. Patrick Hayes, Ph.D. of Saint John's University, NY, helped arrange a presentation on "The Context of Holiness: The Case of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R." The panelists were Fr. Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R., archivist of the Baltimore Province of Redemptorists & author of numerous Seelos studies; Robert L. Worden, Library of Congress archivist & author; Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R., Seelos Vice Postulator & author (shown right to left, above). Founded in 1919, the American Catholic Historical Association brings together scholars, professors, writers, students of history, and non-professional supporters from across the country, all of whom are interested in the history of the Catholic Church or in Catholic aspects of secular history. The Association, with over 1,100 members, is the recognized Catholic voice in the historical profession in the United States.



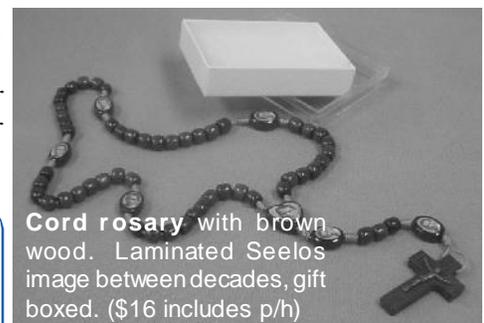
Special \$20 offering to enroll mothers, living or deceased, in Perpetual Mass League only during the month of May in honor of Mother's Day!
Special \$10 offering to enroll mothers, living or deceased, in One-Year Mass League



Did You Know that Father Seelos began a tradition at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, Maryland, by instituting a May procession, crowning of the statue of Mary, and other special devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother.



New Seelos Welcome Center Under Renovation -- Details in June Issue



Cord rosary with brown wood. Laminated Seelos image between decades, gift boxed. (\$16 includes p/h)



SEELOS ROSARY RING
 Made in Italy
 (\$3.00 offering includes p/h)

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

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

Seelos Center News
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 Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:
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 www.seelos.org
 Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly
 by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos
 Subscription is \$10 per year.



TESTIMONIALS



MOUNTAIN HOME, AR

I have prayed to Fr. Seelos for 15 years. My husband had carcinoma of the kidney & I had breast cancer. We are healed and no chemo! Praise God! Thank you Fr. Seelos.

HERMOSA BEACH, CA

Mrs. R. Park distributes Fr. Seelos prayer cards to hospital patients during her weekly visits. She gave one to a patient dying of cancer. The lady was praying to Fr. Seelos and was discharged from the hospital. Miraculously, she is still living! People in California are beginning to hear about Fr. Seelos, especially through Mrs. Park, a devout Catholic.

SPOKANE, WA

My son had a breathing problem and we rushed him to a hospital emergency. He was put on oxygen and hospitalized for a week, then moved to another less expensive hospital. In February the oxygen was removed and no longer needed because Fr. Seelos healed him through his relic that we touched to my son. Deo Gratias!

LAPLACE, LA

My daughter in Keller TX gave birth to a baby in March. The baby was pulseless and not breathing after getting stuck in the birth canal. He was revived but rushed to Cook Children's Hospital in Ft. Worth. When I got the news I called a friend & asked her to pray to Fr. Seelos. She made some calls & Mary Jane Drndak in Dallas met me in Texas and gave me Seelos mementos and requested prayers to her "prayer warriors" for the baby's healing. She also contacted Mary Solis in Grapevine, who drove to Keller to support us with a relic of Fr. Seelos. The baby made a wonderful improvement & was discharged 11 days after his birth, breathing normally, and apparently gaining weight.

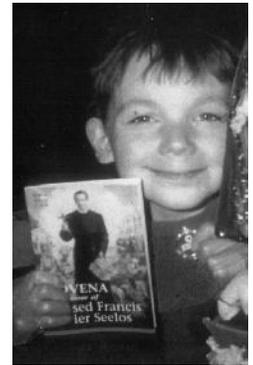
GUEYDAN, LA

My grandson suffered from an unexplainable virus that attacked his liver and developed into a rare blood disease. While at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, the medications were not helping and his condition worsened. He was then put on a list for a liver transplant. That's when I began a novena to Fr. Seelos & things started to happen. God gave the doctors the knowledge to help & my grandson was taken off the transplant list. He came home right before Christmas -- the first miracle! Five months later during a checkup, they discovered that his blood platelets were not normal. He went back to Houston and was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a rare blood disorder that affects only one in three million people. I prayed to Fr. Seelos to help my grandson once again. The doctors conferred with specialists at St. Jude and all over the world. They finally found a rarely used medication because of its low success rate that helped. Just like the second miracle, his condition improved. He is now home, back in school & in sports. Every checkup is better and I know in my heart that it was because of my prayers to Fr. Seelos to pray to God with me that helped heal my grandson. I believe in miracles & believe Fr. Seelos should be named a saint.

On May 12, 2008 the U. S. Postal Service will increase prices for mailings as it did in May 2007. In addition, paper/envelope costs have increased dramatically in recent months. The Seelos Center is committed to offering a monthly newsletter, but these factors beyond our control have necessitated some changes beginning with the mailing of this issue. Thank you for your understanding in the matter. Your consideration of a \$10 donation to help defray the annual costs of printing & mailing this newsletter is greatly appreciated.

AUSTIN, TX

Henry has captured the imagination & heart of everyone he meets. Confident, well-spoken, and curious, his faith is steady & strong and he talks to God. We invite others to join us in a 9-day Seelos novena for Henry, since the *Epidermolysis Bullosa* is now in his digestive tract. He is losing his terrible fight with nutrition. For the last 2 years, Henry has eaten nothing but Ensure. Doctors insist he needs to eat real food but it causes him painful acid reflux. Three separate strictures in his esophagus don't allow food to empty into his stomach. So far Henry has lost 5 pounds. Perhaps God is waiting for us to ask for another "miracle" like the last one. Divine providence brought us Bl. Francis X. Seelos as a wonderful intercessor who loves to help the physically sick. We visited his shrine in New Orleans asking prayers for Henry. Lovely people immediately gathered & prayed for him. When Henry was three, he needed surgery to cut his fingers apart. Each hand's fingers had grown together. The question was whether new skin would grow under the bandages. We called the shrine, and beseeched Fr. Seelos, the Blessed Mother, & every saint we could think of to help us. The doctor removed the bandages and used the word "miracle." When successful, this procedure is supposed to last 18 months; Henry's hands are still functioning 5 years later. Henry says he weighs "45 point 8 pounds" and hopes to weigh 50 by his 8th birthday. He is joining us in saying the novena.



Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$_____ to be used for:

- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- the Seelos Scholarship Fund to support Redemptorist Seminarians.
- item(s) designated below:

- my Mass Intention(s):

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

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 address change request.

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