

SPICILEGIUM HISTORICUM  
CONGREGATIONIS SSMI REDEMPTORIS  
ANNUS XLVIII 2000 FASC. 2

---

SHCSR 48 (2000) 421-464

CARL HOEGERL, CSSR

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA  
OF BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, CSsR

- I. Short Curriculum Vitae  
II. Extended Curriculum Vitae

I. SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE

- 1819 January 11: Füssen, Germany: birth and baptism of Francis Xavier Seelos
- 1825-1831 elementary schooling
- 1828 September 3: confirmation
- 1830 April 2: First Holy Communion
- 1831-1832 Füssen, tutored by the hospital chaplain
- 1832-1839 Augsburg, Saint Stephan's preparatory school and *Gymnasium*
- 1839-1841 Munich, Ludwig-Maximilian University, 2 years philosophy
- 1841-1842 Munich, Ludwig-Maximilian University, 1 year theology
- 1842 Dillingen, Saint Jerome, diocesan seminary, until December 9
- 1843 Altötting, Saint Mary Magdalen, Redemptorist foundation
- March 17: Le Havre, France: sailed for the United States
- April 20: New York: arrived in the United States

- 1844 May 16: Baltimore: began his novitiate at Saint James  
 May 16: Baltimore, Saint James: religious profession  
 December 22: Baltimore: ordination to the priesthood
- 1845-1854 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Saint Philomena Parish, assistant priest
- 1851 pastor and religious superior
- 1854-1857 Baltimore, Saint Alphonsus Parish, pastor and religious superior
- 1857-1862 Cumberland, Maryland, Saints Peter and Paul, pastor, superior, prefect of students, and professor
- 1862-1865 Annapolis, Maryland, Saint Mary's Parish, pastor and religious superior, prefect of students
- 1862 November: replaced as prefect of students, appointed superior of the mission band
- 1865-1866 Detroit, Michigan, Saint Mary's Parish, assistant priest
- 1866-1867 New Orleans, Louisiana, Our Lady of the Assumption, assistant priest and prefect of the German parish
- 1867 October 4: New Orleans, Louisiana, passed into eternal life

## II. EXTENDED CURRICULUM VITAE

### 1. *Childhood and Elementary Schooling*

- 1819-1825 CHILDHOOD YEARS OF FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS
- 1819 January 11, Füssen, Bavaria, Germany: Francis Xavier Seelos was born to Mang (1782-1853) and Frances née Schwarzenbach Seelos (1788-1866) as the sixth of twelve children.  
 He was baptized on the same day in the parish church of Saint Mang by Father Carl Zeitler, the parochial assistant. At the time, Mang Seelos was a weaver by trade, living in *Spitalgasse*.
- 1825-1831 FRANCIS SEELOS ATTENDED THE *FOLKSCHULE* IN FÜSSEN
- 1825 At the age of six, Xavier (as he was usually called in the

family) entered the town elementary school in the *Kornhaus*. From his fourth to his ninth years he was often sick and could not attend school.

In his childhood when his mother showed him a picture of his patron, Saint Francis Xavier, he was accustomed to say that he, too, one day would become a missionary like Saint Francis.

1828 September 3: when he was nine, he was confirmed in the parish church of Saint Mang by the bishop of Augsburg, Augustine Ignatius Albert von Riegg (1767-1836, bishop from 1824).

1830 April 2: on the feast of the Sorrowful Mother in Lent, he received his First Holy Communion.

November 2: Mang Seelos, father of Francis, assumed his new duties as sexton of the parish church and moved the family to the sexton's house near the church.

1831 April 11: Francis graduated from elementary school with high grades.

Encouraged by the acting pastor of the parish, Father Anton Heim, Francis planned to begin studies that would prepare the way for the higher branches of learning required of candidates for the priesthood. He intended to enter the Institute of Saint Stephan's in Augsburg. For some unexplained reason, he stayed in Füssen for another year, studying under the tutelage of the chaplain of the hospital, Father Joseph Lochbihler.

## *2. Saint Stephan, Augsburg; Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich*

1832-1839 FRANCIS ATTENDED THE INSTITUTE OF SAINT STEPHAN, AUGSBURG, GERMANY

1832 October: at the age of thirteen, Francis left home to begin his secondary education at the Institute of Saint Stephan in Augsburg. He entered the courses of the second year of the preparatory school (later called the Latin school). The over 600 students were under the direction of secular priests and laymen.

1833-1835 Augsburg: Francis attended the third and fourth-year courses of the preparatory school of Saint Stephan.

- 1835-1839 Francis attended the four-year course of the *Gymnasium* of Saint Stephan.  
Sometime during his studies in Augsburg, Francis confided to a school companion that he was thinking of becoming a Jesuit.
- 1835 November 5: when Francis was in his first year of the *Gymnasium*, King Ludwig I of Bavaria sanctioned a Benedictine Abbey at Saint Stephan and confided to the Benedictines the entire educational institution.
- 1836 During the summer vacation after his first year in the *Gymnasium*, Francis went on foot in pilgrimage to Maria Einsiedeln, Switzerland, and asked for admission to the Benedictines. He was not accepted because he was not a native of Switzerland.
- 1837 February 2: Francis became a member of the Greater Latin Marian Confraternity.
- 1839 August 26: Francis received his diploma of graduation from the *Gymnasium* with a recommendation to continue his studies in a university or lyceum. In five of his seven years in Augsburg, he had received a prize: three for general excellence, one for mathematics, and one for Greek.
- 1839-1841 FRANCIS ATTENDED THE TWO-YEAR COURSE OF PHILOSOPHY AT THE LUDWIG-MAXIMILIAN UNIVERSITY, MUNICH, GERMANY
- 1839-1841 Munich: Francis studied two years (four semesters) in the School of Philosophy, taking nineteen courses under twelve professors. He joined the *Bavaria*, a social fraternity at the University approved by the authorities.
- 1839 October 22: Francis received a stipend for study from the Office of Care of the Poor of Füssen.  
November 5: he matriculated at the University.
- 1840 October: Father Benedict Bayer gave several lectures in Munich about the work of the Redemptorists for German immigrants in the United States. These lectures may possibly have had an influence on Francis's choice of vocation.
- 1841 March 11: King Ludwig I approved a foundation of Re-

- 1841 demptorists at Saint Mary Magdalen, Altötting, Bavaria.  
August 24: Francis received his Diploma of Graduation in Philosophy and was authorized to begin study in a field of specialization. His moral conduct was entirely in accord with the prescriptions of the University.
- 1841-1842 FRANCIS STUDIED THEOLOGY FOR ONE YEAR AT THE UNIVERSITY
- 1841-1842 Munich: Francis attended the courses in theology for two semesters at the University. His professors were: Ignaz Döllinger for Church history, Daniel Haneberg for Old Testament exegesis, John B. Herb for systematic theology, Francis X. Reithmayr for New Testament and patristics, and Max Stadlbaur for dogma and moral theology.
- 1841 October 19: he matriculated in the School of Theology.
- 1842 February 2: this date's issue of the Catholic periodical *Sion* had a digest of a letter of Father Alexander Czvitkovicz, superior of the Redemptorists in America, in which he described the spiritual destitution of German-speaking Catholics in the United States.
- 1842 February: at the beginning of the month, Francis contracted smallpox and was taken to the hospital where he found time to compose some poems.

*3. Vocation to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer; Application for Ministry in the United States; Interlude at the Diocesan Seminary of Saint Jerome, Dillingen*

- 1842 Sometime during this year, according to the testimony of his brother Adam, Francis had an experience that convinced him that the Blessed Mother had indicated to him his missionary vocation.  
During the early part of the year, Francis applied to be accepted by the Redemptorists in the United States for work with German immigrants.  
August 4 and 11: two testimonials were issued by the authorities of the University about the good conduct of Francis during his years of study. The second of these

was issued for acceptance into the seminary. On the following day, he obtained a certificate of good health, part of the documentation for entrance into the seminary. Not having received an answer to his application from the United States, he applied for admission into the Augsburg diocesan seminary.

September 9: he was accepted into the diocesan seminary of Saint Jerome, Dillingen, by the episcopal ordinariate of Augsburg.

November 3: he began his brief stay in the seminary of Saint Jerome at Dillingen.

November 22: on the feast of Saint Cecilia, Francis received notification of his acceptance into the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in a letter of Father Alexander Czvitkovicz, signed July 26.

December 9: Francis departed from the Dillingen seminary and went to Augsburg to spend some time with Father Anton Heim before going to the Redemptorist foundation at Altötting to await his departure for the United States. He did not plan to say farewell to his family in Füssen.

December 27: he received his passport giving permission to travel outside the Kingdom of Bavaria.

