



VOLUME 79

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

from the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

We are really hoping to celebrate a Seelos Healing Mass on October 10. The new surge in the virus may, however, interfere with our plans. We were unable to have our gatherings, as is our custom, this past September, January and July. We are now ready to go if the virus cooperates.

So many have told me they are anxiously awaiting the day we can once again celebrate the Feast of Blessed Seelos with our Healing Mass. We typically hold the Mass on the Sunday nearest his feast day, October 5, but this year there is a Saints home game on Sunday, October 3. Many Seelos devotees are Saints ticket holders and others love to watch the game on TV. In addition, the traffic for a Saints home game interferes with getting to the Shrine for our Mass. To accommodate this, we have moved the date to October 10.

I hope you all mark your calendars and that we can come together with others to celebrate the feast of Blessed Seelos together this year.

Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.



BLESSED SEELOS

HEALING MASS

FOLLOWED BY ANOINTING OF THE SICK



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

(PROVIDED GATHERINGS ARE PERMITTED)

**Confessions 12 pm ~ Mass 1 pm
with Celebrant Fr. Fr. Donald Miniscalco, C.Ss.R.**

St. Mary's Assumption Church, 919 Josephine St.

Shrine, Welcome Center and Gift Shop

10 am - 12:30 pm & 2 - 3 pm



**FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR VISITORS & STAFF,
MASKS ARE REQUIRED WHILE INDOORS.**

Deep in faith and canals in the Irish Channel

The area where our Shrine is located is a very interesting part of New Orleans. It is found in the middle of parts of the Garden District, the Lower Garden District and the Irish Channel. The Redemptorists have been in the area for more than 170 years and served the immigrants who were arriving in the early days from Germany and Ireland, as well as long-standing residents who spoke French. It was an interesting mixture of peoples.

In the 1830's, the word went out to Europe that New Orleans needed workers to dig a canal to provide a way to ship goods from the city through Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi Sound to Biloxi and Ocean Springs. The trade proved to be profitable for the merchants after it was completed, but digging the canal was brutally difficult. The promise of employment, however, was very attractive to those who were in bitter straights back in Ireland. Offers to those who would come to New Orleans included free passage to America, room and board, \$21 a month wages, and \$6.25 per month for whiskey. It sounded too good to pass up. Unfortunately, the fulfillment of the promises was not what the immigrants imagined. They were stuffed into ships with few provisions and insufficient water for a trip that took six weeks to cross the ocean. Many arrived with typhus, malnutrition and exposure. When they finally did arrive, they were packed eight to a room in tenement-like housing. These men were brought to New Orleans because even unemployed whites would not venture into the swamps, and the slave owners would not lease out their slaves by day for fear of losing their valuable "property". The work demanded

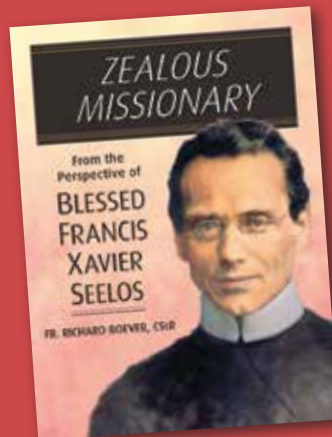
10 hours of hard labor each day in the Louisiana heat, knee deep in gluey black gumbo soil that had to be carried out by wheelbarrows. In the summer of 1832 and 1833, yellow fever and cholera claimed the lives of 10,000 to 20,000 Irishmen in New Orleans. The death wagons collected the deceased bodies each morning.

neighborhood of the Shrine of Blessed Seelos, and this was the very reason Francis Seelos came to America. He well could have been a priest in Bavaria and his family would have been very pleased with that, but Francis felt the call to follow the missionary life of his namesake, St. Francis Xavier. This decision would

The faith ran deep in the hearts of the Catholic Irish and Germans in the neighborhood of the Shrine of Blessed Seelos, and this was the very reason Francis Seelos came to America.

Since so many of the immigrants were Catholic, the three churches of St. Alphonsus, St. Mary's and Notre Dame supplied an anchor for them in the new land. The faith ran deep in the hearts of the Catholic Irish and Germans in the

eventually lead him to minister to the immigrants in New Orleans who needed his loving attention. Like many of his parishioners, he would himself contract Yellow Fever which would claim his life October 4, 1867.



