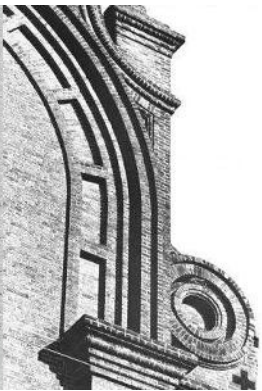




SEELOS CENTER NEWS

*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 XLVIII Number 8 August 2009

www.seelos.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

**SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS
ST. MARY'S CHURCH
1:00 P.M.**

**SEELOS GALA DINNER
AUDUBON TEA ROOM
6500 MAGAZINE STREET
5:30 P.M.**

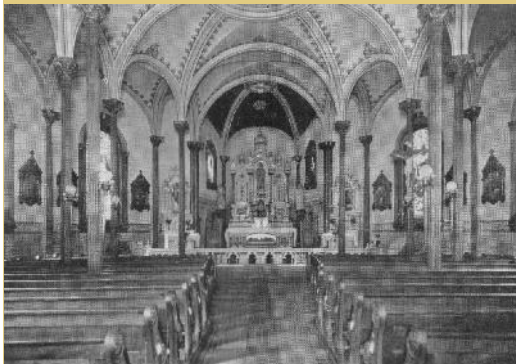
Call 504-525-2495 or 2499
for dinner reservations

The Stereoscope Series -- Part III of III:

The Sanctuary as Seelos Saw It

In the 1800s, many Irish immigrants in New Orleans found work primarily on the River wharves; German immigrants engaged in work as artisans, tailors, bakers and meatpackers, as well as in the euphemistic "coffee-houses" that functioned more as a saloon and less like a modern-day Starbucks; the French Gascons earned their livelihood principally in the restaurant business. But, whatever the occupation, they all could find a home in the Redemptorist complex, with its three impressive churches for each nationality.

Notre Dame de Bon Secours, the smallest of the three, accommodated 350 people. It was described as a quaint structure with vaulted ceilings, tasteful stained glass & religious statuary. Construction began in 1857 on Jackson Avenue, between Constance & Laurel streets. This church served a loyal French congregation for almost 70 years before a decision was made by the Archbishop in the early 1920s to amalgamate the three Redemptorist parishes into one. Notre Dame Church was later taken down after irreparable hurricane damage.



Father Seelos' ability to speak English, German & French was especially useful in New Orleans, where the Redemptorists actually had tri-lingual ministry. It appears that Father Seelos performed the wedding of Peter Carstens & Mary Piquery at Notre Dame Church on October 18, 1866 -- less than a month after his arrival in the Crescent City.



Stereo cards were especially popular from the 1840s through the 1930s. Two nearly identical pictures were mounted on stiff cardbacking to create a three-dimensional image when viewed through a stereoscope. Samuel T. Blessing was among early stereoview photographers.

FR. SEELOS: MODEL FOR YEAR OF THE PRIEST

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother," wrote Theodore Hesburgh. So, in that sense, my vocation was nurtured at home by my parents. While in high school I worked at my great uncle's shoe store. I wondered at the time if God was calling me to a future in soles; a few years later, I questioned if God was instead calling me to a future in souls. I'm hoping my vocation isn't based on a supreme misinterpretation! Of the two, I'd say priesthood has been the better fit.

The Redemptorist grade school and parish in my Louisiana hometown acquainted me at a young age with Perpetual Help devotions, St. Alphonsus' Stations of the Cross, and the Cause of a certain Father Francis Xavier Seelos. Moreover, the approachable nature of Redemptorists helped make the CSSR way of life an attractive course to follow.

When first joining the Congregation, I thought that by depriving myself of some things, I could better avail myself of those things that matter most. Truthfully speaking, any deprivations in vowed life over the years have been overly compensated: the connections made in ministry have been more than rewarding, and my connection to genuine friends and classmates in the Congregation are reminders that I am seldom alone in being alone.

It is said that in Pittsburgh, Father Seelos encountered a poor man in the bitter cold whose toes were exposed through his torn shoes. Father Seelos kindly asked the man for his shoes and gave in return the boots from his own feet, to arrive later at home wearing the tattered shoes himself. Father Seelos developed a love for others by walking in their shoes - literally and figuratively!

