

# SEELOS CENTER

## News



2030 Constance Street ❖ New Orleans, LA 70130  
(504) 525-2495 ❖ www.seelos.org

National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Volume XLIV † Number 5  
May 2005

### FATHER SEELOS CONSOLES HIS DYING MOTHER

*My Unforgettable Mother;*

*Now that I am writing so many letters, this time, you, my dearest mother, must not be left out. Not so, my best of mothers, you almost are homesick for your heavenly homeland? That is all right ... because these last days are truly days of salvation, if they are accepted very peacefully and resignedly to God, just as our loving God sends them; and especially if you look upon the last sickness as the last cross that builds the bridge upon which one must go over from time to eternity.*

*Yes, my best of mothers, live these last days completely in God, like holy Anna who day and night did not leave the temple. Prayer alone is, indeed, not everything. You know that as well as I do, but if one has seasoned one's whole life, every work and effort, every suffering and sorrow, with fervent prayer; if one knows the strengthening perfume of this holy practice through long experience, what can one do better in the eventide of this burdensome daily labor, than pray ... and leave this world praying and enter into eternity praying ....*

*Soon you will complete the beautiful sacrifice. Persevere and have great confidence in our loving God and the blessed Mother of God. I have always seen and experienced it at a deathbed, that a good mother, who spent her whole life caring and being anxious about her own state and that of her children, that not one has been lost; that such a mother is not troubled by any anxiety in the last moment; that God, the Lord, places such a mother under his special care, and that the blessed Mother of God keeps the plots of the deceitful Enemy entirely away from such a soul. Therefore, dear mother, courage. And do not forget your Xavier. You have always loved this rascal too much and will not now forget him in your fervent prayers, and in heaven will recommend him especially to the mercy of God.*

*I am, my dearest mother, Your grateful son,*

Xavier (Baltimore, April 2, 1854)

*"Whatever you saw in Father Seelos of qualities of gentleness, of love, of amiability, of giving, of self-sacrifice - these are gifts inherited from his mother."*

- Observation made by family acquaintance, 1877

Father Francis Seelos started a tradition at St. Mary's Church in Annapolis, MD, by instituting a May procession, crowning of the statue of Mary, and other special devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin.

Details of high altar & Seelos statues in Saint Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans.



Photos: Diane C. Garcia



Photo: Donald Laughlin

#### AN OLD ROSARY

Just a poor little Rosary,  
Shabby, and old, and worn --  
With a figure torn from the Crucifix,  
Hanging there all forlorn.

Worthless, indeed, to human eyes:  
Possessing naught for the vain.  
But oh! what a tale those beads might tell  
If a tongue were given each grain.

How many hearts have you comforted?  
I may not guess at your years;  
Someone has held you, now long since dead,  
Kissed you, and blessed you with tears.

Poor little beads, you are getting old,  
Someone has laid you bye:  
But you are worth more than earth's bright gold  
In our hands when we come to die.

-- by Oxford-educated Redemptorist Brother Reginald (Charles Greenall), 1876-1939, whose hundreds of poems were published extensively in the U.S. & Canada

## Message from the Editor

In recent months, editors of other newsletters for non-profit organizations have communicated their growing difficulty in offering a free publication because of escalating postage, printing and distribution costs. For example, the Discalced Carmelite publication, *Apostolate of the Little Flower*, reported that it had no other option than to switch from a free bimonthly magazine to a subscription service in January 2005 at the annual rate of \$15 for their 11,000 readers. It was not able to "even afford to publish the last issue of 2004." In the Summer/Fall issue of *True Servant*, a publication of the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, the editor reminded readers how donations through a Guild Membership are necessary to help cover the annual cost of producing and mailing out the newsletter.

For the last forty-four years, *Seelos News* has been distributed to all fifty states and foreign destinations. The specific purpose of this newsletter is to foster the spirituality of Blessed Francis X. Seelos and encourage prayers for his intercession and canonization. *Seelos News* is circulated to 28,000 readers each month. Such a frequent and ambitious undertaking is a worthwhile, but costly one.

In order for us to continue providing this service on a monthly basis, please consider a gift to our 2005 Annual Appeal. A donation to help cover the production and postage costs of this frequent newsletter into your home would be welcomed and appreciated.



