



# NEWS Seelos Center

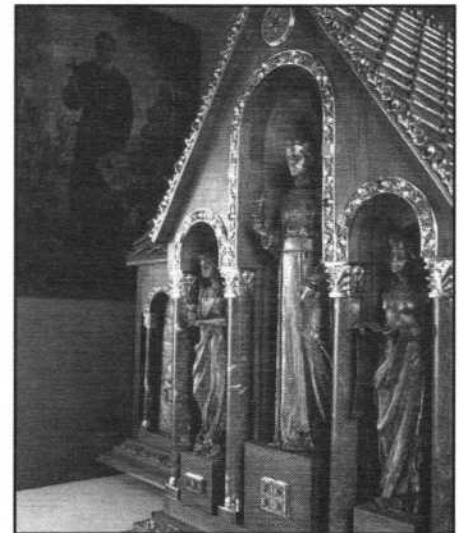
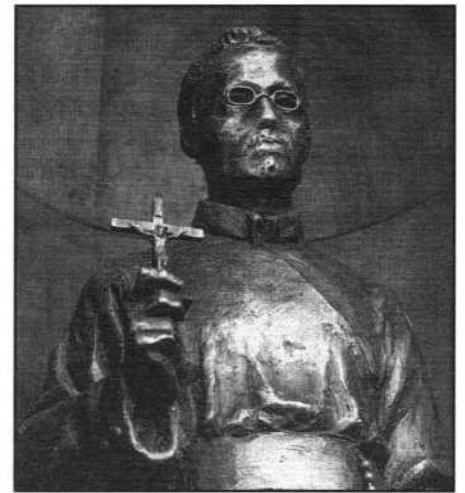


VOLUME XL • NUMBER 6 • JUNE 2001

*“Nothing seems to have more of an inherent bond to a saint, than his or her remains ... Close your eyes and know the presence of the saint.”*

— Theresa Sanders, U.S. theologian, *Body & Belief: Why the Body of Jesus Cannot Heal* (The Davies Group, 2000)

Photo credit, Diane Garcia



**A Thoughtful  
Father's Day Gift  
Which Remains  
A Gift Forever**

**Another necktie? What do you give a person who has everything?**

You can help educate tomorrow's Redemptorists and keep Father Seelos' vision alive through your prayers and generosity. A gift to the Seelos Scholarship for Seminarians in the name of your loved one conveys just such a thought; it will forever serve the seminarians in this country and through them, those to whom they minister as priests and brothers. See inside on how you and the person being honored can join together to give hope and prayerful future to our vocation reality in the U.S.!

## A Message FROM THE EDITOR

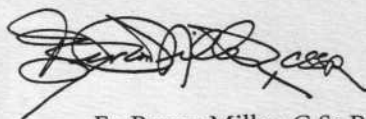
**T**he moso is a bamboo plant that grows in the Far East. After the moso is planted no visible growth takes place for up to five years. Imagine that: no apparent signs of growth occur for up to five long years – even under ideal weather and soil conditions!

Then, as if by some magical nurturer, the moso bamboo plant suddenly begins growing at the rate of nearly two-and-one-half feet per day, reaching a full height of ninety feet within only a short six weeks.

But it isn't magic at all. The moso bamboo tree's rapid growth is due to the miles of roots it develops during those first five years of getting ready.

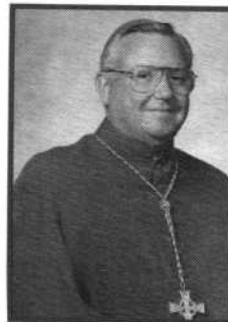
This summer, the Redemptorists of the South are ready to celebrate! Theology student, Nghia Cao, C.Ss.R. will renew his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the Congregation, and Chuong Van Cao, C.Ss.R. will be ordained to serve as a Redemptorist priest by Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of the Galveston-Houston Diocese.

As I reflect on these occasions, my thoughts return to the years when Nghia and Chuong first joined Liguori House. Liguori House is the Redemptorist house of formation in San Antonio. I was a student myself once in the "pioneer" Liguori House community in 1985, and surely like Nghia, Chuong, and the other students, I sometimes wondered if we would ever persevere through the long years of formation to become Redemptorists for life. In other words, after all the years of "getting ready," would the seeds ever germinate! But like the moso bamboo tree, the rootedness in Christ further developed and nurtured during those initial years of getting ready in formation hopefully will help keep us firmly planted in the Faith. Please pray for our newest Redemptorist priest and professed student – gifts to us originally from the Far East – that they will be kept in the Divine Nurturer's loving care.



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

## Did You Know?



On March 21, 2001 at noon in the Vatican City, it was announced that His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, appointed Bishop Edward

J. Gilbert, C.Ss.R., as Metropolitan Archbishop of Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. Before that time he had been Bishop of Roseau, the Commonwealth of Dominica.

Trinidad is an island of 1864 square miles and Tobago is an island of 116 square miles. The population of Trinidad & Tobago is 1,125,128. It is a republic within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Archbishop Gilbert is a native of Brooklyn, New York. He taught in the Redemptorist Seminary in Esopus, N.Y. and was the provincial of the Baltimore Province. He will receive the Pallium from Pope John Paul II in Rome on June 29, 2001, the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Friends of Father Seelos may recall that Bishop Gilbert was the main celebrant and homilist at the October 1999 Seelos Memorial Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans.

**W**ith restless zeal good Father Seelos worked for the good of the Congregation and sought to promote in the students the spirit of study, of prayer and self-denial, more through example than words."

written by one of his students  
thirty years later.