With such an exemplary "sole provider" in the Redemptorist Congregation as this, I'm glad I didn't set up shop elsewhere!

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

CONTACT INFO:

If you would like more information about the Redemptorists, please contact our Vocation Directors, Fr. Tat Hoang, Br. Laurence Lujan, or Fr. Richard Bennett.
www.Redemptoristvocations.com
 email: cssrvocation@yahoo.com
 718-321-1394 (office)
 718-362-0135 (cell)

"My patron, Bl. Fr. Seelos, has silently guided my heart to inquire about the Redemptorist Congregation. I have recently contacted the vocation director. I have also talked to some good friends of mine at the Seelos Shrine in New Orleans. The ambition I feel burning in my heart is to put on the habit of my patron. Reading the biography of Fr. Seelos, I was prompted to further investigate the life of the Redemptorists. I will continue in prayer that God will lead me to whatever he desires. -- *TeenCatholic*

DID YOU KNOW?

Before President Obama met Pope Benedict XVI last month, the state department sought the perfect gift for the president to present to the pope: a priestly stole belonging to the Redemptorists that had been draped atop the sacred remains of Saint John Neumann at his shrine in Philadelphia. Neumann, canonized in 1977, was the first Redemptorist to profess vows in America. He established the Catholic parochial school system in the U.S. Bl. Francis Seelos & St. John Neumann were stationed together in Pittsburgh for several years. "We're giving the gift because it was asked for by our government to be given to the pope, and it's an honor," said Fr. Al Bradley, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Services

☞ **Pilgrimages** to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. Call Center: 504-525-2495 or 525-2499.

☞ **Daily Spiritual Message**
 Call 504-586-1803.

☞ **Blessings of the Sick** with a Seelos Crucifix in designated area hospitals:

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
 Dennis Waldron: 504-442-6336

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: 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

Gaspar Corpora: 225-294-5938

Prairieville/Gonzales

M/M Claude Bourgeois 225-673-6688

Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-797-3116

Slidell

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

St. Bernard/Arabi

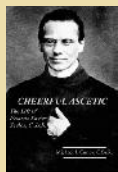
Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

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

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

"I never thought it was so sweet to die in the Congregation. I now begin to know what happiness it is to live and die a Redemptorist. Oh, let us love our vocation and strive to persevere in it. Then all will be right with us." -- F. X. Seelos, 1867

Seelos Center Devotionals



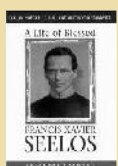
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse & edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$58 - includes p/h).



Seelos Rosary Ring: Made in Italy, great gift for First Communion in honor of Mary for the month of May. (Donation: \$3, incl. p/h)



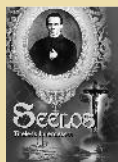
A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, 108-page paperback biography, illustrated. (Donation: \$12 - includes p/h)



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: one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Ctr. or website for enrollment)



Seelos, Tireless Intercessor, a 68-min. documentary on Seelos' miraculous life; seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$25 for DVD - incl. p/h)



Death, Where Is Your Sting?, tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told by witnesses of his death to yellow fever. Seldom revealed details transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$24 - incl. p/h)



Sincerely, Seelos, the 201 collected letters of Fr. Seelos. Hardbound, 512 pgs., illustr. (Donation: \$35 - incl. p/h)

A Seelos Vigil Candle will burn near his sacred resting place in Seelos Shrine, New Orleans, for an offering of \$4.

Seelos 1st, 2nd & 3rd-Class Relics/ Seelos Pamphlets & Prayer Cards in English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.



Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.



ARE WE THERE YET?

The Solanus Casey Center was built by the Capuchin Friars in Detroit in the year 2002. This new & spacious visitor facility is good preparation for the time when Venerable Solanus' beatification becomes a reality.

With final details made to the new Seelos Welcome Center building & property during the month of August, we are in the process of relocating from 2030 Constance Street to our new address at 919 Josephine Street! We too hope that this new & spacious visitor facility is good preparation for the time when Blessed Seelos' canonization becomes a reality ... but we are still in need of help with furnishing the building.