*4. Brief Stay with the Redemptorists at Altötting; Departure from Le Havre, March 17; Arrival in New York, April 20, 1843*

1843      January - February, Altötting: Francis spent several weeks as a prospective candidate for the Redemptorist mission in the United States at Saint Mary Magdalen, a recent foundation of the Congregation in Bavaria. Here he met Father Alexander, the superior of the American mission, who informed him of his itinerary.

March 2: Francis left Augsburg for France.

Paris: he spent a week in Paris before setting out for Le Havre, the port of embarkation.

March 17, Le Havre: Francis left Europe for the United States on the American packet ship, the *Saint Nicolas*. His traveling companions were Father Ernest Glaunach, C.SS.R., his future novice master, and two Redemp-

torist brothers, Jerome Schenk and Xavier Burdych. April 20, New York: after a passage of thirty-five days, Francis arrived in America on the Thursday of Easter week, having spent Holy Week on the high seas.

*5. Novitiate, Religious Profession, Ordination, Early Priestly Ministry at Saint James, Baltimore, Maryland*

- 1843-1844 FRATER FRANCIS SEELOS MADE HIS NOVITIATE AT SAINT JAMES, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND; ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
- 1843 May 16, Baltimore, Maryland: Francis was invested with the Redemptorist habit and began his novitiate. It was located at Saint James the Less Parish; the novice master was Father Ernest Glaunach. Francis was the first Redemptorist in the United States to have the advantage of a firmly-established and well-regulated novitiate.  
July 16, Saint James the Less Church: Francis received tonsure and the minor orders from Archbishop Samuel Eccleston.
- 1844 May 16, Saint James the Less Church: Francis completed his year of novitiate and made profession of the three religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and, in accordance with Redemptorist Rule, made a vow and oath of perseverance.  
Until ordination, Francis spent the intervening seven months completing his theological studies.  
December 14, Cathedral of the Assumption, Baltimore: he was ordained to the subdiaconate by Archbishop Samuel Eccleston.  
December 21, Chapel of Saint Mary's Sulpician Seminary: ordination to the diaconate by the Archbishop.  
December 22, Saint James the Less: ordination to the priesthood by the Archbishop.  
December 25, Saint James the Less: Father Francis Seelos celebrated two Masses in private and then at ten o'clock his first High Mass.
- 1845 January 12, Saint James the Less: Father Seelos per-

formed his first baptism. Until his departure in August, he performed twenty-eight baptisms.

January 13: Father Seelos was granted the faculties of the archdiocese by the Archbishop.

March 29, Saint James the Less: Father Seelos heard his first confessions, both in German and in English.

April 13, Sunday, Patronage of Saint Joseph: he preached his first sermon, in German.

My 20-August 8: Father Friederick De Held, C.S.S.R., European superior of the American mission, held Visitation of the foundations in the United States.

During his stay at Saint James, Father Seelos, in addition to his regular duties in the parish, occasionally celebrated Mass for the Sisters of Charity and heard their confessions and celebrated Mass for the Sisters of Providence. He was prefect of four students preparing to enter the novitiate.

August 19: date of the last entry for Father Seelos in the parish books of Saint James.

*6. Parish Assistant at Saint Philomena's Parish, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Novice Master; Socius of the Students*

1845-1854 FATHER SEELOS, MINISTERED IN THE PARISH OF SAINT PHILOMENA, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

August 27: date of the first entry for Father Seelos in the parish books of Saint Philomena, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to which he had been transferred after Father De Held's Visitation.

1845 His first superior was Saint John Neumann (canonized in 1977). In addition to the care of the German-speaking parishioners, the Redemptorist community also cared for German Catholics scattered in outlying settlements: Sharpsburg, McKeesport, Riceville, Pine Creek, Greensburg, Wexford.

Father Seelos performed fifty-one baptisms in his first four months at Saint Philomena.

1846 Sometime during this year, he gave a successful mission with Saint John Neumann at Youngstown, Pennsylva-



nia, a settlement of German and Irish immigrants.

April 23: his sister Frances was professed as a Sister of Charity, taking the name Sister Damiana.

October 4: the new Saint Philomena's Church, five years in the building, was blessed by Bishop Michael O'Connor, ordinary of Pittsburgh.

The pastoral work of Father Seelos was extensive: 150 baptisms, 35 marriages. He preached, as occasion demanded, in three languages, German, French, and English; he gave a series of Lenten sermons, conferences to the numerous parish societies, and attended to countless sick-calls. Father Seelos carried this heavy workload during all his years at Saint Philomena.

1847

January 27: Father Joseph Mueller was appointed pastor of the parish and superior of the community. Saint John Neumann became superior of the American Redemptorists.

September: Father Seelos was appointed novice master. He had the distinction of seeing the first two English-speaking novices make their profession as Redemptorists in America. His term as master lasted only sixteen months, as a new novitiate had been established in Baltimore.

Father Seelos had 67 marriages and 167 baptisms this year.

1848

October 4-13: Father Seelos made his annual retreat and wrote out his reflections and resolutions.

Father Seelos had 71 marriages and 203 baptisms this year.

1849

January: Father Bernard Hafkenscheid was appointed superior of the American Redemptorists and Father Frederick Poesl was appointed pastor and superior of the community at Saint Philomena.

January- April: Father Seelos was socius to the newly professed students until they were transferred to Baltimore.

1850

Early in the year, Father Seelos suggested to Father Neumann who was then consultor to the provincial, that more missions be given for the good of the widely-scattered German immigrants.

February 2: the provincial, Father Hafkenschied, answering a request of Bishop O'Connor, allowed Father Seelos to give spiritual assistance to the Sisters of Mercy as long as it did not infer with his missionary duties.

December: Father Seelos prepared seven novices of the Sisters of Mercy for religious profession.

1851

January 2, Füssen: Kunigunda Seelos, his sister, fell from a hayloft and was killed; the next day, his father had a stroke; shortly thereafter his sister Liessett also had a stroke.

*7. Appointment as First Canonical Rector of Saint Philomena, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the Age of Thirty-Two*

1851

January 2: Father Seelos was appointed the first canonical rector of the Redemptorist foundation of Saint Philomena and pastor of the parish. He was thirty-two-years-old and had been ordained only seven years.

April 21, Munich: his sister Mary Ann was professed as a School Sister of Notre Dame, taking the name Sister Romualda.

May: when the cathedral was completely destroyed by fire, Father Seelos invited the seminarians to stay at Saint Philomena. They were making their ordination retreat.

May 11-25: Father Seelos invited six missionaries to conduct a mission at Saint Philomena as part of the celebration of the jubilee year.

May 29-June 8: Father Seelos saw to it that missions were given in the out-missions of Pine Creek and Sharpsburg.

June 21: he preached at the laying of the cornerstone of the new cathedral of Saint Paul.

July 22: cornerstone laid for the orphanage for children of German immigrants on Troy Hill.

July to September: Father Seelos had Father Francis Krutil accompany Bishop O'Connor on a visitation tour of the diocese. He preached wherever there were German-speaking Catholics.

- October 21: Father Seelos baptized in Wheeling, Virginia (later West Virginia).
- December 14-21: he preached a mission at Youngstown, Pennsylvania, with Father Alexander. During this year, a church was build for the German Catholics of the mission station at Sharpsburg.
- 1852 January 23-30: Father Seelos sent Father Francis Krutil to give a retreat to the diocesan priests of Wheeling.
- February 1-9: he took part in a mission in Butler, Pennsylvania.
- May 2-16: he was one of the group of missionaries under the leadership of the provincial on the mission at Saint Peter's, Philadelphia.
- summer: the German orphanage on Troy Hill was dedicated.
- August 11: Father Seelos asked his former superior, John Neumann, now bishop of Philadelphia, to administer the sacrament of confirmation at Saint Philomena.
- November 19: Father Seelos contracted a serious illness that lasted for three weeks. He was able, however, to say Mass in the community chapel each day. Bishop O'Connor, upon returning from Europe, came to visit him in his sick room.
- 1853 April 11: he preached at the laying of the cornerstone of the new Saint Mary's Church in Allegheny, Pennsylvania
- August 7: Father Seelos preached at the laying of the cornerstone of the first Passionist monastery in the United States.
- September 11: his father, Mang Seelos, died in Füssen after a long period of illness.
- October 13: Fathers Seelos and Lawrence Holzer wrote to Propaganda about the transferral of Bishop O'Connor to the newly-established diocese of Erie, Pennsylvania.
- October 31: Father Seelos, coming home from ministry in one of the out-missions, found the letter that informed him of his father's death on September 11. He recalled then that at the time of his father's death he had an unusual dream about him.
- 1854 Early part of the year: Father Seelos gave Father Law-

rence Holzer permission to begin a German newspaper to dispel misrepresentations about the Church and to give the Catholic viewpoint on the news. It was called the *Pittsburger Republicaner* (later *Der Beobachter*) and continued publication until 1923.

