

5 OCTOBER

## *Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest*

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### **Memorial**

**F**RANCIS XAVIER SEELOS WAS BORN IN FÜSSEN, 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 Altötting, 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.

**Entrance Antiphon** 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 (Dn 12: 3).

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**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

Brothers and sisters, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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 noon-day 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

*Jesus and the little children.*

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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—HOLY MEN AND WOMEN**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**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 to give him thanks and praise.

**Father, all powerful and ever-living God,  
We do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.**

**You are glorified in your saints,  
for their glory is the crowning of your gifts.  
In their lives on earth  
you give us an example.  
In our communion with them,  
you give us their friendship.  
In their prayer for the Church  
you give us strength and protection.  
This great company of witnesses spurs us on to victory,  
to share their prize of everlasting glory,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Now with the saints and all the angels  
we praise you for ever:**

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

## **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.**