

# NEWS

## Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 2 • FEBRUARY 2002

## “National Treasure” Receives Special Award



Photo Credit: Diane C. Garcia

Fr. Joseph Tobin, Superior General of the Redemptorists during the sign of peace at the Seelos Memorial Mass, October 7, 2001.

Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Superior General of the Redemptorists, arrived from Rome to be the principal celebrant at the annual memorial Mass for Blessed Francis Seelos on Sunday, October 7, 2001 in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans. The Mass commemorated the 134<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Seelos' death on October 4, 1867. The Vatican has assigned his feast day on October 5, the day of his burial in St. Mary's Church.

Father Tobin is the Superior General of the 6,000 Redemptorist priests

and brothers around the world. He is originally from Detroit, Michigan. He is only the second American to serve as Superior General in the history of the Redemptorists, since their founding in 1732 by Saint Alphonsus Liguori.

Immediately following the Mass a reception was held in honor of Ambassador Corinne “Lindy” Claiborne Boggs. Mrs. Boggs, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, was appointed in 1997 as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See. She served in this capacity for over three years. As a diplomat at the Vatican, she hosted re-



“I will not embarrass Lindy by recounting her rich and varied service to the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana as well as to our country and the world community. For the moment, I wish only to remind you of her term as an ambassador of the U.S.A. During her tenure in the diplomatic corps before the Holy See, Lindy was renowned for her graciousness and skillful diplomacy...Each one of us has been personally commissioned as an ambassador. On the day of our baptism, our head was anointed with chrism as an outward sign of our new identity... As St. Paul says, ‘We are ambassadors for Christ...’” (cf. 2Cor.5,20)

Excerpt from the homily preached by Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. at the October 7, 2001 Seelos Mass, New Orleans

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## A Message FROM THE EDITOR

Four teenagers who said they were bored at a local mall trashed an office building one weekend. Estimated damage came to \$200,000. Teenagers prowling New York City set fire to a drowsing homeless man "for kicks." They said they needed some excitement. A San Diego girl, 16, went on a rampage with a rifle, killing the school principal and janitor while wounding eight students. Amid the sniping, she called a local newspaper to explain: "I don't like Mondays. This livens up my day." (E.R. Walsh, *Columbia*, 3/94)

Ever wonder why so many young people are often bored with their lives? "Screen-agers" have grown up with computers, interactive video games, and hundreds of channels on cable TV. On average an image is held on the TV screen for only nine seconds, but on some shows the average is four seconds. The remote control has become a standard accessory to modern living, but when the screens are turned off, some wish to be turned on by the same excitement, speed and ease they just witnessed in a thirty-minute program.

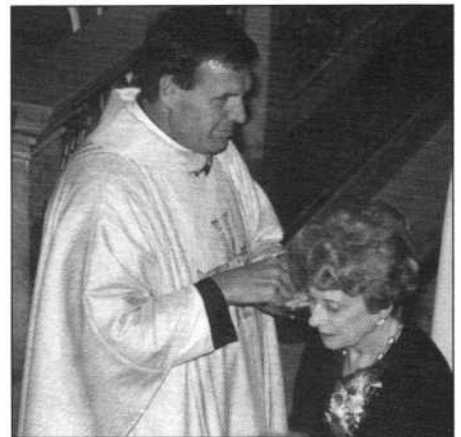
Faith calls people to look beyond the moment, even beyond their lives, says media critic Michael Medved. We possess a genuine excitement when we are alive in Christ, and often that excitement can be expressed through the Church's liturgical seasons of anticipation and celebration (Lent/Easter; Advent/Christmas). Our faith provides infinite opportunities to be of service to others and it allows us to enter into a profound and exciting relationship with Christ. Like the 16-year-old girl from San Diego, "I may not care much for Mondays either," but being Catholic sure livens up my day!

Tired of fast-moving nine-second images? Picture this! Forty days when the "screens" are turned off to focus on Christ's Way of the Cross & Easter Triumph! Happy Lent.



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

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Fr. Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R. and the Honorable Ambassador "Lindy" Boggs, O.C.Ss.R. at the annual Seelos Mass in New Orleans.

ceptions during the beatification ceremonies of Father Seelos in the Solemn Jubilee Year 2000.

Father Tobin presented the Honorable "Lindy" Boggs with the highest honor that the Redemptorist Congregation can bestow upon a layperson, the title of "Oblate of the Most Holy Redeemer." Her induction into that august group entitles certain merits, among them, the placement of the letters O.C.Ss.R. after her name and burial in a Redemptorist habit, should she choose. The 2002 Seelos Calendar is also dedicated in her honor.