January 30 Baltimore: Father George Ruland was named the new provincial to replace Father Bernard Hafkenschied. Father Seelos was chosen to replace Ruland as rector of Saint Alphonsus Parish, Baltimore, Maryland. At the same time, he was also named second consultor to the provincial.

*8. Appointment as Pastor and Superior of Saint Alphonsus Parish, Baltimore, Maryland; Pastoral Care of Saint James, Saint Michael, and Holy Cross*

1854-1857 FATHER SEELOS, PASTOR AND SUPERIOR OF THE REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY OF SAINT ALPHONSUS, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

1854 March 2: Father Seelos arrived from Pittsburgh to assume his duties as rector of Saint Alphonsus Parish, Baltimore, and as second consultor to the provincial, Father George Ruland.

He was superior of seven Redemptorist priests and eight brothers. The ministry of the community extended to four parishes within the limits of the city: Saint Alphonsus, Saint James, Saint Michael, and Holy Cross, which was just being organized. The community was charged with the spiritual care of all the Germans in the city of Baltimore. There were also mission stations outside the city for which the community was responsible. There were over a thousand children in the schools attached to the parishes. The fathers also gave spiritual care to a number of convents of sisters in the city.

April, Annapolis: despite many complaints about the severity of his treatment of the novices, Father Gabriel Rumpler was reappointed for another term as novice master and first consultor to the provincial.

Autumn, Annapolis: Father Ruland held a Visitation of

the novitiate to look into the complaints about the strange manner of acting of Father Rumpler. No changes were made or admonitions given.

December 6: the Provincial Chapter in preparation for the General Chapter in Rome in early 1855 was held at Saint Alphonsus. Contrary to all expectations, Father Seelos was not elected as an American delegate to the Chapter.

1855 The community of Saint Alphonsus consisted of eight fathers and eight brothers. Often convalescent students were in the house. The spiritual responsibilities of the community were as great, if not greater, than ever.

January: Father Seelos assisted on a mission at Saint Mary's, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

*9. The Rumpler Affair: Father Seelos Is Severely Criticized for Allowing Father Rumpler to Leave Mount Hope, a Mental Hospital*

February: Father Ruland departed for the General Chapter in Rome. In his absence, Father Rumpler was appointed acting provincial.

May 3, Rome: Nicholas Mauron was elected Superior General of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

May 28, Annapolis: Father Rumpler summoned one of the fathers to Annapolis, who immediately noticed that Rumpler was acting strangely.

May 30: Father Seelos made a short visit to Annapolis and suggested that Rumpler go away for a rest.

June 2: Father Rumpler gave clear signs of a complete mental breakdown.

June 4: Father Seelos, made aware of the seriousness of Rumpler's mental state, went to Annapolis with Father Francis Krutil as temporary novice master and brought Rumpler to Mount Hope, an institution in Baltimore for the mentally deranged under the care of the Sisters of Charity. Father Seelos was now, in effect, the acting provincial.

June 8: Seelos wrote to Father Nicholas Mauron, the newly elected Redemptorist Superior General in Rome,

informing him of the mental breakdown of Rumpler.

June 20: after visiting Rumpler in Mount Hope, Father Seelos, thinking that his condition warranted it, took him to Saint Alphonsus, Baltimore.

June 21: Seelos took Rumpler to Annapolis with the intention of returning to Baltimore with him the same day or the next. Rumpler, however, insisted on staying in Annapolis. Seelos remained there with him.

June 21- July 12: sixteen letters of various fathers were sent to Rome about Rumpler's treatment of the novices, his breakdown, and the conduct of Father Seelos in handling Rumpler in his sickness.

June 23: Rumpler again manifested his severely deranged mental state and was taken back to Mount Hope in Baltimore. Father Seelos remained in Annapolis to reassure the novices who were greatly disturbed by the events.

June 25: Father Seelos returned to Baltimore and arranged to have Father Michael Mueller go to Annapolis as provisional novice master until a definite appointment came from Rome.

July: he assisted in a mission at Saint James, Baltimore.

August 28: Father Seelos wrote to the Superior General explaining his conduct in the Rumpler Affair.

October: Father Ruland, provincial, returned from Europe.

November 21: Ruland, was reappointed as provincial, although there had been much criticism of his manner of acting during his first triennium.

#### *10. Reappointment as Pastor and Superior of Saint Alphonsus, Baltimore*

- 1855            December: the provincial informed the community that Father Seelos was reappointed as rector of Saint Alphonsus; he was, however, no longer consultor to the provincial.
- 1856            At the beginning of this year, Father Seelos had nine fathers and eight brothers in the community at Saint Alphonsus.

March 9: Father Seelos celebrated a Solemn High Mass for the Sisters of Divine Providence, a congregation of black sisters, on their patronal feast, Saint Frances of Rome.

March 31: in a letter to the Ludwigs-Missions-Verein, Father Ruland noted that there were 1,500 children in Redemptorist schools in Baltimore and that in the past year there had been 1,098 baptisms.

April: Father Seelos permitted the Franciscan Fathers to take up a collection in the churches under Redemptorist care to build their monastery in New York.

May: he permitted a collection to be taken up for Saint Peter's Church, Philadelphia.

May 12: Archbishop Francis Kenrick administered confirmation in Saint Alphonsus.

July 6: Father Seelos obtained permission to have the Forty Hours Devotion in Saint James. This was the first time Forty Hours was celebrated in the city.

August: he gave a retreat to the Carmelite nuns, Baltimore.

August 18-27: he made his annual ten-day retreat.

September 8: Father Seelos laid the cornerstone of the new church for the mission station of Saint Joseph on Bellaire Road, Baltimore.

late September: Father Francis Baker, a converted Episcopalian minister, celebrated a Solemn High Mass of thanksgiving in Saint Alphonsus Church assisted by two other priest converts from Protestantism.

October 2: Father Seelos allowed a collection to be taken up for the work of the Sisters of Providence.

October 8: a Know-Nothing mayor was elected in Baltimore. There were a number of riots in which five were killed and fifty were wounded.

October 23: Father Rumpler was released from Mount Hope mental hospital and was sent to Holy Redeemer Parish, New York City, where he died December 13.

November 4: the entire State of Maryland voted for the Know-Nothing party in the presidential election. There were a number of riots in Baltimore.

December 8, Annapolis: Father Seelos received the

vows of eight novices and preached a memorable sermon.

1857 The community of Saint Alphonsus began the year with eleven fathers and nine brothers. Parish demands were as pressing as ever.

January 4: Father Seelos preached a sermon on the obligations of parents in the care and education of their children.

February 11: Father Seelos accompanied Archbishop Kenrick to the Carmelite Sisters for the voting of the community in the admission of Sister Mary Bernard Dorsey. She was admitted to profession; many years later she was a witness in the sessions of the *Processus Informativus* conducted in St. Louis, Missouri.

February 25, Ash Wednesday: Father Seelos was scheduled to preach a Lenten course at Saint James.

*11. Violent Hemorrhage; Transferral to Saint Mary's, Annapolis, Maryland, as Pastor, Superior, and Novice Master*

1857 March 7: while hearing confessions at Saint James, Father Seelos suffered a hemorrhage which continued for three days. He was in critical danger of death.

March 10: he passed the crisis and was on the mend but was ordered to stay in bed.

March 18: Father James Poirier, a member of the community, died. He had offered his life to God for Father Seelos when he heard of his dangerous sickness.

April 3: Father Seelos was allowed to get up from bed for the first time since the hemorrhage.

April 16: Father Seelos was assigned to Saint Mary's, Annapolis, as superior, pastor, and novice master. The provincial considered that the condition of his health made it necessary that he have less strenuous work. In the novitiate, there were two fathers and three brothers, fifteen choir novices, and ten novice brothers.

*12. Unexpected Appointment to Saints Peter and Paul, Cumberland, Maryland, as Pastor, Superior, Lector, and Prefect of Students*



- 1857            May 18: Father Seelos received an unexpected communication from the provincial informing him that he was to go to Cumberland, Maryland, as pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, superior of the community, prefect of students, and professor. Difficulties had arisen there between the students and the prefect, Father Michael Mueller.
- 1857-1862      FATHER SEELOS, PASTOR AND SUPERIOR OF THE REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY AT SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND, AND PREFECT OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSOR
- 1857            May 21: Seelos arrived at Saints Peter and Paul, Cumberland, Maryland. There were about 300 souls in the parish and 100 children in the school with some eighty baptisms and twenty marriages annually. He was, however, forbidden to preach for an entire year.  
There were three fathers in the community and eight brothers. The number of students was forty-two of whom he was prefect. He also taught dogma and Sacred Scripture.  
Last week in August: the provincial held Visitation for two weeks to investigate some trouble with several students that began under Father Mueller, the previous prefect. As a result, two students left the studentate on September 8.  
September 30: Father Seelos began a five-day retreat for the students.  
October 8: Father Nicholas Mauron, the Superior General, having received an accusatory letter from one of the members of the community, sent a severe letter to the provincial about the studentate. Students were not to be permitted to go swimming in the river; there were not to be many exceptions to the Rule, especially for the sick; smoking was permitted only under doctor's orders and then in private; malcontents were to be dismissed.  
November: for the first time the students were permitted to vote in the elections.