An actual classified ad in Washington read, "Church pews, sleeps six, \$100 each. (509) 884-3293." Can you please help us with the cost of a pew or mattress?

Please participate in our Seelos Welcome Center building project with due recognition!

The new Seelos Welcome Center is needed to expand our ministerial outreach & develop new initiatives as we work toward Bl. Seelos' canonization. Our commemorative wall will be a permanent symbol dedicated to enrich those who visit the Shrine's Welcome Center. It's a very special way to remember a family member, friend or co-worker with a deep devotion to Fr. Seelos for favors granted. Remember your loved ones or honor the life work of someone special.

Levels of Recognition

HALO HELPERS (\$250 - \$499)
 SEELOS SHRINE ENTHUSIASTS (\$500 - \$999)
 SEELOS SHRINE SUPPORTERS (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
 SEELOS SHRINE SUSTAINERS (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
(Helpers, Enthusiasts, Supporters, Sustainers are acknowledged in print.)

"SERVANT OF GOD" PATRONS (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
 "VENERABLE" SPONSORS (\$10,000 - \$19,999)
 "BLESSED" BENEFACTORS (\$20,000 - \$34,999)
 "SAINTLY" PHILANTHROPISTS (\$35,000 + UP)
(Acknowledged in print & engraved on the commemorative wall of the Seelos Welcome Center.)

Donations can be made cumulatively or in full through December 2009!

Seelos Center News

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
 Vice-Postulators: Frs. John Vargas & Byron Miller
 Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos
 Subscription is \$12 per year.

COTTON EXPO

"When I traveled to New Orleans in May to film the scenes of the 'Cotton' movie I'm in, a friend on the plane urged me to visit the Blessed Seelos shrine in New Orleans on Constance Street. He took one of these holy cards from his wallet and gave it to me as he spoke. The depth of his sincerity and conviction, as he told me about this holy priest, compelled me to seek out the shrine before my film work. I spent almost two hours there, absorbing the hope of this holy place. ... I've come to believe that my being in New Orleans to be in a film was the second reason for my being there. I now truly believe with all my heart that God sent me there primarily to learn about Blessed Seelos and the reality of his intercessory power."

-- John Wright, Jr., Birmingham AL

O my God, I truly believe You are present with me. I adore Your limitless perfections. I thank You for the graces and gifts You gave to Father Seelos. If it is Your holy will, please let him be declared a saint of the Church so that others may know and imitate his holy life. Through his prayers please give me this favor. (here mention your request)

① Great Gift Idea! Round hematite rosary beads & silver-colored cross with sepia-toned image of Bl. Seelos as the divider medal. \$26 (incl. p/h).

② Attractive pendant necklace depicts Bl. Seelos on one side & Mother of Perpetual Help on the other. Color images approx. 1" tall on cord necklace. Made in Brazil. \$12 (incl. p/h).

③ Popular scapular necklace with black & white images of Bl. Seelos & Mother of Perpetual Help, each measuring approx. 3/4" on cord necklace. Made in Brazil. \$12 (incl. p/h).



LAPLACE, LA

I suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm while working in my garden. My husband found me on the deck. I was air-lifted by helicopter to a hospital for a difficult brain surgery. I remained in a coma for a month and did not respond to anything. A friend contacted the Seelos Center to have someone visit me with a Fr. Seelos cross & relic. The next morning I came out of the coma and became cognizant of my husband. It's now been over a year since my incident. I'm back to my usual activities & have regained my memory. I am also able to drive once again. I honestly believe that it was through Bl. Seelos' intercession that I'm alive & back to normal today. Thanks so much for being there.

PICAYUNE, MS

We are extremely grateful for the holy intercession of Bl. Seelos on behalf of my daughter-in-law who has suffered with endometriosis for many years. She underwent 3 surgeries to conceive the first time five years ago, and she experienced a miscarriage two years ago, so we were very concerned about this last pregnancy. I fervently prayed to Bl. Seelos and he favored us with a grandchild in perfect health, and perfect health for our daughter-in-law as well.

