

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 10
October 2005



A Miracle Waiting To Happen!

The city of New Orleans may have been an "accident waiting to happen." However, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, there were several miracles waiting to happen through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. First and foremost, all of the dedicated staff members at the Seelos Center survived the storm. While some staff and friends of the Seelos Cause lost everything they owned due to the breach in the levee, faith was not lost in our compassionate God and His heavenly saints!

Skilled German immigrants constructed St. Mary's Assumption Church in 1860. It has been an engineering feat that survived unnamed hurricanes over time. Forty years ago, Hurricane Betsy in 1965 caused considerable damage to the roof, but years later, the majestic church was reopened. Now, she survived a punishing Hurricane Katrina with no water damage, but there were isolated areas of wind damage to an ornamentation atop the bell tower and to a choir loft stairwell window on the Constance Street side of the church.



The former Saint Alphonsus Church across the street from the Shrine -- presently an Art & Cultural Center -- sustained damage to a cross and parapet on one of its twin towers. It landed in front of the Seelos statue in the church courtyard.

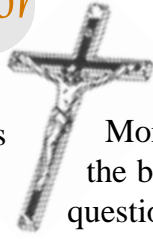
Thankfully, the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos and the Seelos Museum remained intact. Significant sacred Father Seelos items that could be transported were taken out of New Orleans at the time of initial evacuation. However, when circumstances prevented the residents from returning to the city in a timely manner after the storm, it was decided that additional items should be retrieved from the Shrine for safekeeping. Only days after the storm, the Seelos Shrine Director was referred to Mark Hensgens, a high school classmate and member of the state Lieutenant Governor's office, who was aware that the Acadia Parish Sheriff's Department was organizing a humanitarian transport to New Orleans -- miraculously, within the hour! Lt. Dale Thibodeaux, Detective Chris McBride, Sgt. Anthony Lewis, all from Church Point, LA, along with Sgt. Jerome Landry and Sgt. Elijah Joseph of Crowley, LA, and Mr. Allen Davis of Harahan, LA, provided the assistance and protection to make the operation possible. Deputy Chief Walter Harrington and his Acadia Parish men in uniform are to be commended for their great service to the people of New Orleans.



The Redemptorists and staff at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. are anxious to resume our vital ministry to the many people in need. On our part, we are committed to help rebuild a unique city that will again welcome pilgrims to the Shrine with hospitality, hope and healing.

Message from the Editor

When tampering with a mystery, “we are in deep ignorance,” writes Jonathan Schell, and “our ignorance should dispose us to wonder, our wonder should make us humble, our humility should inspire us to reverence and caution, and our reverence and caution should lead us to action without delay.” To tackle something so overwhelming as Hurricane Katrina is to tamper with a mystery. As such, it defies superficial explanation, but demands existential examination. Mystery reduces us



to our knees -- a posture also assumed in prayer.

Moreover, mystery reduces us to the basics -- fundamental questions of why we exist and what really matters while we are alive. It is not enough for the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina to reduce us, without further disposing us to see God in all things and enabling us “to action without delay.”

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

I see friends shaking hands, saying “how do you do?” They’re really saying “I love you.” ... And I think to myself, what a wonderful world.

-- Louie Armstrong

Please Help Us Help Those in Need

One might be hardpressed to find individuals and families *not* affected by the storm with some variation of intensity. The Seelos Center is directly involved with those who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. If you would like to offer assistance through the ministry of the Seelos Shrine, please designate “Katrina Relief” on the enclosed envelope.

PRAYER FOR NEW ORLEANS

By Seelos Center Staff Member, Elizabeth Butera Fitzpatrick

Heavenly Father, from this land of exile
we come to you with great faith today,
to ask you to save our beloved New Orleans.
Please answer this prayer we now pray.

First, please save anyone who still may be there.
Protect them with your strength from above.
May they hold on, we implore, till they’re safe & secure.
Please let them feel your presence and love.

We also ask You, Lord, to protect all of those
who are working to bring order to our streets.
Watch over them each day and protect them, we pray.
May they be appreciated by all those they meet.

Father, we ask your help for the thousands
who are displaced from the only home they ever knew.
Wherever they may go, please help them to know,
that their *true* home is in heaven with You!

Strengthen those dealing with loss not only of property
but, rather, of family members and friends.
Somehow please let them know You welcomed
their loved ones home,
and a reunion will come one day that never ends!

We also ask your blessings upon so many at this time
for the charity and generosity they’ve displayed.
For all that they do, Lord, we now ask of You,
a hundredfold may they be repaid!

Finally, we ask You to save New Orleans.
Not Preservation Hall but Preservation *City* may it be!
Father, we implore You to build and restore
New Orleans - this is our faith-filled, fervent plea!

May the engineers, politicians, and citizens work together
to make it better than ever before -
with safer streets and more concern for the poor and forgotten,
and levees to withstand a Category *Hundred* and Four!!

Please let us once again feel that rocking of a streetcar
down St. Charles Avenue - a bit of heaven!
May we catch beads, we implore, to store in our attics once more,
on Mardi Gras Day in two thousand seven.

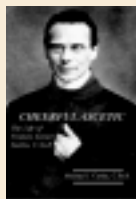
May our Cafe du Monde, which never closes,
reopen to serve hot beignets by December.
May music fill the air outside the Cathedral in Jackson Square.
May the City that Care Forgot *always* remember

Exactly what it means to miss New Orleans:
its food and its neighborhoods, too.
Please save it, we pray, and forever we will say
the true spirit of New Orleans, Lord, is You!