- December 3, feast of Saint Francis Xavier: the nameday of Father Seelos was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm by the entire community.
- 1858 At the beginning of the year, the community consisted of four priests, fifty-one students, five professed brothers, and five novice brothers. During the year nine newly-professed students were added.
- Holy Week, March 28-April 4: Father Seelos saw to it that the liturgy were carried out with special solemnity in the parish church during Holy Week. On all of the great feasts of the year, he insisted on special splendor in the liturgical celebrations. This had a noticeable impact upon the piety of the people.
- April 4, Easter Sunday: Father Seelos preached for the first time since his hemorrhage.
- Easter Week: Father Seelos summoned the students to the common room and told them that Father Isaac Hecker and four other Redemptorist confreres had been dispensed from their vows and were no longer members of the Congregation.
- May 13, Ascension Day: Father Seelos preached a moving sermon at the First Communion of the children of the parish.
- May 19: seven young fathers began their second novitiate under the direction of Father Seelos.
- May 23, Pentecost: Father Seelos inaugurated the devotion of Forty Hours in the parish. Adoration was continuous day and night. The entire Office was sung at a convenient time before the Blessed Sacrament.
- June 3, Corpus Christi: Father Seelos preached the sermon at the First Solemn High Mass of Father Joachim Heymann, ordained May 29.
- June 5: Father Francis X. Tschenhens, one of the six pioneer Redemptorists to come to the United States in 1832, became a member of the community. Father Seelos had a special affection for this aging father.
- Father Seelos gave permission for the institution of a Debating Society so that the students could attain greater fluency in English. One of the complaints of the five fathers who had left the Congregation was that

learning good English was not encouraged among the students, most of whom came from German-speaking backgrounds.

August 1: Archbishop Kenrick consecrated the Church of Saints Peter and Paul.

August 2, Feast of Saint Alphonsus: the Archbishop administered the sacrament of confirmation to 102 confirmands.

November 30: the provincial began his annual Visitation of the community.

December 3, Feast of Saint Francis Xavier: as usual an enthusiastic celebration was held in honor of Father Seelos for his nameday. The provincial took part and was well pleased with both prefect and students.

December 25, Christmas: Father Seelos did not restore the Midnight Mass, which had been discontinued because of the rowdiness of some of the people, but ushered in the birth of the Savior at a joyful Mass at 2 A.M.

December 31: Father Seelos preached the sermon at the funeral of the clerical student, James Hummel, who died on December 30.

1859

At the beginning of the year, Father Seelos was superior and prefect of a community of five fathers, fifty-one students, six brothers, six novice brothers. During the year some fifteen new students were added to the community. He continued to teach dogmatic theology and Sacred Scripture.

Sometime during this year, he gave permission to the students for the First Friday devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

February 16: Mr. Martin Schwer a spiritual son of Father Seelos from his years at Saint Philomena, Pittsburgh, was admitted to the Trappists at Gethsemani. Father Seelos was his guide toward this decision. Mr. Schwer, however, died suddenly on July 19.

April 24, Easter Sunday: Father John De Dycker assumed his office as the new provincial to succeed Father George Ruland.

*13. Father Seelos Is Reappointed as Pastor, Superior, and Prefect in Cumberland*

1859

Easter week: Father De Dycker came to visit the students at Cumberland. He announced the reappointment of Father Seelos as rector and prefect of students and pastor of the parish. Seelos then made a three-day retreat as required by the Rule.

August 14: Forty Hours devotion was held. Adoration continued both day and night.

August 23-28: Father De Dycker presided over the examinations of the students and held Visitation of the community. He promulgated twenty-seven rather severe regulations.

September 8: Father Seelos gave eight students their retreat in preparation for ordination.

September 22, 23, 24: Archbishop Kenrick ordained to major orders eight Redemptorist students in Saint Alphonsus Church, Baltimore.

September 24: Father Seelos conducted a retreat for diocesan priests. The topic was the great dignity of the priesthood and the temptations to which a priest is subject.

October 18: Father De Dycker came to Cumberland with the dispensation of three students. They had lost the religious spirit and had asked to leave the Congregation. They left Cumberland on the following day.

October 19: Father Seelos gave the students their annual retreat, which had been postponed until the three dispensed students had departed from the community.

November: Father Seelos arranged to have two Redemptorist fathers give a mission in the parish of Saints Peter and Paul.

November 8: Bishop John Neumann arrived in Cumberland. The next day he gave minor orders to twenty-eight students.

December 1: Father Seelos wrote to the provincial asking him how he should proceed with Father William Wayrich, one of the professors, who was teaching unusual and novel opinions in his classes of philosophy.

December 8: Father Seelos accepted the vows of Father Nicolas Firle.

Christmas: he celebrated Midnight Mass at the Visitation Convent in Baltimore; then, at 5:30 A.M., he celebrated Mass in the orphanage conducted by the Sisters of Charity; at 10:00, he had the High Mass at Saint Alphonsus.

December 26: Father Seelos preached at the dedication of the new church of Saint Michael, Baltimore.

1860

At the beginning of the year, the community of Saints Peter and Paul, Cumberland, consisted of three priests, sixty students, six professed brothers, and six novice brothers. As in previous years, there were a number of out-missions that were taken care of by the community.

January 6, Saint Philomena, Pittsburgh: Father Seelos preached on the Feast of the Epiphany in his former parish.

January: he preached a mission at East Liberty, a small town near Pittsburgh.

January 31, Cumberland: Father De Dycker, the provincial, came to Cumberland to attend to some personal matters. Father Wayrich was transferred to the mission band in Philadelphia, no doubt, as a result of the letter of Father Seelos of December 1, 1859.

March 19: Father Seelos wrote a strong letter to Bishop Lefevere of Detroit who wanted some altar cards from the former Redemptorist parish in Monroe, Michigan, returned via express mail. He said that would cost more than the cards were worth.

#### *14. Father Seelos Is Considered for Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh*

1860

March 23, Pittsburgh: Bishop Michael O'Connor of Pittsburgh, who intended to resign from the diocese, wrote to Archbishop Kenrick of Baltimore asking him to make nominations for a successor.

March 25, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick wrote that he did not want to make nominations until the Holy See gave the order to do so.

March 29, Pittsburgh: Bishop O'Connor wrote to Ken-

rick that he would select the names of possible candidates for the diocese. He asked Kenrick to support his request for resignation.

March 29, Baltimore: Kenrick said that he was prepared to help Bishop O'Connor's plan to resign if he recommended worthy candidates.

March 30, Baltimore: Kenrick wrote O'Connor that he did not want to recommend anyone himself, but would favor those O'Connor recommended as far as conscience permitted.

March 30, Pittsburgh: Bishop O'Connor wrote Kenrick that he considered Father Seelos as the best qualified to be the next bishop of Pittsburgh.

March 31, Baltimore: Kenrick wrote to O'Connor that he approved the nomination of Father Seelos.

April 6, Baltimore: Father De Dycker wrote to Father Nicholas Mauron, Redemptorist Superior General in Rome, that he had been informed under secrecy that Bishop O'Connor had placed the name of Father Seelos first on his list of candidates. De Dycker said that the General would do the Congregation a great service if he could avert such an appointment because Father Seelos was needed in the Province.

April 6, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick wrote to the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda that he seconded O'Connor's desire to resign. Three names were proposed as possible candidates for the diocese, first among whom was Seelos.

April 7, Wheeling, Virginia: Bishop Richard Whelan of Wheeling wrote to the Cardinal Prefect about the three proposed names. Without himself stating a preference, he did say that, although Father Seelos was a holy and prudent priest, he would not get along with others because he was a German.

April 10: Father Seelos went to Baltimore for an undisclosed purpose. Possibly the provincial wanted to talk to him about his nomination to Pittsburgh.

May 10, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick wrote to the Cardinal Prefect that Father Seelos was the most worthy of the names proposed, but that he would not ac-

cept unless ordered by the Holy Father due to his humility.

May 20, Rome: the Holy See accepted the resignation of Bishop O'Connor.