## Seelos Center NEWS

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

### Vice-Provincial Superior:

Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.  
Vice Provincial - New Orleans

### Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:

Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

### Seelos Foundation Development Director:

Victor L. Ottenlips

### Editorial Staff:

Brenda Massey/Evelyn John

### Seelos Center News

One Liguori Drive • Liguori, MO 63057-9999  
1-800-464-2555

### Seelos Center / Shrine

2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-5099  
(504) 525-2495 / FAX (504) 581-9181  
Visit our Web site at [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)

### Vice-Postulators:

Rev. John C. Vargas, C.Ss.R.  
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

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Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.Ss.R.

### Administrative Assistant:

Mr. Jack Guidry

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## Seelos Seminarian Scholarship Established

Father Seelos spent one-third of his priestly life ministering to seminarians. He was the prefect of students and he also taught them dogmatic theology and Sacred Scripture. On his part, Father Seelos thought highly of the young men entrusted to his care, but it was the affection of the students for their prefect that was even more apparent. In 1859, the house chronicler wrote: "The reappointment of Reverend F. Seelos as prefect of the students caused universal joy, and the students let their much cherished Father know how much they loved him." We are happy to announce

a scholarship for U.S. Redemptorist seminarians in the name of the much-cherished Father Seelos. The 5,600 members of the Redemptorist Congregation in 76 countries worldwide are still blessed with many young members – there are more professed Redemptorists in their 20's than in those aged 80 or more years, and more in the 30's than in their 70's. That bodes well for a vital Congregation in the future! More students mean increasing costs, of course. In the United States, the seminarians study in Chicago (where the residence of professed students is now

called Seelos House), Washington D.C., New York City, St. Louis and San Antonio. It is the intention of this newly established scholarship to specifically support the students in this country who are most in need and offer them the same inspiration from Father Seelos that the seminarians in his day received.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund in a personal way or loved one's memory is invited to contact: The Seelos Center, New Orleans, (504) 525-2495 OR Victor Ottenlips, Seelos Foundation at 800-464-2555 ext. 543 or kindly designate your intention on the enclosed envelope.

### *"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  
Pam Crutchfield, R.T. (Covington) 985-892-6560  
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: \$5 - 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

## Slidell, LA

I touched a relic of Father Seelos to my daughter-in-law the day before she was involved in an accident last November. She had lost control of her 4-wheel drive in the rain, resulting in seven fractured ribs on the left, two on the right, a fractured shoulder blade, a collapsed lung, and a gash on her head from being ejected through the passenger side of the window. At least forty professionals told my son he is lucky to have his wife. She had no internal injuries that required surgery. I attribute this miracle to Fr. Seelos! I feel so comforted having his relic. As I take care of my daughter-in-law I bless her with it in her excruciating pain. Today she told me each day is better than the day before. Thanks be to God through the intercession of Blessed Francis Seelos! I will be eternally grateful.

## Indianapolis, IN

I've become quite taken with Fr. Seelos over the past year or so, and I was thrilled to discover your website ([www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)). I can't tell you adequately enough how comforting and encouraging I have found Fr. Seelos to be when I pray for his help. Just the fact that he is *smiling* is usually enough to lighten my spirits. I don't know what it is about him exactly, but I find myself wanting to do whatever I can to help his cause and to make him as well-known in this country as possible!

## Norco, LA

Most people would say that a certain string of events in my life are just coincidence, but it is my belief that God has answered my prayers through Father Seelos. The prayers that have been answered for me are these: I got a decent apartment; I found an affordable sitter; a friend reunited with her son; and I finally found where I belong in life. In the process, I also have gotten something that I didn't ask for, a true friend!

## Meraux, LA

In January upon request, Jim Howard prayed with and blessed my daughter, father, mother and me with a cross that had been touched to the bones of Father Seelos. In 1998 I was diagnosed with a Stage 3 breast cancer. In February 2001, I went through my yearly tests. The bone scans showed spots that were questionable to my doctors. I was scheduled for MRI tests and Jim returned on the morning of my first MRI test to bless and pray with me again. On February 14, I went for the last MRI test; ten minutes into the test the nurse pulled me out of the MRI machine. A doctor had called my oncologist and told him nothing was showing up on the MRI and that the bone scan looked good. He told my doctor that the tests were being stopped. I was O.K. Thank you Father Seelos and Jim Howard, my friend.

## Evanston, IL

In the fall of 1999, I wrote to tell you of my deep prayer, innermost anxiety and fear of failure. Why? Because I needed to confess my fear of failure and my anxiety over the loss of loved ones – mainly my son who struggles to find himself, complete high school and lead a productive life. Back when I originally wrote, I had not seen my son for a year.

Through Father Seelos' kind intercession, I was reunited with my son by Thanksgiving of 1999. Thank you Fr. Seelos for being a friend, a protector and most of all, for the guidance and reassurance that I am not alone. I was reminded then and again today that we walk by faith and not by sight. Thank you for helping to correct mine and to guide me along this dark and lonely path.



**HAVE YOU  
RECENTLY MOVED?  
Are you Receiving  
Duplicate copies?**

Please notify us if changes are needed in the way you currently receive our newsletter

WRITE TO: Seelos Foundation • The Redemptorists  
New Orleans Vice Province • One Liguori Drive • Liguori, MO 63057-9999

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 PM  
Tours available during the hours of operation - Other times by appointment. (504) 525-2495