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

### 2005 Annual Appeal

Yes, Father Byron, I want to help support the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos with a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for this Annual Appeal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard  Discover

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Last 3 digits on signature line: \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

A gift of \$1,000 will be go directly to the Canonization Cause of Blessed Francis Seelos because of our reliance upon a God-given *volunteer* staff.

A gift of \$125 will continue to allow our hospital blessers to distribute complimentary rosaries, Seelos pamphlets, and other spiritual items to the sick and bedridden.

A gift of \$41.65 will help defray the monthly operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-A-Message, which had over 2,200 calls in the last 10 months.

A gift of \$9 will help defray the cost of printing and postage of this newsletter for one year.

THANK YOU.

Please cut and return to:  
National Shrine of  
Blessed Francis X. Seelos  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

*Your gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.*

## The Seelos Center offers the following services:

◇ **Pilgrimages** to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Shrine & Museum of Bl. F. Seelos in New Orleans. For details & appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.

◇ **Daily Spiritual Message.**  
Call 504-586-1803.

◇ **Blessings of the Sick** with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans & other areas. Please call:

#### East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-482-4404  
Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

#### Ochsner

Marie Giorlando: 504-288-9977

#### Uptown/Innecity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

#### St. Bernard & Arabi

Jude Noote: 504-756-2692

#### Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213  
or 504-328-0648

Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

#### Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432

#### Covington

Pam Crutchfield, R.T.: 985-892-6560

#### Houma/Thibodaux

Dan Montz, L.P.C.: 985-446-1805

#### Lafayette/Abbeville

Rita King: 337-984-4607

#### Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394

#### Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-0039

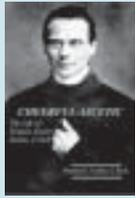
#### Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999  
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

◇ **Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** every Saturday after the 4 p.m. Mass & Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

◇ **Weekly Mass** celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos benefactors. Please list Special Intentions in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



**Cheerful Ascetic: Life of F.X. Seelos**, a 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$22.95 + 6.95 p/h)

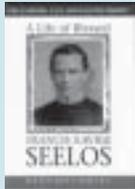
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



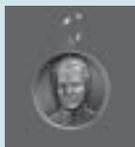
**Nothing Short of a Miracle**, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two chapters feature Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$15 - includes p/h)



**Apparitions of Modern Saints**, a 293-page abridged & updated paperback version of the book formerly entitled *Messengers* by Patricia Treece on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)

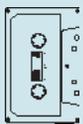


**A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos**, a 108-page paperback biography by Fr. Carl Hoegerl & Alicia von Stamwitz. (Donation: \$9 - includes p/h)



**Seelos Medals:** Made of nickel silver, round 3/4" dia. with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the U.S. (Donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5 + \$1 p/h)

◇ **Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** of Bl. F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese.



**Audio Cassette** of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father & Bl. F. Seelos, given by Fr. Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Donation: \$7 - includes p/h)

◇ **A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

◇ **First, Second & Third-Class Relics** of Bl. F. Seelos. Contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495.

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



*"I ask only this of you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord, wherever you may be."*

— Last wish of Saint Monica to her son, Saint Augustine



Photos: Bill Coskrey

The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is pleased to offer a one-of-a-kind Seelos Perpetual Mass League as a lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear. The enrollment of a living or deceased person is perpetual.

### What is different about the Seelos Perpetual Mass League?

As with all Perpetual Mass League enrollments, members are remembered in Masses and prayers throughout each year in perpetuity for as long as the Redemptorists exist. Saint Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists, wrote, "One single Mass gives more honor to God than all the penances of the saints, the labors of the apostles, the sufferings of the martyrs and even the burning love of the Blessed Mother of God." Members also benefit in the ministry at the National Shrine carried on in the name of Father Seelos. An offering given in faith also assists the canonization process.

### Bring the Seelos Shrine into your home!

Jesus went off to the desert or mountains to pray. In addition to retreats in sacred spaces, special, set-aside spaces can be created in your own home. The Mass League is a religious image for your home altar. Let it accompany your cross, relic, icon, candle, and other symbols that grace your personal shrine. If the enrolled name on the Mass League is a deceased loved one, your "altar of the dead" might include photographs and sentimental mementos as well.

