



## COMMITTEE ON DIVINE WORSHIP

August 29, 2014  
Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist

Your Eminence / Your Excellency:

I am pleased to inform you that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, in a letter dated July 25, 2014 (Prot. n. 645/13/L), granted its approval for the addition of the Optional Memorial in honor of Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos to October 5 of the Proper Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America.

In addition, the Congregation has granted *recognitio* for the official English translations for both the Collect at the celebration of Mass, and for the Biography, Second Reading, and Responsory at the Office of Readings (Prot. n. 447/14).

A Spanish translation of the Collect was submitted to the Congregation as part of the *Misal Romano*, for which we are awaiting *recognitio*. A Spanish translation for the Second Reading of the Office of Readings will be submitted to the Congregation for its approval soon. Until approved Spanish texts are available, those desiring to celebrate this Memorial in Spanish may use texts from an appropriate Common, such as *Común de Pastores: para un Pastor*; or *Común de Santos y Santas: para los Religiosos*.

I ask your assistance in disseminating the news to your liturgical directors, pastors, and parishes that this Optional Memorial has been added to the national calendar, and in assuring that these approved English texts are made available for use in October.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli  
Bishop of Paterson  
Chairman, Committee on Divine Worship

October 5  
**Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest**

Common of Pastors: For One Pastor, or from the Common of Holy Men and Women:  
For Religious.

**Collect**

O God, who made your Priest Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos  
outstanding in love,  
that he might proclaim the mysteries of redemption  
and comfort those in affliction,  
grant, by his intercession,  
that we may work zealously for your glory  
and for the salvation of mankind.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST

Born in Füssen, Germany in 1819, he entered the diocesan seminary and, coming to know the charism of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, joined it and was sent to North America. Ordained a priest in 1844, he began his pastoral ministry in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as assistant pastor of his confrere Saint John Neumann, serving also as Master of Novices and dedicating himself to preaching. He became a full-time itinerant missionary preacher, preaching in both English and German in a number of different states. He died in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 4, 1867.

Common of Pastors: For One Pastor, or from the Common of Holy Men and Women: For Religious.

### Office of Readings

#### SECOND READING

From the Letters of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, priest

(Archives of the Baltimore Province)

*Place nothing ahead of God's love*

This desire to bring a sacrifice to God again and again extends to everything that I ever loved in this life, and upon which my heart was set.

When I think of the beauties of nature, these do not stir up longing and melancholy, but I am filled with the greatest joy, because, since I am not giving God any real and true gifts, I can give him imagined and pretended ones. At the same time, in the overflowing of my good fortune, I cannot at all get away from the thought that in heaven God will give me those that, for him, I have forsaken in the world, and for this I also constantly pray.

And so, the novitiate and its completion, the taking of vows, the life with confreres of the Order, and above all, the insight to cherish these goods to the best of my ability, so that there is nothing left for me to desire, except to fulfill my duties better - these were the first blessings of divine mercy.

Everything was completely against my nature. But precisely the joyful acceptance of them, in God's boundless grace, made so clear to me the mystery of renunciation and patience in this world, that I feel that I am much too fortunate in the possession of my religious confreres and all the spiritual and temporal blessings that are bound together with it. And what is still more, that God has exalted me so high as to announce the Gospel to the poor, and to teach, and share with them his treasures.

Every offering has value only insofar as one snatches it away from one's own benefit and dedicates it to God through this self-conquest. One loves and gives precisely because one loves, and because one considers what is given as a good, as a treasure. Love of creatures must be subordinated to the love of God, whom one is pledged to love above all things.

Time, in which we have found nothing to offer up to God, is lost for eternity. If it is only the duties of our vocation that we fulfill with dedication to the will of God; if it is the sweat of our faces that, in resignation, we wipe from our brow without murmuring; if it is suffering, temptations, difficulties with our fellowmen - everything we can present to God as an offering and can, through them, become like Jesus his Son. Where the sacrifice is great and manifold, there, in the same proportion, is the hope of glory more deeply and more securely grounded in the heart of him who makes it.

#### RESPONSORY

Ps 119: 1-2; Mk 8: 34

**R/.** Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. \*  
Blessed are they who keep his decrees, who seek him with all their heart.

**V/.** Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. \* Blessed are they who keep his decrees, who seek him with all their heart.

#### PRAYER

O God, who made your Priest Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos outstanding in love, that he might proclaim the mysteries of redemption and comfort those in affliction, grant, by his intercession, that we may work zealously for your glory and for the salvation of mankind. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Die 5 octobris  
**Beati Francisci Xaverii Seelos, presbyteri**

De Communi pastorum: pro uno pastore, vel de Communi sanctorum: pro religiosis.

**Collecta**

Deus, qui ad nuntianda redemptionis mysteria,  
et ad maerentes sublevandos,  
beatum Franciscum Xaverium presbyterum,  
eximia caritate decorasti,  
eius intercessione concede,  
ut diligenter ad tuam gloriam  
hominumque salutem operemur.  
Per Dominum.