May 31: three students were ordained to the priesthood in Baltimore by Archbishop Kenrick.

June 7, Cumberland: Corpus Christi procession.

June 19, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick invited the bishops of the province to convene on July 5 in Baltimore to confer on the recommended candidates for the diocese of Pittsburgh.

June 22: Bishop O'Connor wrote to Kenrick that opposition to Father Seelos because of his nationality made it prudent not to put his name on the terna.

June 23, Pittsburgh: Father James O'Connor, brother of the bishop and administrator of Pittsburgh, wrote to Kenrick that Father Seelos was the most deserving but that all the priests objected to him because of his nationality.

*15. Father Seelos Was Not on the Terna Sent to Rome, Chiefly Because of His German Background*

July 5, Baltimore: in the meeting of the bishops of the province, the name of Father Seelos was not included in the terna sent to Rome.

July 31, Baltimore: Father Seelos wrote that he had given a five-day retreat to the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

August 2, Baltimore: Father De Dycker wrote to the Superior General in Rome that Father Seelos was not on the terna, for which he said he was very glad.

August 9, Rome: Father Mauron wrote to the Cardinal Prefect, giving in detail three reasons why Father Seelos should not be chosen as bishop of Pittsburgh.

August 24: Father Francis Verheyen, Roman visitor of the Province, arrived in Cumberland with the provincial. After the examinations of the students, the Visitation was opened.

September 17, Cumberland: Father Seelos wrote a let-

ter to Pope Pius IX, giving reasons why it would be a calamity if he were named bishop. This letter probably never reached the Pope because a bishop for Pittsburgh was chosen before the letter arrived in Rome.

September 18, Rome: Michael Domenec, C. M., was chosen as the new bishop of Pittsburgh.

September 19, Wheeling, West Virginia: two students were ordained by Bishop Richard Whelan.

September 20: the Visitation ended. Little was found to correct or change.

Mid October: eleven students in the humanities, with their professor, were transferred from Cumberland to Annapolis, because there was more room for them there.

October 27: Archbishop Kenrick confirmed sixty at Saints Peter and Paul.

November 13: the students considered it a blessing for them that Father Seelos was not chosen for Pittsburgh and had a grand celebration and enjoyed the recreation day he had promised them if he were not taken from them.

December 2: the nameday of Father Seelos was celebrated as usual with general enthusiasm and rejoicing.

December 31: Father Seelos wrote to the Superior General thanking him for a letter in which he praised him highly for his conduct during the period when he was being considered for Pittsburgh.

1861 At the beginning of the year the community consisted of three fathers, thirty students, six brothers, and four novice brothers. The younger students, those not in theology, had been sent to Annapolis where there was more room for them.

January 9: Brother Adam Parr, the school master, was transferred to Annapolis. Father Seelos engaged two ladies to come from Baltimore to teach in the school. They arrived January 28.

### *16. Difficulties of the Seminary during the American Civil War*

1861 April 11, Charleston, South Carolina: the shelling and



surrender of Fort Sumter marked the beginning of the Civil War.

April 14-24, Cumberland: Father Seelos with Fathers Joseph Wissel and Joseph Jacobs gave an English mission in Saint Patrick's Church. As prefect, he allowed the students to take part in the mission, which helped to make it a great success.

May 3: Father Seelos left for Parkersburg, West Virginia, to assist Father Wissel in a mission where Father Jacobs was incapacitated due to typhoid fever.

May: after the mission in Parkersburg, Father Seelos went with Father Jacobs to a mission at West Union in the diocese of Wheeling.

May 20: Father Seelos returned to Cumberland from the missions.

June 19: a rumor in Cumberland that Confederates soldiers from Virginia were coming to take over the town caused panic among the people. Some of the townspeople, suspecting that weapons were being hidden in the monastery, urged that the house be searched. A more sensible captain came to the house but did not conduct a search.

August: Father Seelos made his annual retreat.

August 15: Father Seelos departed to help with a mission being given by Fathers Francis X. Tschenhens and James Bradley at Harmon's Bottom, a town near Pittsburgh.

August 19, Cumberland: the students, playing baseball on the heights opposite Virginia, were mistaken for Confederate soldiers. The town militia was sent out to repulse them but soon realized their mistake.

August 26: the provincial arrived in Cumberland for the annual examination of the students.

August 28: Father Seelos was appointed prefect of the brothers at the departure of Father Tschenhens, the former prefect.

August 31 - September 9: the provincial conducted the Visitation of the community. At the closing he left twenty-three regulations, some concerning the conduct of the students in view of the war.

September 21, Wheeling, West Virginia: two students were ordained to the priesthood in the cathedral by Bishop Richard Whelan. It was easier and safer to travel to Wheeling than to Baltimore.

September vacation: three rooms on the top floor of the monastery were joined to serve as a community oratory during the winter. Up until this time, community prayers took place in the choir loft of the parish church.

September 30: Father Seelos conducted the five-day retreat of the students.

October 7: Father Seelos began the second novitiate for five young fathers and two older students.

December 3: Father Seelos was honored with the usual affection and enthusiasm on his name day. The students were permitted to put on Cardinal Wiseman's play, *Hidden Gem*, the life of Saint Alexis.

December 23: Father Seelos invested a candidate brother with the Redemptorist habit to mark the beginning of his novitiate.

Christmas: Father Seelos had the usual renewal of vows, not in the morning, but in the evening in the church so that the people of the parish might be present.

1862

At the beginning of the year, the community consisted of two fathers, twenty-three students, five brothers, five novice brothers, and five young fathers making their second novitiate. The year was a difficult one because of the nearness of Cumberland to the Confederate border. The community had spiritual care of many of the war wounded who were sent there.

January 23: in a report to the provincial, Father Seelos wrote that all the students were well and in good spirits.

January 27, Baltimore: Father De Dycker, the provincial, sent a slate for the triennial appointments to the Superior General in Rome in which he recommended that Father Seelos be reappointed as prefect of students as there was no one better for the position. In case he himself should not be reappointed as provincial, he named Father Seelos as his third choice for provincial.

February 8, Cumberland: an army surgeon and a quartermaster came to the house to see if it could be used as a military hospital, but they decided that the rooms were too small and too poorly ventilated.

March 18, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick wrote to Father Seelos that he was to have spiritual care of the Sisters of Charity.

March 31, Cumberland: the second novitiate under the direction of Father Seelos came to a close.

April 3: Father Seelos with Father Charles Wensierski left for a German mission in Zanesville, Ohio. The mission began on April 6 and was considered a great success in reconciling many to the Church who had been alienated through the conduct of former unworthy pastors.

April 14, Holy Week: Father Seelos gave the students a five-day retreat.

April 26, Rome: the Superior General signed the triennial appointments for the province. Father De Dycker was reappointed as provincial and Father Seelos, as pastor, superior, and prefect at Cumberland.

*17. May 1862: Father Seelos Is Appointed Pastor, Superior, and Prefect of Students at Saint Mary's, Annapolis; Letters Criticizing Seelos as Prefect Are Sent to Rome*

1862-1865      SAINT MARY'S, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND; SUPERIOR OF THE PARISH MISSION BAND

1862            May 15, Baltimore: the provincial and his consultors decided to move the studentate to Saint Mary's, Annapolis, and the novitiate to Cumberland.

May 18, Cumberland: news reached Cumberland that Father Seelos was appointed pastor, superior, and prefect of students in Annapolis, Maryland, and Father Michael Mueller, rector and novice master at Cumberland.

May 21: the provincial arrived at Cumberland and announced that all the students were to be transferred to Annapolis and all the novices to Cumberland.

May 31, Annapolis: Father Michael Mueller, wrote a

very long letter to the Superior General, giving in detail the reasons why he thought Father Seelos was not qualified to be prefect of students.

June 3, Baltimore: De Dycker explained to the Superior General why he had made the changes in the location of the studentate and the novitiate, permission for which had been given him previously. In Annapolis Father Seelos was to be prefect of the older students; Father Peter Zimmer, of the younger students.

June 13: Father Seelos, with the last of the students, left Cumberland and arrived in Annapolis.

June 14: with the provincial present, Father Seelos entered upon his office as pastor, superior, and prefect of students. The community at Saint Mary's consisted of eight fathers, sixty-five students, eight brothers, five novice brothers, and six candidate brothers - ninety-two in all.

June 11, Baltimore: two students were ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Kenrick in Saint Alphonsus Church.

July 2, Baltimore: Father De Dycker, in explaining to the Superior General why he had made the changes in the formation houses, wrote that there had been too much confusion at Annapolis under Father Michael Mueller.

July 3, Cumberland: Father Joseph Wissel wrote to the Superior General that he had reservations about Seelos as prefect of students. The letter echoed the remarks of Father Mueller's letter of May 31.

