**WHY WE REMEMBER AND LOOK TO FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS TODAY**

Seelos leads us in our identification of immigrants, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons as among the most abandoned, as Missionary Priorities, those to whom we are sent.

The Missionary Priorities of the Redemptorist Conference of North American are: 1. Young Adults

2. Immigrants, migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons

3. Those who do not receive the Church’s message as Good News

Like Blessed Caspar Stanggassinger, CSsR, whose feast we celebrated just a few days ago, Francis Xavier Seelos is inspiring in his example of ordinary holiness. He was a Redemptorist missioner to his very core. He was faithful in everyday ways, a dedicated preacher, confessor and pastor, kind to all in such a way that his kindness healed wounds and divisions. He was cheerful, and accepted burdens, even sickness, gladly. Always with a song on his lips, his cheerful spirit was itself a means and a tool for evangelization, for it drew others to him and to Christ.

And, for those of us who are reading about this remarkable member of our Redemptorist Family in the midst of a pandemic, we look to him as a brother who walked the road that we are now walking.

Seelos’ last days were spent reaching out to the most abandoned during an epidemic of yellow fever epidemic. As we look around our world, we see that members of our Redemptorist family in over 80 countries, in the midst of another pandemic, are dedicating themselves to meaningful, practical and creative outreach.

Perhaps we could look to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos for guidance and pray for his intercession on behalf of those who suffer, their families and caregivers, and we ask that some of his spirit of joy, of music and of quiet healing presence might be ours.

**PRAYER IN HONOUR OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS**

**(OPENING PRAYER FOR THE MASS FOR THE FEAST, C.Ss.R. LECTIONARY**

**AND SACRAMENTARY SUPPLEMENT)**

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.