Please contact the Seelos Center for League Enrollments (\$25 offering):  
2030 Constance Street,  
New Orleans, LA, 70130  
504-525-2495

*In the Eucharist we have Jesus, we have his redemptive sacrifice, we have his resurrection, we have the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have adoration, obedience, and love of the Father. Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we overcome our own deficiency?*

— Pope John Paul II

### Seelos Center News

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

Denver Provincial Superior:  
Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:  
Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois  
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)

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 per year.

Periodical Postage Paid at Liguori, Missouri & additional mailing offices  
Postmaster: send address changes to the Seelos Foundation, One Liguori Drive, Liguori, Missouri 63057-9999

# TESTIMONIALS

## Maurice, LA

I had a stroke in 2004 and surgery was cancelled twice just prior to starting because of severe high intracranial spinal pressure that could have caused death during surgery. It was as though someone guided them and said, "not now." My second brain surgery was done in February 2005 and ironically, the location where my Fr. Seelos relic was taped to my chest is where one of the cuts was made to insert the brain shunt tube. My surgeon and I both agreed that we felt Fr. Seelos had guided his hands during the surgery and my strong faith in Fr. Seelos helped in my recovery. I also came home that afternoon following the same-day surgery. So far, no more headaches, no more falling and hurting myself as in the past.

## Flower Mound, TX

My prayer every day for years to Blessed Francis Seelos has been for the help of my alcoholic son. It is through his intercession that my son has gradually improved himself. After years of exhausting all other avenues, Fr. Seelos' intercession is the one that has set him on the right path to a meaningful life.

## Brooklyn, NY

My husband was not well, and due to his general condition, we were concerned greatly. I put the Fr. Seelos relic on his forehead with a prayer. Also, I placed a Fr. Seelos picture under his pillow, and at Mass, I continued to call on Blessed Francis Seelos. A few hours later a very noticeable change occurred. Father Seelos is the only possible reason.

## Diamondhead, MS

I am convinced of a miracle from the blessing I received with the Father Seelos crucifix. I was diagnosed with a Stage 5 cancer (adeno carcinoma) and sent home with Hospice. I was told I would live maybe 6 months. Recently I had a mastectomy in which 3 lymph nodes were removed and one came back cancerous. After

my blessing, the balance of nodes is clear and cancer-free, and instead of chemo, I'm able to have hormone treatment through pills. I can't tell you how truly blessed I feel and how much faith I have in Seelos miracles.

## Lafayette, LA

Last month an 18-month-old boy was brought to Women & Children's Hospital. He was running a high fever, crying constantly, and was unable to retain any food. The medical staff tried to help him for five days, then finally decided to put him "to sleep" to do a CAT scan and an EMRI. When the tests were analyzed the parents were told to rush the child to Tulane Medical Center in New Orleans, where the Lafayette analysis was verified. The child had a 5 mm tumor in the abdomen and one near the heart. The doctors felt the tumors were cancerous and surgery was scheduled for the next day. The parents called me for prayers and I immediately started a Novena to Fr. Seelos. In preparation for surgery, they cleaned out the abdomen and did a pre-op CAT scan and discovered that the tumors were no longer present! The family has had two follow-up check-ups and all is okay. I believe, that once again, Blessed Francis Seelos has answered prayers and I am making a Thanksgiving Novena.



Photo: Diane C. Garcia

**REST IN PEACE --** In March 2005, Reverend William Cheetham, a priest of the Pittsburgh Diocese, was called from this life. May he bask forever in the presence of the Redeemer, and sustain his warm friendship with Father Seelos.



(1) 24-pg. "People Ask His Prayers" \$2 (includes p/h)

(3) 24-pg. "Bl. Francis X. Seelos, Redemptorist" \$2 (includes p/h)

(5) 48-page Guided Retreat with Bl. Francis Seelos \$5 (includes p/h)

(2) 27-pg. "The Blessed Immigrant" \$2 (includes p/h)

(4) 36-pg. "Meet Bl. Francis Seelos" \$2 (includes p/h)

(6) 32-page sturdy cover Seelos Novena \$3 (includes p/h)

## ADDRESS CHANGED?

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

You receive this mailing at your own request or because someone suggested that you were interested in the Shrine. However, if you no longer wish to receive mailings from us, please let us hear from you.

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

Please return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or CALL 504-525-2495. Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.