July 25, Cumberland: Father Michael Mueller wrote another letter to the Superior General, again attacking Father Seelos as prefect of students.

August 4, Washington: the Secretary of War called for a Draft of 300,000 soldiers to serve in the military for nine months. If any State could not fulfill its quota, a special Draft was to be made.

August 15, Annapolis: the students began their summer vacation.

*18. August, 1862 Father Seelos Is Removed from Being Prefect of Students*

August 30, Rome: Father Mauron, the Superior General, explained to his consultors why it was necessary to name a new prefect of students for the American Province to replace Father Seelos. All the consultors agreed on naming Father Gerard Dielemans, prefect of students in Wittem, Holland.

August 31, Annapolis: Archbishop Kenrick confirmed eighteen at Saint Mary's.

September 1, Annapolis: Archbishop Kenrick gave tonsure and conferred minor orders on twenty students.

September: all the students were enrolled to be drafted, but an assurance was given that they would be exempted as clerics. The Draft commissioner in Annapolis, a bigoted anti-Catholic, said that the students, nonetheless, were liable to be drafted like everyone else.

September 13, Rome: Father Mauron informed De Dycker that Father Seelos was being replaced as prefect of students by Father Dielemans. He was, however, to remain as superior of the community and professor. Mauron suggested that it might be wise to appoint him superior of Saint Alphonsus, Baltimore, and provincial consultor, thus having him exchange places with Father George Ruland who held these positions.

September 15, Annapolis: Father Seelos gave the students their semi-annual five-day retreat.

September 22: Adj. Gen. Thomas came to Saint Mary's and told the community that there was nothing to fear about being drafted. If trouble should come, however, they could write to the Secretary of War in Washington, Edwin Stanton.

September 22: classes resumed for the students after vacation. Father Seelos was slated to teach Sacred Scripture and Church history.

September 29: a school, newly reorganized, was opened with 149 children under a schoolmistress, using the old church for classrooms.

October 6, Baltimore: De Dycker, while thanking the

Superior General for his concern for the American studentate, told him that he was convinced that conditions under Father Seelos as prefect were not as bad as had been represented to him. Those who spoke against Seelos did not do him justice; in his opinion, there was no one more qualified for the position than he.

October 6: Baltimore: Father George Ruland, informed that an exchange was being considered between himself and Father Seelos, wrote to the Superior General giving the reasons why he did not favor such a plan.

October 7, Rome: Mauron sent to De Dycker an instruction on the preparation and formation of Redemptorist students.

October 28, Rome: Mauron wrote De Dycker permitting Father Seelos to remain in Annapolis as superior and professor.

Beginning of November, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick asked the community of Annapolis to give spiritual help to the soldiers at Fortress Monroe, Virginia. There was also a military hospital there.

November 3, Baltimore: Father De Dycker writing to Dielemans told him that he believed the Superior General had been badly informed about the spirit in the studentate, something that he would see for himself once he arrived. Father Seelos was happy about his coming and would not pose any problem to him.

*19. The New Prefect of Students Arrives from Holland: Father Seelos Remains in Annapolis as Pastor, Superior, Professor*

November 17, Annapolis: Father Gerard Dielemans arrived in Annapolis. Seelos remained pastor of the parish, superior of the community, and professor of Scripture and Church history.

December 3: the nameday of Father Seelos was celebrated by the community with the usual festivities and enthusiasm.

December 7-10: Father Seelos went to Fortress Monroe to minister to the soldiers at the base and in the military hospital. This was the first of two times that he

went there.

December 21-30, Annapolis: Father De Dycker held Visitation of the community. The two divisions of the students were done away with; six of the seventeen remarks in the recess book had reference to the studentate.

December 27: Father Seelos thanked Father Mauron for his concern for the studentate in sending Father Dielemans. The change-over went well because everyone received it with joy. He himself was grateful for being relieved of the heavy responsibility.

1863

At the beginning of the year, the community at Saint Mary's, Annapolis, consisted of nine fathers, sixty-three students, nine brothers, three novice brothers, and four candidate brothers. Father Seelos was superior of the community and pastor of the parish; he taught Sacred Scripture and Church history.

February 7: Father Seelos went to Baltimore for a few days to give pastoral assistance.

March 3, Washington: President Lincoln signed the Conscription Act. All able-bodied men between the ages of 20 and 45 were liable to be drafted into military service for a period of three years. Service could be avoided by obtaining a substitute or paying \$300.00. Clergy and religious were not exempted.

March 13: Father De Dycker came to Annapolis for a long consultation with Father Seelos and the consultors to deliberate on what to do with the students in view of the Draft. It was decided to ordain twenty of the students as soon as possible, because as clerics it might be easier to obtain exemption from military service for them.

March 16, Baltimore: De Dycker sent his report for the Visitation of the previous years to the Superior General. At Annapolis there seemed to be tension between Father Seelos and Father Dielemans, which was to be expected in two men so different in temperament and personality. Father Seelos was doing himself violence not to interfere in the affairs of the students. De Dycker would not welcome another change in the studentate.

March 19-20-21: Archbishop Kenrick ordained on three consecutive days twenty students to the subdiaconate, the diaconate, and the priesthood at Saint Mary's, Annapolis. This was the largest number Archbishop Kenrick had ordained at one time, and it was the largest ordination class so far in American ecclesiastical history.

March 21: Father Seelos returned to Baltimore with the Archbishop, who gave him as a gift some Latin and Greek works of the Fathers.

March 30- April 3, Holy Week: the community of Saint Mary's made their usual five-day retreat.

May 9: Father Seelos with three other fathers went to Baltimore for pastoral assistance.

May 12-15, Baltimore: Father Seelos took part in the Archdiocesan Synod.

May 24, Baltimore: Father De Dycker wrote to the Superior General that he had decided to have Father Helmpraecht direct the next class of the second novitiate at Annapolis.

June 20-22: De Dycker came to Annapolis to discuss what was to be done with the students to avoid induction into the military. A first suggestion was that all the students be sent to Canada. Then it was decided that several of the fathers go to Washington and petition President Lincoln to exempt the students. Before leaving, the provincial ordered the recitation of the Five Psalms of Saint Bonaventure in honor of Mary for protection from the Draft.

June 24-25, Washington: Father Van de Braak and Henning had an interview with the Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, who assured them they had nothing to fear from the Draft.

July 1-3: Battle of Gettysburg.

July 8, Baltimore: Archbishop Kenrick died.

*20. Father Seelos Goes to Washington to Ask President Abraham Lincoln for Exemption from the Draft*

July 22-24, Washington: Fathers Seelos and Van de



Braak went to Washington to see about exemption from the Draft. They had a meeting with President Lincoln who said he did not know what could be done. They also met with the Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, William H. Seward, the son of the Secretary of State, and with Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War.

July 23, Baltimore: De Dycker wrote to the Superior General that he planned to appoint Father Seelos as head of the mission band. He informed Seelos of this, who mentioned it in a letter of August 3.

July 27-29, Annapolis: the students took their oral examinations.

August 1: summer vacation began for all.

August 3: Father Seelos began his ten-day annual retreat.

*21. August, 1863, Father Seelos Is Appointed Superior of the Parish Mission Band*

August 29: Father Seelos was named head of the mission band. Father Joseph Helmprecht arrived to direct the second novitiate and to function as vice-rector in the absence of Father Seelos on the missions.

September 22: Father Seelos departed from Annapolis to begin his work as superior of the missions. He remained superior of the community in Annapolis in name only, as Father Helmprecht was the acting superior. He did not return to Annapolis.

September 29 - October 5, Loretto, Pennsylvania: Father Seelos gave a retreat to the diocesan priests of Pittsburgh.

October 4-17, Waukegan, Illinois: English mission in Immaculate Conception Parish.

October 18-24, Woodstock, Illinois: English mission in Saint Mary's Parish.

October 25-November 7, Hartland, Illinois: English mission in Saint Patrick's Parish.

November 8-22, Ottawa, Illinois: English mission in Saint Columba's Parish.

