



NEWS Seelos Center



VOLUME XL • NUMBER 11 • NOVEMBER 2001

HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS, GOD BLESS THEM

When Jack Pitkin makes his familiar rounds at the inner-city hospitals of New Orleans with a Seelos mission cross and first class relic, he is often mistaken for a doctor or priest. Patients frequently ask him to explain their medical diagnosis or request him to perform their funeral. The mistaken identity is not that farfetched, because Mr. Pitkin is only one of many "doctor of souls" offering healing ministry in Blessed Francis Seelos' name.

The names of these pastoral agents are listed inside this monthly bulletin. Their service to people in need is truly a Christian act of charity and corporal work of mercy. May God bless them abundantly for this gift that they so willingly share with others; and may our smiling patron in heaven, Father Seelos, in his great compassion for the sick, continue to be a source of inspiration to them all.

Jim Howard has been offering blessings throughout St. Bernard Parish since 1997. While praying before Fr. Seelos' tomb, he sensed a strong message – not once, but twice — to make himself available for this ministry!

For over a decade, Jack Pitkin, a retired oil company executive, has enjoyed visiting patients with the good news of Blessed Francis Seelos' intercession.



*Meet
Our
Volunteers!*



Gerry Heigle was one of the original blessing ministers who shared the entire city of New Orleans and surrounding area with Yvonne Sevin (now deceased), fourteen years ago. She feels that she has witnessed many miracles as a result of her ministry.

A HOLIDAY GIFT THAT REMAINS A GIFT FOREVER

What do you give a person who has everything? Usually we settle for buying some unnecessary article of clothing or jewelry, which may or may not be enjoyed by the person we are hoping to please.

During this holiday season, it may be more appropriate to give a beautiful thought than something material. Unlike clothing, a beautiful thought can never be outgrown. A gift to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos in the name of your loved one — living or deceased — conveys just such a thought. In so doing, you and the person being honored have joined together to continue the ministry of Father Seelos at his national sanctuary of prayer, hope and healing.

Please consider a memorial or a holiday gift that keeps on giving by using the enclosed envelope. For further information on stock transfers and other options, please call the Seelos Foundation Office at 800-464-2555, extension 543.

A Message FROM THE EDITOR

For Americans, November is a month especially associated with giving thanks to God. After all, the primary reason for the coming of the Pilgrims to America was to obtain religious freedom. We may recall that in 1620, the Pilgrims – 102 in number – set sail in a hired ship, the Mayflower, from Plymouth to Virginia, where they planned to settle. After weeks of exploration they took the ship back to Plymouth where a hard winter and much suffering followed. Hunger, cold, and illness played their parts relentlessly, and by the arrival of the spring, hardly fifty of the colonists were alive.

In 1623, drought threatened to destroy the crops and a day of prayer was observed, after which came a copious rain that saved the harvest. In gratitude, a Thanksgiving Day was set apart for the autumn. This day has been celebrated since that time in thanks to Almighty God for all God's gifts and blessings.

For Redemptorists, November is a month especially associated with giving thanks to God. After all, the primary reason for the Redemptorist Congregation to exist is to give greater glory to God. We recall that on November 9, 1732, Father Alphonsus Liguori – along with four ambitious companions – set out to establish a community of men whose purpose was to imitate the Redeemer in service to the poor and most abandoned. After twelve weeks of experimentation and much suffering, Alphonsus himself fit the description of those he had set out to serve: he was in fact ABANDONED by all four of his original companions who were with him on our founding day, their perseverance having been weakened by the rigorous lifestyle.

Yet despite such unlikely human odds for survival, God's blessings shone forth on these humble beginnings of the Redemptorists. Today there are 6,000 Redemptorists continuing the work of Christ's redemption and Saint Alphonsus' vision to people in every part of the world. With God "there is copious redemption" is our motto and as St. Paul exhorts, "in every circumstance give thanks." In this season of gratitude, we Redemptorists especially give thanks to God for the gift of your friendship with one of our own, Father Seelos; may his constant intercession on our behalf "give greater glory to God."



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Cherub Cards

AVAILABLE IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS



*Detail, high altar,
St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans;
mid-nineteenth-century bas-relief, wooden polychrome.
Photo by Bill Coskrey*



Gift-boxed sets of 20 "Cherub" cards and envelopes. Each card measures 5-1/2" x 4-1/4"; blank on inside; scripture verse on back reads: "From the angel's hand the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it the prayers of God's people (Rev. 8:4)." Donation of \$10 (plus \$2 p/h) supports the Blessed F. Seelos cause.

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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Special Offer!