SLIDELL, LA

In 2008 my gynecologist found a large tumor on my ovary during a routine exam. After numerous tests I underwent surgery & was relieved & thankful that it was a benign cyst on my ovary. From the time I left my gynecologist's office to the present, I have prayed to Bl. Seelos for healing and acceptance of God's holy will. I received the Seelos blessing and was able to visit the shrine. I know that Bl. Seelos was instrumental in my healing.

NINE-HOLE NOVENA?

As Redemptorist Father Peter Voelker of Houston describes it: "I was playing golf at Pasadena Municipal Golf Course, when I saw this object staring up at me from the muck at the edge of a half-dried up pond. I dug it up, and lo & behold, it bore the identification of Father Seelos! I will try to follow in the footsteps of this great man of God as faithfully as possible -- especially on my day off each week."



TESTIMONIALS

MARSHFIELD, WI

A year ago, the daughter of our close friends was born. She almost immediately became very ill with sepsis and respiratory arrest. Once resuscitated, a scan showed the resultant anoxia had severely damaged her brain, particularly the part involved with eyesight. She would be blind and developmentally and physically handicapped. Three months ago, doctors predicted she would never walk and would suffer from cerebral palsy. I had been praying to Fr. Seelos daily for her. She can now see and there is no sign of physical impairment. She continues to confound the doctors. Thanks be to Fr. Seelos for his powerful intercession.

PITTSBURGH, PA

Five years ago my son was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. It looked like he would have to undergo surgery to have his colon removed. An acquaintance sent me a relic of Fr. Seelos. I began touching it to my son's stomach daily and praying. Eventually, my son improved. He did not require surgery; ten months later, he went into remission and remains there today.

COLD SPRING, MN

I had no idea who Fr. Seelos was until I saw an EWTN special about his life. My husband & I decided we would visit the Seelos Shrine in New Orleans. For some reason, the only place I wanted to visit on our trip there was the Shrine. It was an absolutely amazing experience. A month after our visit, our daughter-in-law was hospitalized for the rest of her pregnancy because she was losing fluid surrounding the baby. She was 26 weeks along and had to stay in bed; if she could make it to 32 weeks, the baby would be fine. The first 48 hours were critical and

doctors expected the baby to be born within that time. I immediately started praying to Fr. Seelos to ask Jesus to help this little baby. I sent the Seelos first-class relic to my son and everyone was amazed that the baby wasn't born in the first 48 hours. Instead, a baby son was born 32 weeks and one day along! Doctors & nurses were calling this baby a miracle child. I will always look to Fr. Seelos, who I know is very dear to Jesus, for helping get us through this.

ANNAPOLIS, MD

After I read an article in the Catholic newspaper, I went to St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, where I go several times a week, but never had gone to the statue of Bl. Seelos sitting on a bench in the church garden. I prayed and asked him to heal my squamous cell cancer. Since then, it has been getting smaller and has almost disappeared.

LAFAYETTE, LA

When pregnant for my daughter I was told that I had an inoperable, untreatable brain tumor -- probable cancer -- & that I had about 18 months to live. I would not allow a biopsy when informed that I would lose speech & language abilities. Eight years later, I was told that the tumor was "probably a capillary telangectasia" (a mass of blood vessels). My brain scans traveled the U.S. & the tumor was thought by all to be a glioma. A friend brought me a Bl. Seelos relic & we went to the shrine while I was pregnant. It is not "clear cut" how I received my miracle, but I gained strength from Bl. Seelos during my time of suffering.

On miracles, the Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner said, "I don't believe in them, I rely on them to get me through daily life!"

- 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 or e-mail to bmiller@seelos.org Allow a minimum of 30 days to process address change request.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

HOW COULD SHE REFUSE?

One of our more memorable requests came in the month of June. A young man from Lafayette, LA, wanted to ask his girlfriend to marry him in the Seelos Shrine, since their "relationship was rooted in faith." A time was chosen that allowed for privacy, and whatever transpired on bended knee, the future bride may not easily forget her proposal on holy ground!

Please check out www.seelos.org as we celebrate our 175,000th visitor!