November 22-29, Henry, Illinois: English mission in

- Saint Mary's Parish.  
 November 29 - December 6, Henry, Illinois: German mission in Saint Mary's Parish.  
 December 13-25, Chicago, Illinois: English mission in Saint John's Parish.
- 1864 December 27 - January 10, Chicago, Illinois: English mission in Saint Mary's Parish.  
 January 11, Saint Mary's, Detroit: Father Seelos and the missionaries stayed with the Redemptorists to rest before the next mission.  
 January 17-31, Toledo, Ohio: English mission in Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 January 31 - February 10, Cleveland, Ohio: English mission renewal in Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 February, Cleveland, Ohio: retreat to the Ursuline Sisters.  
 February, Holy Redeemer, New York City: Father Seelos and the missionaries stayed with their confreres to rest in between the missions. He wrote a letter from here on February 28.  
 March 2-27, Providence, Rhode Island: English mission in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul.  
 March 29 - April 15, Holy Redeemer, New York City: Father Seelos spent part of Easter week and the two following weeks here.  
 April 17 - May 1, Chicago, Illinois: English mission in Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 May 1-10, Bloomington, Illinois: English mission in Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 May 15-23, Bridgeport, Illinois: English mission in Saint Bridget's Parish.  
 May 22-30, Morris, Illinois: English mission in Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 June 5-16, Joliet, Illinois: English mission in Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 June 19-28, Peoria, Illinois: English mission in Saint Mary's and Saint Patrick's Parish.  
 June 20: the missionaries received word that they were to spend the summer months, July and August, when there was no mission work, at Saints Peter and Paul,

Cumberland. Father Seelos was to remain as superior of the band of missionaries.

July 3: mission work ended for the summer months.

July 9, Cumberland: Father Seelos arrived at Saints Peter and Paul for the summer. During these weeks he made his annual retreat.

August 20-26, Cumberland: under the leadership of the provincial, the missionaries had a mission conference. As a result, a number of additions were made to the Provincial Statutes regarding the conducting of missions.

September 12, Saint Philomena, Pittsburgh: Father Seelos had been appointed to be socius to the provincial for the Visitation of the community which ended on this date.

September 16, Pittsburgh: Father Seelos preached on this Sunday at Saint Philomena and stayed until the beginning of the priests' retreat.

September 20-27, Loretto, Pennsylvania: Father Seelos conducted an eight-day retreat for the diocesan clergy of Pittsburgh.

September 29, Holy Redeemer, New York City: Father Seelos spent a few days with the confreres before the next mission.

October 2-13, Providence, Rhode Island: English mission renewal in Saint Joseph's Parish.

October 18, Holy Redeemer, New York City: Father Seelos spent a few days here in between missions.

October 23 - November 5, Waterbury, Connecticut: English mission in Immaculate Conception Parish.

November 6-21, Hudson City, New Jersey: English mission in Saint Joseph's Parish.

November 24, Holy Redeemer, New York City: Father Seelos was here in between missions.

November 27 - December 11, Cincinnati, Ohio: German mission in Saint Joseph's Parish.

December 18-27, White Oak, Ohio: English mission in Saint James's Parish.

1865

At the beginning of the year, Father Seelos was still superior of the missionaries and, officially, rector of Saint

Mary's, Annapolis, although he was always on the missions.

January 1-8, Bucyrus, Ohio: German and English mission in Holy Trinity Parish.

January 8-15, Shelby Settlement, Richmond County, Ohio: German mission in Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish.

January 22 - February 1, Massillon, Ohio: German mission in Saint Mary's Parish.

February, Detroit: in between missions Father Seelos stayed with the Redemptorist community at Saint Mary's.

February 2-5, Massillon, Ohio: three-day retreat to three sisters.

February 12-20, Toledo, Ohio: English mission renewal in Saint Patrick's Parish.

February 25, Chicago: Father Seelos was with the Redemptorist community at Saint Michael's.

March 4-14, Chicago, Illinois: solemn novena in Saint Patrick's Parish.

March 19, Joliet, Illinois: English mission renewal in Saint Patrick's Parish.

March 28: Chicago: with the Saint Michael's community.

April 1-5, Rochester, New York: on his way to New York, Father Seelos stayed several days with the Redemptorist community at Saint Joseph's. He preached in the evening of April 2, Passion Sunday.

April 6, New York: Father Seelos arrived at Most Holy Redeemer.

April 9: the Civil War came to an end with the surrender of General Lee to General Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia.

April 14, 15, 16: New York: Father Seelos was asked by the pastor of Most Holy Redeemer to take the services on Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday.

April 14, Washington: President Lincoln was assassinated.

April 22, New York: the provincial, Father John De Dycker, with Father Joseph Helmprecht, left for Rome where they had been summoned by the Superior General to consult about affairs in the province.

April 23-May 3, Danbury, Connecticut: English mission in Saint Peter's Parish.

May 14-31, New York City: very large and very successful English mission in Saint Peter's Parish. Nine missionaries took part and 10,000 confessions were heard.

May 24, Rome: Father Joseph Helmptraecht was named provincial to succeed Father De Dycker. He did not return from Europe until the end of July.

May 30, Rome: the Superior General informed Father Ruland, acting provincial, that he was permitting Father Dielemans to return to Europe after less than three years as prefect. Father Michael Burke was appointed in his place.

June 3, Rome: the Superior General appointed Father Leopold Petsch as rector of Annapolis, officially terminating the tenure of Father Seelos as superior there.

July-August, Cumberland: the missionaries spent their summer months at Saints Peter and Paul.

July 5, Annapolis: Father Dielemans departed from the studentate. He sailed for Europe on July 12.

July 4-5, Pittsburgh: on his way to Chicago for the priests' retreat, Father Seelos stayed several days with the community at Saint Philomena's.

July 10, Chicago, Illinois: retreat to the diocesan priests of Chicago.

July 18-19, Pittsburgh: Father Seelos left Chicago, July 17, and stayed a few days at Saint Philomena on his return trip.

July 25, New York: Father Helmptraecht arrived from Europe to begin his tenure as provincial.

*22. August, 1865: Father Seelos Is No Longer Superior of the Missionaries*

August 2, Baltimore: Father Helmptraecht wrote to the Superior General that Father Peter Zimmer was the new superior of Saint Michael's, Chicago and that Father Seelos was to be consultor and admonitor. On the same day, Father Seelos wrote in a letter that he was transferred to Chicago and was no longer superior of

the missionaries. In view of the following, this first assignment was quickly changed.

September, Rochester: the House Chronicle of Saint Joseph's, Rochester, has an entry in September, 1865, that states that, around the time of the retreat to the priests of Buffalo, Father Seelos was assigned to Rochester. On January 1, 1866, an entry states that Father Seelos ceased to be a member of the house and was assigned to Detroit and that he never lived in the Rochester house.

September 12-18, Buffalo, New York: Father Seelos gave a retreat in English to forty-seven diocesan priests of Buffalo. Around this time, he spent some time with the community of Saint Mary's in Buffalo.

September 21-28, Pittsburgh: on his way west, Father Seelos spent these days with the community of Saint Philomena.

October 1-15, St. Louis, Missouri: German mission in Saint Mary's Parish.

October 2, Baltimore: the provincial wrote to the Superior General that Fathers Albert Schaeffler and Joseph Wissel were the consultors in Chicago, changing what he had written on August 2.

October 22 - November 5, Cincinnati, Ohio: German mission in Saint Mary's Parish.

November 7-11, Nazareth, Ohio: retreat to students of Saint Mary's College.

November 12-21, Dayton, Ohio: German mission in Holy Trinity Parish.

November 19-30, Toledo, Ohio: English mission in Saint Francis de Sales Parish.

November 22-28, Detroit: Father Helmpreaecht held Visitation of the community of Saint Mary's. It is possible that as a result of this Visitation, Father Seelos was transferred to Detroit.

*23. Father Seelos is Transferred to Saint Mary's Parish, Detroit, Michigan*

DECEMBER 1865 - SEPTEMBER, 1866: FATHER SEELOS MINISTERED AS A

PARISH PRIEST AT SAINT MARY'S, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

December 1, Detroit: Father Seelos arrived at Saint Mary's, Detroit, where the missionaries were gathering for a very large mission in Montreal of which Father Seelos was to have been the superior. However, the house chronicler states that at the provincial's order he was to remain in Detroit and assist the community in its ministry and rest from his labors on the missions.

December, Connors Creek, Michigan: three-day mission in Assumption of Mary Parish. Preaching was in English, German, and French.

December, Ionia, Michigan: three-day German mission in Saints Peter and Paul Parish.

December, New Baltimore, Michigan: German Jubilee service in Immaculate Conception Parish.

1866

January 1, Detroit: Father Seelos is listed as a member of the community of Saint Mary's with the duties of an assistant to the pastor and prefect of the brothers in the community. The parish books record his baptisms and marriages; the house chronicle, the occasions on which he preached.

January 26: Father Seelos gave the evening conference to the Confraternity of the Holy Family. He did this often.

February 11-13: Father Seelos preached for the Forty Hours devotion: Jesus is the Good Shepherd who dwells with his sheep, offers himself for them, and protects them.

April 24-27, Nazareth, Ohio: Father Seelos gave a three-day retreat to the students at Saint Mary's Boarding School and prepared them for First Holy Communion and confirmation.