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Seelos Center NEWS

## Seelos Center NEWS

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

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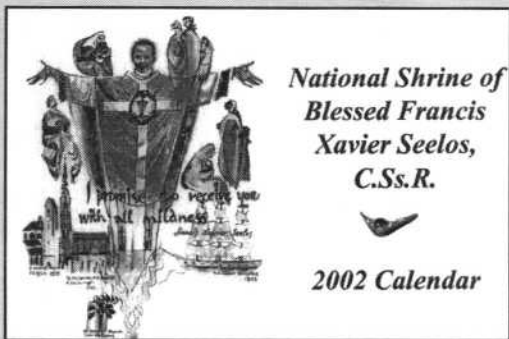
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Seelos Center News" (USPS 488-660) published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Seelos Foundation, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, Missouri 63057-9999  
Telephone (636) 464-2500 Subscription is \$9.00 per year. Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, Missouri.  
Postmaster: send address changes to the Seelos Foundation, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, Missouri 63057-9999

*Special Offer!*



**National Shrine of  
Blessed Francis  
Xavier Seelos,  
C.Ss.R.**

**2002 Calendar**

**BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS 2002 CALENDARS  
Now half price!**

The 13-month limited edition calendar features informative details about Blessed Francis Seelos and highlights of his National Shrine in New Orleans.

It now sells for \$5 (+\$1 for p/h) to support the Seelos canonization cause. 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/Innercity) 504-524-6591  
Teresa LaCour (E. Jefferson) 504-887-0214  
Rita Kaul (Arabi) 504-271-4520  
Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423  
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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

## **Tucson, AZ**

Four years ago, our pastor, Fr. Joseph Baker, asked that we pray to Father Seelos for our son Thomas, born in 1997 with Downs Syndrome and with a heart condition. The coronary doctor urged my wife and me to have Thomas' heart operated on as soon as possible, because of the hole in his heart and the constricted pulmonary artery that needed to be corrected. After the cold and flu season, Thomas finally had his surgery in May 1998. We again asked for intercession from Father Seelos. With the exception of the slight Downs Syndrome, Thomas is now a very smart, active and playful little boy. He loves music, likes to sing and dance and likes to be read to. Keep up God's work in giving recognition to his priest.

## **St. Louis, MO**

I want to thank Blessed Francis Seelos for the continued recovery of a teenage boy who recently suffered a life-threatening bout of lupus and who I introduced to Blessed Seelos and entrusted to Blessed Seelos' care. He spent most of the summer in the hospital but is now home and regaining his strength. He's a remarkable young man. Perhaps at some future time he will tell his story for your readers.

## **Bethel Park, PA**

I want to report to you a wonderful recovery and healing of my grandson, who was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML), two days before Christmas in 2000, at the age of four-and-a-half. AML is quite rare in children and requires a different and very intense chemotherapy. He underwent this at Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh for nine months. We almost lost him at one time and so many times only the tubes were keeping him alive.

Then a friend gave me the fabric swatch and prayers for Blessed Francis Seelos. My son immediately pinned the fabric swatch to my grandson's hospital gown and I would say the prayers that were printed on the cards. He completed all the treatments and a bone marrow test showed he was in full remission. Then he was able to start kindergarten in September. When I look at him, I feel that he has had a miraculous recovery and I think Blessed Francis Seelos played a great part in it.

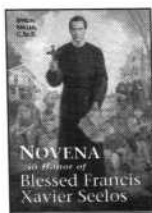
## **Does your Will include Blessed Francis Seelos?**

70% of Americans contribute to charity during their lifetimes; however, only 6% of them continue their support through a gift in their Will or estate plan. Death is the biggest transaction we will ever have in our life! At that time, something will have to be done with accumulated assets. How prepared are you? Do you want some control over your assets after you pass on? It is estimated that only 50% of the people over 65 have a Will. Hopefully, you have made a personal decision about what to do with your assets, rather than let the state government determine where your assets will go. Regrettably, less than 5% of the people with a Will leave something to charity. Are you among that rare five percent?

There are more tax advantages for the living than the deceased. However, there are tax advantages for your loved ones if planned properly. Remember, a Will and proper trusts are for the survivors, not the deceased person.

On Valentine's Day, please consider a true act of love. If you would like to designate us in your Will, the proper name is "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos."

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- 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