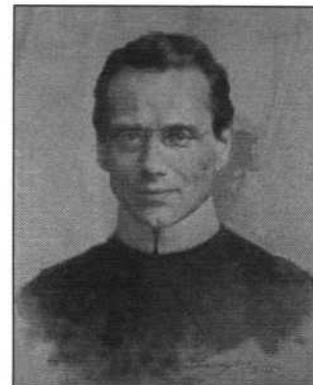


NEWS Seelos Center



VOLUME XL • NUMBER 10 • OCTOBER 2001

Volunteers, God Bless Them



Many will be shocked to find
That there's a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there's no

committee chairperson,
No group leader or car pools.

No eager team

that needs a coach,

No bazaar and no bake sale.

There will be nothing to staple,

Not one thing to fold or mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,

But a finger snap will bring

Cool drinks and gourmet dinners

And treats fit for a king.

You ask,

"Who'll serve these privileged few

And work for all they're worth?"

Why, all those who reaped the benefits

And not once volunteered on Earth.

Anonymous

On an October night in 1990, a 27-year-old New Orleans man who told his family he was going for a walk, was killed in a drive-by shooting two blocks from his home. City Councilwoman Peggy Wilson, who was riding with police nearby at the time of the shooting, knelt at the dying man's side as he lay bleeding in the street and prayed for him. Mrs. Wilson had placed a relic on his chest and told him comfort-

ingly that God would help him. The relic was a piece of cloth touched to the tomb of Father Francis Xavier Seelos.

These cloth scapulars, or third-class relics of Blessed Francis Seelos, have been a labor of love by volunteer needle-workers for decades. Our current list includes 37 volunteers from as far away as Fairfax, Virginia. Evelyn Moran of Baton Rouge has been crocheting the scapulars for twenty-five years; Rosary Stoltman, Doris Doll and Ruby Hebert of New Orleans have been faithful to this dying art since the 1960's. Countless others

like them over the decades have quietly contributed to the scapular supply-and-demand out of their love for God, Church, and Father Seelos.

They join the strong labor force that has helped to keep the Seelos cause so active, from the volunteer blessing ministers at the hospitals, and the church tour guides, to the dedicated Seelos Center staff members.

According to a recent study, volunteerism since 1995 has increased faster among older Americans than any other age group except 35-to-44-year-olds. Roughly half of all people over 55 do some volunteer work and the fraction is increasing. The average weekly commitment is 3.3 hours, but 18% devote 5 hours or more. Many now have the time - and, often, the wherewithal - to apply their professional skills in their new volunteer setting and they aim to make a difference.

Whatever the age of the Seelos volunteers, may it please them to know that their time, talent and handiwork are a gift to the cause that truly makes a difference -- even in emergency situations! Perhaps that is why people like Peggy Wilson still wears a scapular of Father Seelos on her at all times!

Meet Our Volunteers!

The warm smile of KATHY PATTERSON welcomes visitors in the Seelos Shrine Gift Shop. She joined the Seelos Center staff in 1995, a year after her husband, Jim, began volunteering at the Center. They both live in Metairie, Louisiana.



Photo Credit: Ginger Bethancourt

A Message FROM THE EDITOR

A little girl was sent to the store with specific instructions from her mother to return home immediately after her purchase. She was more than two hours coming home, much to the distress of her anxious mother. "Where have you been?" scolded the mother.

"I'm sorry, Mommy. I know I am late, but Ann broke her doll and I had to stop and help her fix it."

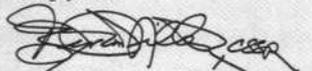
"And just how were you able to help her fix that broken doll?"

In her precious, childlike manner the girl responded, "I really couldn't, but I sat down with her and helped her cry."



Saint Gerard Majella is the Patron of Mothers and Mothers-to-Be. If your middle name is Gerard or you know of someone by that name, there is a strong possibility that Saint Gerard Majella's intercession was invoked at the time of birth. He continues to be a source of hope when life seems fragile and broken. Unlike the many theologians of his time who often appeared removed, remote and lofty in their pastoral approach, Gerard had a childlike manner that allowed him to accompany people on their journey in life and help them laugh tears of joy or cry tears of sorrow.