June 4: in a letter of spiritual direction, Father Seelos mentioned that the provincial had told him to curtail his correspondence.

July 2, Chicago: Father Seelos arrived at Saint Michael's from Detroit on his way to give a priests' retreat. He left for the retreat on July 5.

July 6-12, Alton, Illinois: Father Seelos gave a German

retreat to twenty-five priests of the Diocese of Alton (later Springfield, Illinois). He stayed with the bishop, Henry Damian Juncker. After the closing of the retreat on July 12, he attended the diocesan synodal conference.

July 9-10, Annapolis: three fathers and two students lost their lives by drowning in a boating accident.

July 13-20, Alton, Illinois: retreat to the Ursuline Sisters at the convent of the Holy Family.

July 21: Father Seelos returned to Saint Michael's, Chicago, where the provincial was making Visitation.

July 22, Chicago: the provincial appointed him socius of the Visitation.

July 24: in his diary Father Joseph Wissel recorded the departure of Father Seelos for Detroit: "Parting he said to me that I would see him no more and that he hoped to see me in heaven, because great things were going on - he wouldn't tell me more - what might that be?!"

August 2-9, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: these dates best accord with other data for a retreat that Father Seelos gave to the clergy of the Diocese of Milwaukee at the Salesianum, the diocesan seminary.

August 11, Chicago: Wissel's diary for this date has: "F. Dold went to Milwaukee this morning to see Fr. Seelos there, as he appears to believe that Fr. Seelos is to be his successor there in Pittsburgh." The rumor that Father Seelos was to take Father Louis Dold's place as rector of Pittsburgh, of course, was not true.

August 15, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Father Seelos preached in English for the Assumption of Mary in Immaculate Conception Church, having stopped there on August 14 on his way back to Detroit in order not to miss saying Mass.

#### *24. Father Seelos Is Transferred to New Orleans, Louisiana*

August 29, New Orleans: the house chronicle of the community of Saint Mary's noted that Father Seelos was to be stationed there.

September 12, Detroit: Father Seelos departed from De-



troit for his new assignment in New Orleans.

September 14, Chicago: he began his annual ten-day retreat at Saint Michael's.

September 25: Father Seelos left for New Orleans together with Brother Lawrence Fischwenger and two School Sisters of Notre Dame.

September 27: his mother died in Füssen, Germany, but the news did not reach him until November.

1866-1867 FATHER SEELOS MINISTERED AS A PARISH PRIEST IN NEW ORLEANS

September 28: Father Seelos arrived in New Orleans and was joyfully received into the community as prefect of Saint Mary's Church for the Germans, one of the three churches under the direction of the community.

November 4: he gave assistance to the missionaries at Saint Joseph's Parish in Gretna, Louisiana.

November 6: Father Seelos received news of his mother's death on September 27.

November 30: he was appointed zealor of the community.

December 3: after only two months in New Orleans, his nameday was celebrated with enthusiasm by the community and members of the parish.

December 4: the provincial began the Visitation of the community, for which Father Seelos was named socius.

December 30 - January 14: he helped with confessions in a mission given in Saint Alphonsus Church.

1867 As the year began, Father Seelos was consultor to the rector, Father John B. Duffy, who had been his novice in Pittsburgh, and prefect of Saint Mary's Church. He also gave assistance in the other two parishes. A member of the community was Father Alexander who had accepted him as a novice in 1843.

February 11: Father Seelos was appointed prefect of the seven brothers in the community.

February 21-28, Natchez, Mississippi: Father Seelos gave a retreat to the priests of the diocese of Natchez.

March 6, Ash Wednesday: during Lent, he preached of-

ten in Saint Mary's Church, Carrollton.

May: Father Seelos preached the May devotions.

July 17: he blessed the statue of the Sorrowful Mother in Saint Mary's Church.

August 9-14: Father Seelos gave a retreat to the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

August 26: the house chronicle noted that there were so many cases of yellow fever in the city that it was declared an epidemic.

September 3: Father Benedict Neithart came down with the fever

September 9: Father Joseph Jacobs came down with the fever, he recovered quickly but had a relapse on the 14th, but then recovered again.

#### *25. Last Sickness and Death, September 17 - October 4, 1867*

September 17: Father Seelos made an urgent sick call after the midday meal, came home, and at 3:00 P.M., took to his bed with yellow fever after fighting it for several days.

September 18-20: there was little alarm about his condition as the fever was not very high and he was a good patient, quiet and composed.

September 22: Father William Meredith and Brother Gerard Fleddermann came down with the fever. Father Meredith was well on the 27th.

September 25: Brother Lawrence Fischwenger came down with the fever.

September 26: Father Seelos received the last sacraments.

September 27: Brother Lawrence died. The doctor thought that Father Seelos was improving.

September 28: Brother Gerard died. Neithart, Jacobs, and Meredith were recovering.

September 29: Father Seelos began to have intermittent periods of delirium.

October 1: his condition was worsening, but he was happy with the news that he was most likely going to die. Father Charles Stiessberger came down with the

fever. He died on October 6.

October 2: Father Seelos had a sinking spell and the prayers for the dying were said, in which he participated as best he could. He asked to have the habit put on, he renewed his religious vows and gave his blessing to the confreres. He wanted to die on Friday in honor of the Passion and Death of Our Lord, or on Saturday in honor of Our Blessed Lady. He said: "Now I see what it is to die a Redemptorist." He begged pardon for all his faults. He was very much at peace.

October 3: when news spread of his condition, there was a flood of prayers for him. The doctor was amazed that, as one so sick, he did not complain about his pain. He called Father Jacobs to his bedside and warned him about losing his vocation. At an obedience of the superior, he tried to get up but was too weak. When asked if he wanted anything to eat, he said "only Holy Communion."

October 4: shortly after midnight, Father Duffy gave him Holy Viaticum. The community made morning meditation in his room and he tried to participate in the prayers. He was delirious but praying. He renewed his vows and tried to repeat the prayers whispered in his ear. At 4:30 P.M. his agony began. The prayers for the dying were recited. He seemed to be conscious, his lips constantly moved in prayer. While those around his bed were singing his favorite German hymns to Mary, he died quietly at 5:50 P.M., Friday, October 4. He was 48 years and 9 months old.

*26. All Night Vigil at His Casket in the Church; Solemn Requiem Mass, October 5; Burial in Saint Mary's Church*

October 4: in less than two hours his body, clothed in violet vestments, was laid out in Saint Mary's Church. Despite a violent storm, people began to flock to the church and kept coming throughout the whole night. There were no signs of corruption and no odor as was usual in such cases.

October 5: great crowds came, all wishing to touch the

body. At 8:00 A.M., there was the Solemn Requiem High Mass sung by Father John Duffy. The homily was preached by Father Henry Giessen in English for the benefit of the many Americans, Irish, and Creoles who filled the church. This was followed by the *Libera*, after which the people touched rosaries, medals, prayer books, and cards to the body. This lasted a good half hour.

Just before noon, the body was lowered into the vault before the altar of Saint Alphonsus at the side of the large mission crucifix and the statue of the Mater Dolorosa.

#### RÉSUMÉ

Le Bienheureux François-Xavier Seelos est né à Füssen, Allemagne, le 11 janvier 1819, le sixième de douze enfants de Mang et Frances Schwarzenbach. Après l'école élémentaire de son village, il étudia à Saint-Étienne, Augsburg, durant 7 années (1832-1839); puis durant trois ans à l'Université Ludwig-Maximilien, Munich: deux ans de philosophie (1839-1841) et une année de théologie (1842). Le besoin urgent de prêtres parlant l'allemand aux États-Unis l'amena à entrer chez les CSsR pour travailler en Amérique, où il arriva le 20 avril 1843. Il fit profession le 16 juillet 1844 et fut ordonné prêtre le 22 décembre 1844, à Baltimore, Maryland. Il travailla d'abord au ministère paroissial à Sainte-Philomène, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvanie, 1845-1854, où il fut nommé supérieur en 1851; puis il devint supérieur à Saint-Alphonse à Baltimore, 1854-1857. Il servit comme supérieur, professeur et préfet des étudiants à Saints-Pierre-et-Paul, Cumberland et à Sainte-Marie, Annapolis, Maryland, 1857-1862. Remplacé comme préfet des étudiants, il fut nommé supérieur de l'équipe des missions, 1862-1865. Après une année (1865-1866) comme vicaire à la paroisse de Sainte-Marie, Détroit, Michigan, il fut transféré à la Nouvelle-Orléans, Louisiane, où il fut nommé curé substitut à Sainte-Marie de l'Assomption en 1866. Il mourut dans une épidémie de fièvre jaune à la Nouvelle-Orléans le 4 octobre 1867, entouré d'une réputation générale de sainteté.