

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 7
July 2005



WHERE ARE YOU, FATHER SEELOS, WHEN WE NEED YOU?

Grace jumped up as soon as she saw the surgeon come out of the operating room. She said, "How is my little boy? Is he going to be okay? When can I see him?" The surgeon said, "I'm sorry. We did all we could, but your boy didn't make it."

Grace cried, "Why do little children get cancer? Doesn't God care any more? And where were you, Father Seelos, when my son needed you?"

The surgeon asked, "Would you like some time alone with your son? One of the nurses will be out in a few minutes, before he's transported to the university." Grace asked the nurse to stay with her while she said goodbye to her son. She ran her fingers lovingly through his thick red curly hair.

"Would you like a lock of his hair?" the nurse asked. Grace nodded yes. The nurse cut a lock of the boy's hair, put it in a plastic bag and handed it to Grace. The mother said, "It was Jimmy's idea to donate his body to the university for study. He said it might help somebody else. "I said no at first, but Jimmy said, 'Mom, I won't be using it after I die. Maybe it will help some other little boy spend one more day with his Mom.'" She went on, "My Jimmy ... always wanting to help others if he could."

Grace walked out of the hospital for the last time, after spending most of the last six months there. She put the bag with Jimmy's belongings on the seat beside her in the car. The drive home was difficult. It was even harder to enter the empty house. She carried Jimmy's belongings to her son's room. She started placing the model cars and other personal things back in his room exactly where he had always kept them. She stretched across his bed and, hugging his pillow, cried herself to sleep.

It was around midnight when she awoke. Beside her on the bed was a folded letter. The letter read:

Dear Mom, I know you're going to miss me; but don't think that I will ever forget you, or stop loving you, just 'cause I'm not around to say I LOVE YOU. I'll always love you, Mom, even more with each day. Someday we will see each other again. Until then, if you want to adopt a little boy so you won't be so lonely, that's okay with me. He can have my room and old stuff to play with. But, if you decide to get a girl instead ... you'll have to buy her things girls like, you know. Don't be sad thinking about me. This really is a neat place. Grandma & Grandpa met me as soon as I got here and showed me around some, but it will take a long time to see everything. The angels are so cool! And, you know what? Jesus doesn't look like any of his pictures. Yet, when I saw Him, I knew it was Him. Jesus himself took me to see GOD! And guess what, Mom? I got to sit on God's knee and talk to Him, like I was somebody important. That's when I told Him that I wanted to write you a letter, to tell you goodbye and everything. But I already knew that wasn't allowed. Well, God handed me some paper and His own personal pen to write you this letter! I think Father Seelos is going to drop this letter off to you.

Oh, by the way, Mom, only you can see what I've written. To everyone else this is just a blank piece of paper. Isn't that awesome! I have to give God His pen back now. He needs it to write some more names in the Book of Life. Tonight I get to sit at the table with Jesus for supper. I'm sure the food will be great.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you. I don't hurt anymore. The cancer is all gone. I'm glad because I couldn't stand that pain anymore and God couldn't stand to see me hurt so much, either. That's when He sent Father Seelos to come get me. Father Seelos said I was a Special Delivery! How about that?

Signed with Love from God, Jesus & Me.

P.S. Father Seelos makes everybody laugh up here!

(Story inspired & adapted from uncited source)

**Father
Seelos
makes
every-
body
laugh up
here!**

Seelos Day in New Orleans -- April 24, 2005



Fr. Martin Lawrence, president & homilist at the April Seelos Mass

"I am a native of Louisiana, and I can honestly say that I grew up with Father Seelos, just in different centuries. His name was as common in my home as was McKenzie pound cake or K&B ice cream. Really! How I became a priest in South Dakota? Well, I can only say that God & Father Seelos both have a great sense of humor, since I attribute my priestly ordination for service in Sioux Falls to Father Seelos' intercession. And since Father Seelos led me there, I pray every day that he will put a little more *south* in my South Dakota."



Trish Foti Genco & Dreux Montegut at the Seelos Luncheon

"When I held the Mission Cross of Father Seelos in my hands for the final blessing at Mass, it brought back so many memories of how my late grandmother would drive Fr. Bill Grangell, C.Ss.R. to the hospitals with the cross, and how I would accompany her and my aunt when they started going in place of Fr. Grangell, as "Lay Apostles." I remembered when I would stay over at my grandparents on Jena Street on those nights when Father Seelos' Cross was in her safekeeping for sick visits the next day: it was as if Father Seelos himself was sleeping over in the guest room! It also brought back memories of Addie Buhler, Sr. Ambrose Dwyer, RSM, & Fr. Desmond McCarty (the first Redemptorist who ever asked me if I wanted to become a priest), and the volunteers who used to staple the *Seelos & Sanctity* newsletters every month at the Seelos Center. So happy ... and, I am rambling like a 40-year-old kid."



Knights of Columbus, Father Seelos Council #2878



Seelos Center Volunteers, Anthony & Karla Catalano

Excerpts from the homily preached by Reverend Martin E. Lawrence, and from his reflections after the Mass.



Left: Josie Mathes, Cynthia Molyneux & Nancy Chase enjoy the event



Right: Seelos Luncheon Grand Prize Winners, Carol & Jack Dienes



**.999 FINE SILVER
SEELOS MEDALS**

Round (3/4" diameter) with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and polished edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. \$39 (+ \$3 p/h). Great gift idea!

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, September 25, 2005

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Booksigning at National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos with popular EWTN host, Raymond Arroyo.

Sunday, October 2, 2005

11:30 a.m. Annual Blessed Francis Seelos Memorial Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church

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

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

Dr. Ann Logarbo, MD: 985-886-0218

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

Sulphur/Vinton

Warren Touchet: 337-527-2607

◇ **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)



Seelos Perpetual Mass League: A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)

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

◇ **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).