October 16 is the Feastday of Saint Gerard Majella, C.Ss.R. He was a contemporary of the Redemptorist founder, Saint Alphonsus Liguori, and a member of the Congregation to which Father Seelos belonged. It is especially during the month of October that the faithful around the world celebrate "the wonderworker," as Saint Gerard was known even during his lifetime (1726-1755). He is perhaps the Redemptorist saint with the most widespread appeal and popular devotion, and he is a source of constant help and inspiration to all parents. Be it a broken home or heart, just ask Saint Gerard's intercession "to help fix it!"


Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

DID YOU KNOW

8-year-old Jessie Arbogast of Ocean Springs, MS, was the victim of a 7-foot-long bull shark attack on July 6 that occurred during his family's outing near Pensacola, Florida. Surgeons were able to reattach the boy's arm severed in the attack, and his stunning recovery has developed into what many are calling "the miracle of Jessie." Support for Jessie included Masses, and a blood drive held at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, the Arbogasts' parish in Mississippi. On July 14, Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi visited Jessie in the Florida hospital and blessed him with a first-class relic of Francis Xavier Seelos. Jessie and his family are still continually offered in prayer at the Seelos Shrine, New Orleans.

Seelos Center NEWS

DESPERATELY SEEKING FÜSSEN!

Clarion Herald Pilgrimages announces its 14-day Pilgrimage to **GERMANY,**

(the birthplace of
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MAY 3 – 16, 2002

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Spiritual Director: Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.
Director of the National Shrine
of Blessed Francis Seelos in New Orleans

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Seelos Center NEWS

A monthly newsletter for friends of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R.

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Seelos Center News

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

You are invited to the Annual
Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Mass
Sunday, October 7th at II:30 a.m.

at St. Mary's Assumption Church
(corner of Josephine & Constance Streets),
New Orleans, Louisiana

A reception in honor of
Ambassador Corinne "Lindy" Boggs
immediately follows the Seelos Mass at the
St. Alphonsus Art & Cultural Center,
2045 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana



FRANCIS SEELOS 2002 CALENDARS SOON AVAILABLE

It gives us great delight to announce to you the printing of a commemorative calendar for the year 2002. The 13-month calendar features informative details about Blessed Francis Seelos and highlights of his National Shrine in New Orleans.

The limited edition calendar sells for \$10 (+\$1 for p/h) to support the Seelos cause for canonization, and it reminds us daily of our universal call to holiness throughout the upcoming year. Supplies are limited, so please reserve your calendar by mailing your request and payment to:

SEELOS CENTER,

2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

"With Him is Plentiful Redemption"

(Psalm 130:7)

The Seelos Center offers the following services:

- Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Assumption Church, the Shrine and Museum of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans. For details and appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.
- A Daily Spiritual Message. Call 504-586-1803.
- Blessings of the Sick with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in the Greater New Orleans area, please call:
 - Gerry Heigle (E. Jefferson) 504-482-4404
 - Jack Pitkin (Uptown/Innecity) 504-524-6591
 - Teresa LaCour (E. Jefferson) 504-887-0214
 - Rita Kaul (Arabi) 504-271-4520
 - Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423
 - Jim Howard (St. Bernard) 504-277-7949
 - Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213
 - Peter Lukinovich (N.O. East) 504-241-2746
 - Ethel Kuhn (Ochsner) 504-837-3957
 - Bill and Sunny Schulz (Mandeville) 985-792-5394
 - Carmelie Mancuso (Slidell) 985-641-6999
 - Mary Jo Stewart (Slidell) 985-643-5548
 - Pam Crutchfield, R.T. (Covington) 985-892-6560
 - Ethel Gallagher (Reserve) 985-536-0276
 - Dan Montz, L.P.C. (Houma/Thibodaux) 985-446-1805
- Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 am Mass in the historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine and Constance Streets).
- Weekly Mass celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos Center. If you have Special Intentions, please list them in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center / Seelos Foundation Office offers the following devotionals:

(Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s) requested):

