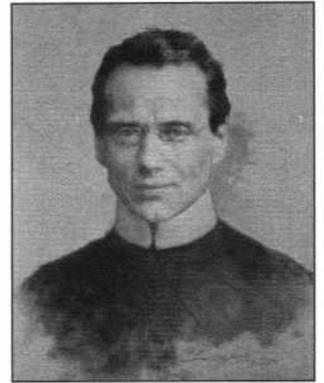


# NEWS

## Seelos Center



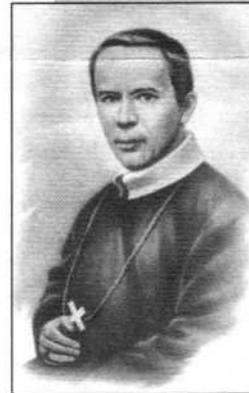
VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 6 • JUNE 2002

### Saint John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos:



#### Earthly Co-Workers, Heavenly Co-Intercessors

This June marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the canonization of Saint John Neumann, C.Ss.R. A Pontifical Mass will commemorate the joyful event on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. with His Eminence, Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, presiding. This sacred liturgy will take place at the National Shrine of Saint John Neumann, Fifth Street and Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, where the saint's body lay in repose beneath the altar. Please call 215-627-3080 or visit the website, [www.stjohnneumann.org](http://www.stjohnneumann.org) for more information.



When the young Redemptorist, Francis X. Seelos was assigned to Pittsburgh in 1845 the pastor was John Neumann. Neumann soon had the young priest working at top speed in the confessional, in the pulpit, on sick calls, in administering

the sacrament of baptism, and in witnessing marriages. Moreover, he was preaching in three languages, German, French and English. Neumann took great interest in Seelos. During the first year Neumann took Seelos on a mission given to a group of German Catholics. With this hectic routine we might wonder what Seelos thought of this Saint.

Later Seelos said of Neumann: "I was more like a son who needed help, because I was inexperienced. In every respect he was a remarkable father to me. He introduced me to the practical life of a parish; he guided me as my spiritual leader. He cared for all of my needs; above all, the example of his virtues is vivid in my memory, his great humility and patience."

Neumann's father-like qualities were a powerful influence on Seelos. This month, as we remember our fathers and thank God for their powerful influence on us, let us also ask God to bless all dads.

— Rev. Frank P. Nelson, C.Ss.R.  
Brooklyn, New York

## A Message FROM THE EDITOR

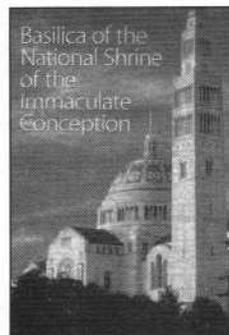
Never underestimate the power of Reverend Father Seelos ... and Reverend Mother Angelica! In September 2001, Mother Angelica was hospitalized for a mild stroke that affected her left eye and the nerves on the left side of her face. She was hospitalized in Birmingham, Alabama, after suffering a second stroke at her monastery in three months. The Mother Vicar of the monastery said the nuns were requesting that prayers for Mother Angelica be directed particularly through the intercession of Blessed Francis Seelos. On January 11, 2002 (by coincidence, Fr. Seelos' birthday), a press release from the Eternal Word Television Network revealed that the doctors were pleased with the 78-year-old nun's improvement and her upgraded condition from Serious to Fair. On that same day, an invitation from EWTN was extended to the Seelos Center to promote Seelos on the popular "Mother Angelica Live" program in March.

Mother Angelica, a Poor Clare Nun of Perpetual Adoration, founded EWTN more than 20 years ago. Today the network is the largest religious media organization in the world, reaching more than 70 million households on cable television and by direct broadcast satellite. In addition, the network's programming is satellite delivered to AM and FM radio stations in the U.S. and abroad and via worldwide short wave radio. EWTN also maintains an active presence on the Internet ([www.ewtn.org](http://www.ewtn.org)).

On March 13, 2002, Blessed Francis Seelos was given overdue exposure on EWTN. As a result, the Seelos Center has been inundated with prayer intentions, petitions for advice from Catholics and non-Catholics, and requests for all things Seelos from around the world. The [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org) website jumped from 15,000 hits to 30,000 in the weeks immediately following the broadcast. The Seelos Novena is now in its second printing at Liguori Publications. And the phone rings continually for the overworked Seelos Center staff as they do an admirable job handling the best global exposure that could be asked for the well-deserved "Cheerful Ascetic"!



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.



