

Memorial OCTOBER 5

## **BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, PRIEST**

FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS WAS BORN IN FUSSEN, Bavaria, on January 11, 1819. He studied philosophy at the University of Munich and began theology as a seminarian for the diocesan clergy. After visiting the Redemptorists in Altotting, where he heard of their missionary work in North America, he decided to join them. With their approval, he set off for the United States in 1843 where he made his novitiate. He made his profession in Baltimore in May 1844 and was ordained priest there in December. His first assignment was to St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh where he served for six years as assistant pastor with (Saint) John Neumann as pastor and superior of the community. He then served as superior of the community for three more years. During this time, he was also the novice master. In 1854, he was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore, and in 1857 pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul in Cumberland as well as prefect of students there and in 1862 in

Annapolis, Maryland. Replaced as prefect of students, he preached missions in German and English throughout the Northeast and Midwest United States. Father Seelos was always an active and highly successful missionary — particularly devoted to the confessional — and was revered as an exceptional confessor and spiritual director. After a year, as assistant pastor in St. Mary's in Detroit, in 1866 he was assigned to the parish of the Assumption in New Orleans, Louisiana as pastor. There he made a great effort to care for the poor, sick, and neglected. While caring for victims of yellow fever, he contracted the disease himself. Only a year after being assigned, he died in New Orleans on October 4, 1867. Francis Seelos was beatified in 2000.



New image of Francis Xavier Seelos  
by Italian artist Antonio Lomuscio.

Entrance Antiphon

DN 12:3

Those who are wise shall shine like the  
brightness of the sky,  
and those who lead many to righteousness,  
like the stars forever and ever.

COLLECT

O God, you 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 all. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING      1 Thessalonians 2:2-8

*We are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves.*

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

It was our God who gave us the courage to proclaim his Good News to you in the face of

great opposition. We have not taken to preaching because we are deluded, or immoral, or trying to deceive anyone; it was God who decided that we were fit to be entrusted with the Good News, and when we are speaking, we are not trying to please people, but God, who can read our inmost thoughts. You know very well, and we can swear it before God, that never at any time have our speeches been simply flattery, or a cover for trying to get money; nor have we ever looked for any special honour from others, either from you or anybody else, when we could have imposed ourselves on you with full weight, as apostles of Christ.

Instead, we were unassuming. Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 37

*R. The mouth of the just speaks wisdom.*

If you trust in the Lord and do good,  
then you will live in the land and be secure.  
If you find your delight in the Lord,  
he will grant your heart's desire. **R.**

Commit your life to the Lord,  
trust in him and he will act,  
so that your justice breaks forth like the light  
and your cause like the noonday sun. **R.**

The mouth of the just utters wisdom  
and their lips speak what is right;  
the law of the Lord is in their heart  
and their steps shall be saved from stumbling.  
**R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 10:5, 9

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

“The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you,”  
says the Lord, “bring the message of peace to  
all men and women.”

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

*Go and teach all nations.*

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him, they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider :

Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos was favoured by God during his earthly life. Through his intercession, may we receive God's favour as we place our petitions before Him.

Response : *Lord, graciously hear us.*

1. For the Redemptorists. May they, like Blessed Francis, remain true to the spirit and charism of the Redemptorist Congregation. Let us pray. **R.**
2. For those who suffer persecution and hardship for the sake of the Gospel. May they remain steadfast in their faith, trusting in God's deliverance. Let us pray. **R.**
3. For those estranged from the Church's sacraments. May we one day rejoice in communion with them. Let us pray. **R.**
4. For all of us who minister and worship in Novena Church. May we have the same joyful vigour of Blessed Francis as we serve God and neighbour. Let us pray. **R.**
5. For all missionaries. May God bless their generosity, and that their lives and ministry will bear fruit in God's time. Let us pray. **R.**



Presider :

Heavenly Father, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos committed himself generously and joyfully to the missionary apostolate. By his intercession, grant that we may work zealously for your glory and for the salvation of all. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive our offering, Lord, in memory of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. From the altar of sacrifice, may perfect praise rise up to you, and may the fullness of your mercy descend upon us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord..

Amen.

## PREFACE

Priest : The Lord be with you.

People : And with your spirit.

Priest : Lift up your hearts.

People : We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest : Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People : It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For, as on this festival of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos you bid your Church rejoice, so, too, you strengthen her by the example of his holy life, teach her by his words of preaching, and keep her safe in answer to his prayers.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim::

Communion Antiphon CF. Mk 15:16; Mt 28:20  
“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news: I am with you always, to the end of the age,” says the Lord.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, may our sharing in your sacraments nourish in us the faith handed down by the Apostles and which Blessed Francis Xavier

Seelos served with such loving dedication.  
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.