Then may its citizens be reunited from all parts of this country.
Please let us be in that number once again
when the Saints and all of us can go marchin’ in
to our New and *Improved* Orleans! Amen!

7 September 2005

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)

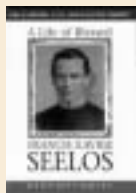
◇ **"Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice,"** an informative documentary on the life of Bl. F. Seelos; 30-min. VHS cassette. (Donation: \$17 - includes p/h)



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).



www.seelos.org Guestbook Entries Offer Prayers & Consolation:



8/29: Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast.

8/29: Dear Blessed Francis Seelos, you who were once pastor of our beautiful church of St. Mary's in Annapolis, Maryland, please intercede for the people of New Orleans during this horrific hurricane. Pray also for the conversion of sinners. When the sun shines again, may all be safe and well in Jesus' Holy Name and through the prayers of His Holy Mother, Our Lady of Prompt Succor and Perpetual Help!

8/30: Dear Fr. Seelos, please pray for the people of New Orleans (whom you once served in life) and the Gulf coast that God spare them as much suffering as possible in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and that He be with them as a strength and a comfort during the recovery and rebuilding process.

8/31: Father [Seelos], please ask for intercession and prayers for all of us ravaged in your city, New Orleans. Please help to guide us and pray for our relief. Lord, please help us.

8/31: The latest newsletter from your beloved shrine is on my refrigerator and I just keep looking at Father Seelos' face. My prayers are with you and all of those who need our help.

9/3: Please send any info on the great people who work for Fr. Seelos. Very Worried. Thank you.

9/9: As we watch the disasters of the hurricane on TV, our thoughts come to the Doctor, perhaps his name was Joseph, who was so kind to show us the Blessed Seelos Shrine last winter. [Dr. Joseph Bellina, M.D., a great devotee of the Seelos Cause, died on August 17, due to cancer -- editor]

9/10: Dear Father Seelos, please watch over us and help us all do God's Will, to accept whatever suffering God sends with faith and trust in God's mercy. Blessed Seelos, bring us with your prayers to God's presence in paradise forever. Help us cooperate with God's grace to grow to be all that God is expecting of us. Pray for our departed loved ones ... May we know eternal rest in Jesus. Thank you, Father, patron of the ministry to little ones and of the dying.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many lives and many landmarks were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans, the second oldest yacht club in the country (founded 1849), burned in the aftermath of the storm when efforts to fight the flames were not possible. Friends of the Seelos Center may recall pleasant memories of the SYC clubhouse, where the first annual Seelos Galas were held in 2003 and 2004.

TESTIMONIAL

LaPlace, LA

I am writing about a recent “happening” in my life that we can only attribute to the powerful intercession of our Blessed Seelos. I am a 29-year-old mother who was diagnosed with breast cancer four years ago when pregnant with my daughter. After 4 months of chemotherapy, my daughter was born in March 2002. We have been blessed with her perfect health.

Four months ago, I had a recurrence with breast cancer. It had spread to my ovaries and the doctors recommended a hysterectomy. We proceeded with the surgery and all was well. A routine CT scan in August showed spread of the cancer yet again to several bony areas throughout my body. My doctor recommended that we do another type of scan to verify the CT findings. That scan was scheduled for August 22.

On August 20, my husband and I were in New Orleans. Since I was diagnosed in 2001, several people suggested that I visit the Seelos Center. While looking for the D-Day Museum, we saw a sign on the side of a building that read “Seelos Shrine, Turn Here.” We ended up at the Seelos Center on Constance Street. It was there that we met Anthony & Liz, two volunteers at the shrine.

Anthony immediately shared some of Fr. Seelos’ miracles with us. Liz shared her personal testimony. We were amazed. They asked, “Are you in need of anything?” I then shared my story of a possible recurrence with breast cancer. My husband and I gladly accepted the invitation to pray with them, and, before I knew it, I was kneeling in front of the reliquary and holding Fr. Seelos’ cross with several people praying over me. A peace swept over me, and I knew God was with us. We then obtained a first class relic to bring with me on the day of my second scan.

I had my second scan (a PET scan) done on August 22. As you may have already guessed, the results were clear. It did not detect any cancer in my body!

*“Heaven, the Land of Love,
the Land of Joy”*

By Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

Where is my sweet, my happy home?
I long to see it, there to come.
Is it on earth and here below
where tears in sadness often flow?

Ah, raise your heart and raise your eye,
and look above to heaven’s sky!
Look there above, where from afar
sweet heav’n invites by many a star.
By many a bright & sparkling light
to show the way through clouds & night.

It is above, above the sky,
a land of love, a land of joy.

Seelos Center News

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

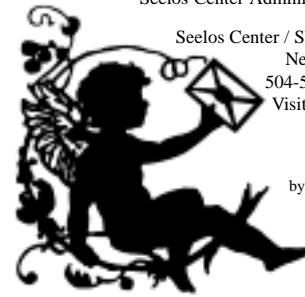
Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.

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

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



(1) 24-pg. “People Ask His Prayers” \$2 (includes p/h)	(2) 27-pg. “The Blessed Immigrant” \$2 (includes p/h)	(3) 24-pg. “Bl. Francis X. Seelos, Redemptorist” \$2 (includes p/h)	(4) 36-pg. “Meet Bl. Francis Seelos” \$2 (includes p/h)	(5) 48-page Guided Retreat with Bl. Francis Seelos \$5 (includes p/h)	(6) 32-page sturdy cover Seelos Novena \$3 (includes p/h)

ADDRESS CHANGED?

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

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.