SHRINE AWARDS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO NEW ORLEANS ARCHDIOCESAN STUDENTS

Father Seelos Scholarships have been established at the National Shrine of Francis X. Seelos to specifically support students who demonstrate academic merit & financial need, and offer them the same inspiration from Father Seelos that the students in his day received.

Scholarships are awarded to 8th grade students of the New Orleans Archdiocese who are currently enrolled in Catholic schools (but unaligned with individual church parishes) with the intent to continue their education at any Catholic high school located in the New Orleans Archdiocese.

The Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos Catholic 8th Grade Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 was **WILLIAM A. HERY** (Arabi, LA) of Holy Cross High School, New Orleans.

The five Honorable Recipients of the Seelos Catholic 8th Grade Scholarship were:

1. **OLIVIA LYNN M. BOURGEOIS** (Gretna) of Immaculata High School, Marrero.
2. **AIMEE E. CHALIN** (Gretna) of Saint Mary's Dominican High School, New Orleans.
3. **CLEVELAND V. NELSON** (New Orleans), currently at Bishop Perry Middle School, transferring to Brother Martin High School.
4. **NYAJIA A. WILLIAMS** (New Orleans), currently at Marian Central Catholic Middle School, transferring to Cabrini High School.
5. **CHRISTOPHER B. YOLI** (Metairie) of Holy Cross High School.

A Seelos High School Senior Scholarship is also awarded to 12th grade students of the New Orleans Archdiocese who are currently enrolled in Catholic schools with the intent to continue their education at any Catholic college or university in the country. The first recipient in 2004 was **JESSICA D. DICKERSON** of Ursuline Academy.

The 2005 Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos High School Senior Scholarship was **THOMAS J. MAESTRI** (Metairie, LA) of Jesuit High School, New Orleans.



Anyone wishing to support the 8th Grade or 12th Grade Seelos Scholarships, please designate your intentions on the enclosed envelope.



Father Francis Seelos, as professor, assured the seminarians of Jesus' care with His words, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of men" (Mt. 4:19). Over the years, many vessels offer assurance of Jesus' care upon the waters, through the intercession of Father Seelos.

Eckstein Marine Service, Inc. of Harahan, Louisiana, has now proudly added "M/V Father Seelos" to its fleet (top photo).

TESTIMONIALS

San Antonio, TX

I just cannot tell you how truly blessed I feel and how much faith I have in Father Seelos' miracles. I am a cancer patient who has been cancer-free now for sixteen years thanks to God and Father Seelos. I pray to Father Seelos every day. He has answered all of my prayers.

Alexandria, LA

I recently broke my wrist a second time. The surgeon prepared me for pins or plates but told me he would try a long cast above the elbow for a week to see if the bone would hold together, as it had separated considerably. I was given a first class relic of Fr. Seelos to wear and I attached it to my ace bandage on my cast. A week after I placed a Fr. Seelos third class relic that I have had for many years under my bandage, the doctor told me that the bone had not moved and that I should wear the cast for two more weeks to see if the bone would grow together again. I continued my prayers to Fr. Seelos and promised to offer up all my pain & suffering and to refrain from complaining at any time. Finally, the X-rays showed that the new bone growth had attached to the top and bottom of the bone. The doctor seemed surprised that there was so much new bone growth, and I was to, as I am going on 71 years.

Bergenfield, NJ

Like Fr. Seelos, I am an immigrant to the USA. I have been looking and praying for a job that befits my qualifications for two years. A friend sent me a prayer card and a cloth that touched the bones of Fr. Seelos. I had said this prayer for almost 6 weeks when I thought of sending out my resume to a certain organization. I touched the cloth on the resume and faxed it. Two days later I received a call, was interviewed three times and offered this job on a temporary basis. My prayer to him is that I am confirmed in this job. The day before my contract was supposed to end, I started a novena with my kids to Fr. Seelos and the next day I was told my contract had been extended. How can I help spread devotion?

Baton Rouge, LA

Our 35-year-old son had two strokes. No permanent damage was done to the brain, but tests showed a tear in the right carotid artery, two aneurysms on the left carotid artery and an aneurysm on the brain. My cousin, who is very familiar with Fr. Seelos, visited the shrine in New Orleans and brought back some cloth relics. She met a young man there by the name of Anthony. He was praying with some people for their intentions. I believe they said they call him "St. Anthony." She told him about our son and he began to pray and said to expect a miracle! On March 22, our son underwent surgery at Methodist Hospital in Houston. There were no aneurysms, only curvy/loopy arteries that made it appear to be aneurysms on the numerous test results. The tear was fixed with two stints. We were so thankful we couldn't praise God and Blessed Fr. Seelos enough. You see, our son did receive his miracle!

Junction City, KS

My 46-year-old niece had a five-hour surgery to add a synthetic artery to her right leg. The doctors told her that because of her bad heart, there was a 50% chance that she would not survive the operation and they might have to cut off her leg. We had the nurses tape a relic of Blessed Francis Seelos to her hand. The operation was a success. We consider this a miracle. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW?

On May 6-7, 2005 -- the First Friday & Saturday of May -- an All-Night Prayer Vigil was held in St. Mary's Assumption Church & National Seelos Shrine to pray for all of life and for the canonization of Blessed Francis Seelos. Special thanks to Seelos Center volunteer, Debbie Russo, for organizing the successful prayer event. Please continue to keep respect for life & the canonization cause in your prayers.

Seelos Center News

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

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Rev. Thomas D. Picon, 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

Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly
by the Redemptorists
National Shrine of Blessed F.X. Seelos
Subscription is \$9 per year.



(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.