Zealous Missionary
From the Perspective of
Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

— + —
A NEW book by Fr. Rich!
\$15 in the Gift Shop

With abundant joy and deep devotion to Jesus and Mary, the short life of Father Seelos blessed all the lives he touched. Written in the first person and accompanied by excerpts from letters Blessed Seelos wrote to his family, confreres, and others, Father Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., highlights the struggles and successes of missionary life, with a personal touch.

Call (504) 525-2495 or order your copy online!



Walk in the Footsteps of Blessed Seelos

Join Fr. Rich for a tour of Bavaria ~ September 6 - 16, 2022

Now Accepting Reservations ~ (504) 525-2495 ~ seelos.org/alpine-pilgrimage

Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix
(Only family members may request)*

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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KATY, TEXAS

Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

PLAQUEMINE, LA

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in June 2020. A friend of mine gave me a first-class relic of Seelos when she heard of my illness. I read about Seelos and prayed to him daily as I held the relic. Cancer was found in my right lymph nodes, right breast, clavicle, and sternum nodes.

I visited the Seelos Shrine in August of 2020 and was blessed with Fr. Seelos' mission cross. I had 16 chemo treatments, a double mastectomy, and

33 radiation treatments. My concern was for the cells in my clavicle and sternum because there was no surgery done on these areas. I visited the Shrine again in June before my PET scan in July, and was again blessed with the Seelos mission cross. My scan was done and the results were normal with NO CANCER! I have prayed the rosary daily and have prayed to Jesus and many of his saints. I prayed for the intercession of Fr. Seelos for my healing. I will continue to spread the works of Fr. Seelos.

ANONYMOUS

I have been struggling with a serious health condition for a very long time. For the past few weeks, I've been anointing myself with blessed oil from the Seelos Center, and asking God for healing. A few days ago, I visited the Shrine and prayed with the Seelos crucifix. I was in

physical pain during my visit. I am no longer in pain.

More follow-up testing is needed, but I am thankful for grace and for the intercession of Blessed Seelos.

BATON ROUGE, LA

In 2018, I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and needed a lung transplant. After a year of struggles and being on oxygen I was placed on the transplant list. A friend of mine gave me a 2nd class relic from the Seelos Shrine which I carried with me and still do today! I prayed daily for healing. My health continued to decline but on February 10,

2020, my prayers were answered and a single lung transplant was performed. I was granted that favor as the miracle of life was given to me and my family. We are so gratefully THANKFUL for the doctors, nurses, and staff, the donor, the prayers, and the favor granted through Blessed Seelos.



Submit Your Testimonial Online!

Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.

www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see SEELOS.org for visiting guidelines.

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

Visit SEELOS.org to view all of the items available for sale in the Gift Shop.



NEW! SEELOS BLESSING KIT – \$14

Anoint yourself and those who are in need of the intercession of Blessed Seelos. Kit includes a rollerball bottle of holy oil, a container of holy water, a 2nd class Seelos relic taken from the cloth that bound his bones, and a card featuring the “Divine Physician” prayer for healing and grace.



RELIC PEARL ROSARY – \$58

Lovely rosary with blush-colored pearl beads, a double-sided medallion featuring a 2nd class relic of Bl. Seelos and his image, Our Mother of Perpetual Help medals, and a crucifix with “Be faithful in little things” inscribed on the back.



SEELOS “SERENITY PRAYER” CARD – \$3

Designed exclusively for the Seelos Shrine, this 3” x 5.75” laminated card features an image and quote from Blessed Seelos and the Serenity Prayer.



“HEAVEN SENT” SMALL GLASS HOLY WATER BOTTLE – \$25

Handmade in New Orleans by artist Heidi Groat, this glass bottle is adorned with antiqued bronze medal, Swarovski crystal, and an image of Seelos.



HOLY OIL* IN GLASS ROLLERBALL BOTTLE – \$10

This 1 oz. glass bottle is filled with holy oil and has an image of Seelos and a rollerball for easy application. *This is not oleo infirmarum for the Sacrament of the Sick administered by a priest.

Quantities are limited. Prices listed above **include** shipping / handling. Prices online and in the Welcome Center Gift Shop may vary.

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



LIGHT A CANDLE: A vigil candle will burn near Seelos’ sacred resting place for an offering of \$3-\$4. Please visit SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle.



REQUEST A RELIC: 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



SHOP ONLINE: Items in the Gift Shop are available at SEELOS.org/gift-shop.

VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER

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The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. is a member of the National Association of Shrine and Pilgrimage Apostolate.

DONATION & CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

I would like to support the Seelos cause by donating \$_____ to be used for:

The ministry and maintenance of the Shrine My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$12)

Other: _____

Make checks payable to “National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos”.

Please remove change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____