CHERUB CARDS AND BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS 2002 CALENDARS Gift-boxed set of 20 "Cherub" cards and envelopes along with a 13-month calendar for the year 2002 for the special price of \$20 (includes p/h). Please reserve your gift set by mailing your request and payment to:

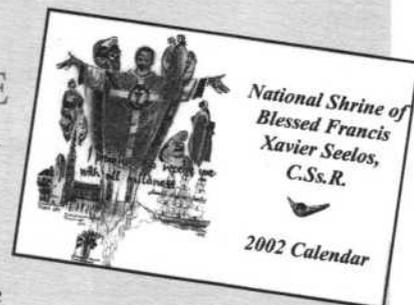
SEELOS CENTER
2030 Constance Street,
New Orleans, LA 70130

BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS 2002 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Blessed Francis Seelos took great delight in the Christmas season. The birth of our Redeemer gave the ever-cheerful Fr. Seelos even more cause for joy, and his "Christmas spirit" was widespread. 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):

- "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

St. Louis, MO

I imagine that some people wonder if those who promote prayer to Blessed Seelos pray to him themselves. I am one who recently did. A few months ago I noticed a small lump in my left chest – left arm region. When it appeared to be growing larger I went to the doctor. After an ultrasound and CAT scan it was diagnosed as a sub-muscular benign fatty tumor, but it continued to grow rapidly to the point where the doctor felt that he wanted to do surgery and remove it to rule out lymphoma or sarcoma.

Although still confident it was benign, I entrusted a good outcome to my usual prayer resource, Our Mother of Perpetual Help. For good measure I also included Blessed Seelos and promised this letter upon a good outcome.

The surgery was done and the rather large tumor (half the size of a baseball) was excised. The pathology report came back benign and the doctor was happy he removed it as he said it was beginning to encompass some nerves and blood vessels. Even though my pectoral muscle was cut through I suffered no ill effects or additional discomfort after the surgery. Thanks Blessed Seelos and Our Mother of Perpetual Help!

Biloxi, MS

This is my last semester in college. I have made many mistakes in the past and should have graduated about two years ago. In July I was so upset because one of the final five classes I needed to graduate was canceled. This would have put me behind one full semester. I told my mom and she said "pray this prayer to Father Seelos." I did and two weeks before the semester started a new class was opened. I know that my prayers to Father Seelos helped a lot.

Also, I had a personal problem that I thought would be troublesome for me to get a job after college. I had to talk to the head boss of the business that I hope to work for one day. He could not meet with me for a few weeks. My mom told me to pray to Father Seelos again. I prayed every day for the few weeks. The day of the meeting arrived, and the

boss told me that I should not have a problem and to contact him personally when it was time for me to get a job.

I have been blessed by Father Seelos. I know that he has helped my family in many ways. Father Seelos is truly a great person to pray to in a time of need.

Metairie, LA

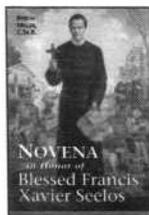
My mother and I visited the Father Seelos Center and had the pleasure of meeting the administrative assistant, Jack Guidry. He gave us a special blessing with a Father Seelos crucifix. During the blessing I prayed to Father Seelos for a complete cure of a diagnosis given me in November 2000. Approximately one month later my tests were retaken and all were negative. This is surely another of Father Seelos' miracles through our Lord the Almighty.

Church Point, LA

I have received a miracle from my devotion to Father Seelos. Last November I had emergency removal of my colon, which was bleeding inside. When my left carotid artery was checked, they found it was 69% blocked. I went through surgery and, after a long stay in the hospital I had an even harder time to walk because of my arthritis. In August 2001 I fell face down on the sidewalk after visiting a friend. The doctor said I could have internal bleeding and he also wanted to take an ultrasound of my arteries because of the accident.

When the results came it, the doctor threw up both hands and was laughing; he asked, "Lady, what have you been doing?" I was very calm and said that I had been praying. He asked what kind of prayers because my arteries are wide open. I showed him my brown scapular with a memento of Father Seelos that I rubbed on both sides of my neck and asked Father Seelos to clear my arteries. He was so shocked he called the hospital and asked the technician if the test results were right. He couldn't believe it, but I do believe, because this is a miracle.

NOW AVAILABLE!



32-page
Deluxe Pamphlet
with sturdy cover for
\$3.⁰⁰
(includes postage)
Send request to:
SEELOS CENTER,
2030 Constance Street,
New Orleans, LA 70130

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST CURRENT *Select one of the following*

- Have a new address Receiving more than one copy of the newsletter
(please return enclosed envelope with your correction(s))

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