- SPECIAL PRICE!** "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," an informative documentary on the life of Blessed F. Seelos; 30-minute VHS cassette. (Suggested donation: \$15 - includes postage.)
- "A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos," a new 108-page paperback biography by Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R. & Alicia von Stamwitz. (Suggested donation: \$8.50 - includes postage.)
- Nothing Short of a Miracle*, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two of the chapters feature Father Seelos. (Suggested donation: \$12.50 - includes postage.)
- Messengers: After-Death Appearances of Saints & Mystics*, a 343-page hardbound book on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos; photos included. Autographed by author, P. Treece. (Suggested donation: \$21.50 - includes postage.)
- Seelos Medals: Blessed F. Seelos medal, made of nickel silver. Round (3/4" diameter), with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the United States. (Suggested donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5+(\$1p/h).
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Audio cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father and Blessed F. Seelos, given by Father Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Suggested donation: \$6 - includes postage.)
- A Blessed F. Seelos vigil candle will burn near his tomb or in the Seelos Museum at St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans for an offering of \$3.00.
- First, Second and Third-Class relics of Blessed F. Seelos. Please contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495

Testimonials

New Orleans, LA

I am writing this letter to let you know what Father Seelos has done for me. In June 2000, I was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. One of my aunts told me about Fr. Seelos and his miracles. The following Saturday, about 13 members of my family attended Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church to pray for a miracle. As soon as I set foot into the church I felt a sense of comfort and healing that I had never really felt before. During Mass, when the gospel was read, my family members and I began to cry because it talked about people suffering from chronic illnesses and how God had cured them of it. I then realized I was there for a reason. After Mass, we all kissed the cross of Fr. Seelos.

In August 2000, the cancer was removed surgically with a successful recovery. The doctor ordered another CAT scan in 3 months. So in November 2000, I underwent a CAT scan thinking nothing of it, until the doctor told me the cancer had come back larger and more serious than before. I started oral chemotherapy that day to see if it would help reduce the size of the tumor. At that point in time, I began to wear the Seelos scapular, hoping for another miracle to occur. Six months and a number of CAT scans later, the doctor told me that the tumor was gone. I cried and began to rub the scapular. I thank Fr. Seelos from the bottom of my heart for his healing powers, for without him I would never have begun to pray, have faith and hope in God like I do.

San Antonio, TX

I am a grandmother of twins that were having problems before birth. My daughter-in-law delivered in February of this year after a seven-month term. The parents were told one child (Michael) might live, but would die after birth. I prayed to Father Seelos, since we just had a retreat on his life at our parish under the direction of Father Gilbert Enderle, C.Ss.R. Our babies are still full of life. Michael will need surgeries to different parts of his body, but is responding wonderfully. Father Seelos' picture is still in the crib since Michael was in the Houston hospital.

Baton Rouge, LA

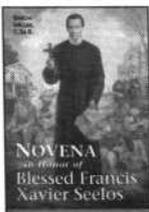
I am writing to you about my brother-in-law. In 1987, while working one day, he passed out and was rushed to the hospital and diagnosed with diabetes. He later went into a coma for a whole month and was in such bad shape, they put him on life support. With no improvement in sight, they had decided to unplug the life support. That's when his sister (my wife) and I wrote a prayer to Father Seelos. We went to his casket and prayed and put the prayer in his casket. The following day was when it was decided that the plug would be pulled; just before doing so, he awakened from the coma. Ever since that day in 1987 he has been healthy. All our praise and thanks go to Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

In November 2000, I felt a nodule on the right side of my neck. Early diagnosis indicated the possibility of lymphoma, which the doctor said had a high cure rate. When I awakened from a three-hour surgery the doctor told me it was cancer and worse than he thought. An oncologist told me that without chemotherapy I had a 40% chance of surviving for one year and a 10% chance of surviving for two years. The mother of one of my employees had given me a prayer card of Father Seelos and his relics. I read the prayer and used the relics in my prayers over and over until I was taken in for the PET scan; during the PET scan, I continued to pray.

Then on two occasions in January 2001, I went to St. Mary's Assumption Church where I was blessed with a Seelos crucifix. On January 8, the results of the PET scan did not show any evidence of cancer from my head to my toes. It read: "the above suggests the possibility that there is no primary at this time, and therefore, the patient has metastatic carcinoma of unknown primary with no residual disease as per clinical examination or on CT scan of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis." This is what we prayed for. I believe that our prayers have been answered by the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

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OR CALL: 800-464-2555 Ext. 425 (Please allow a minimum of 30 days to process your changes.)

The Seelos Museum, Shrine and Gift Shop are now open on Saturdays!
New Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 9 AM - 3 PM • Saturday - 10 AM - 3:30 PM
Tours available during the hours of operation - Other times by appointment. (504) 525-2495