## Seelos Window Approved for Mary's Shrine

We are happy to inform our readers that the Iconography Committee of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., unanimously approved our request for the inclusion of a stained glass window dedicated to Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R. on March 1, 2002! Now that the committee has given its approval, the process of design, fabrication, and installation will be forthcoming. Anyone wishing to help support this exciting development can contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495.



(Photo credit: Diane C. Garcia)

## Banners on historic St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans

## WE'RE STILL HERE!

"I thought you moved" are the frequent words we hear by some local residents of New Orleans, undoubtedly due to the establishment in 2001 of a parish in New Orleans that bears the name of Blessed Francis Seelos. For clarification, the Seelos Parish on Dauphine Street and the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos are not one in the same. The church where Father Seelos was pastor in New Orleans is St. Mary's Assumption Church in the Irish Channel / Lower Garden District. It is here at 2030 Constance Street where his remains are and where his national shrine is located.

## Seelos Center NEWS

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

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Vice Provincial - New Orleans

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## A Father's Day Gift

### THE SEELOS SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIP



**Seelos Statue in his National Shrine, New Orleans**  
Photo credit: Diane C. Garcia

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.

A scholarship for U.S. Redemptorist seminarians in the name of Father Seelos was established in May 2001. In the United States, our seminarians study in Chicago (where the residence of professed students is now called Seelos House), Washington D.C., New York City, 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 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
  - Mary Jo Stewart (Slidell) 985-643-5548
  - Pam Crutchfield, R.T. (Covington) 985-892-6560
  - Ethel Gallagher (Reserve) 985-536-1052
  - 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: \$17.00 - 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: \$9.00 - 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: \$15.00 - 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: \$24.00- 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: \$7.00 - 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

## SEWICKLEY, PA

My sister-in-law was healed by Father Seelos. When she was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer, I gave her the relic, and within a week all tests came back with no other signs of cancer. Also the doctor said that the tumor was now operable. She had surgery in March and they removed 55% of her lung. No chemo or radiation. We thank God and the intercession of Blessed Seelos.

## METAIRIE, LA

On March 18, 2002, I was scoped for colon cancer at an outpatient clinic and was diagnosed with a small amount of cancer in a polyp in my colon. The polyp was cut out, but my physician and surgeon determined that they should operate and remove part of my intestines for tests.

My wife called Mr. Jack Pitkin to bless me with a Seelos cross before the operation. Several days after my operation, my physicians received the lab tests, which indicated that all was clear of any cancer in my colon or intestines and that I would be fine. Thanks to Father Seelos and everyone's prayers, I am on the way to complete recovery.

## MARRERO, LA

In 1986 my husband fell from a crane approximately 80 to 90 feet. He is alive today and is a miracle to me and his family and friends. He has nerve damage with a plate and screws and bolts holding his pelvis together, but he is alive and is a joy to us all. Initially, he spent 107 days in the hospital and has had surgeries and infections requiring hospitalization. When he was in ICU, we had a visitor who prayed with my husband and me. He was given a cross and I was given prayers to read. I faithfully read the prayers to Fr. Seelos (along with prayers to numerous other saints). I prayed every day trusting in God and sought intercession through prayers. We feel that God truly blessed us with a miracle.

## BRIDGEWATER, MA

I gave the Bl. Francis Seelos relic and novena to a friend who has been very ill with Rheumatoid Arthritis for years. She is a 75-year-old woman who has been getting progressively worse with this severe illness, even to the point of a back operation. Her prayers to Fr. Seelos and mine on her behalf were answered. A friend once told me, we do not pick our saints – they pick us! I do believe this.

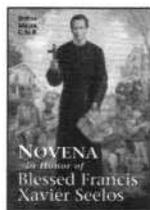
## PETROLIA, PA

This is an unusual story about Fr. Seelos and his intercession for me to God during the ongoing trial of breast cancer. The story begins several months ago when a prayer card introduced me to this holy priest who was stationed for a time in Pittsburgh.

In December 2001, I knew of a malignancy in the right breast, a recurrent ductal carcinoma. I prayed hard for a miracle, but the news following tests continued to be gloomy. Stage 3, undifferentiated invasive tissue was biopsied from the site.

I had had a simple mastectomy and needed further surgery to remove scar tissue from 17 years ago and to place a port where IV chemotherapy could be infused. The morning of the surgery, I had a great deal of anxiety. I wanted to run away but I finished the Fr. Seelos novena and read the Seelos prayers. The room filled with the sweet scent of tobacco [Seelos enjoyed snuffing, which he gave up at the advice of his novice master; Seelos never took another pinch, remarking that he knew there would be snuff in heaven.] All of my fears were calmed. Surgery went well. Throughout it all so far, I give thanks to God and for loaning me this powerful and cheerful intercessor.

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(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