



# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

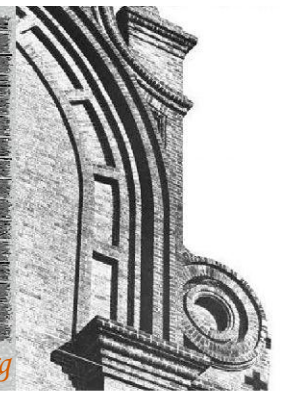
*National Shrine of Blessed  
Francis Xavier Seelos*

*In the Redemptorist Church  
of Saint Mary's Assumption*

2030 Constance Street (504) 525-2495  
New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 525-2499

Volume XLVII Number 10 October 2008

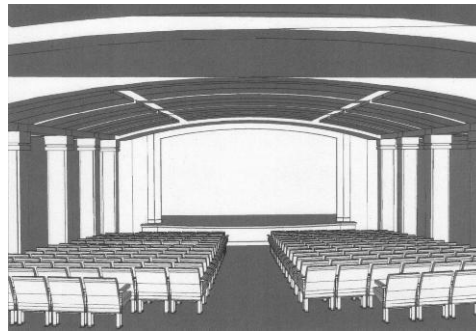
[www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)



## Meet me at the Seelos Theater!

There's a new "guidance counselor" of sorts for students at the oldest Catholic college in New England! It is in the form of a larger-than-life-size bronze statue of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos that welcomes guests inside a theater bearing his name at Holy Cross College. With a history of academic excellence in the Jesuit tradition, Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts, ranks among the nation's top liberal arts colleges. David S. Zamierowski, M.D. (Class of '64), and his wife Mary, were the generous donors of this new state-of-the-art theater that was dedicated and blessed on September 5, 2008. College President, Rev. Michael McFarland, S.J. remarked how the Seelos Theater will be especially useful for lectures, community events, and the ever-popular free movie nights on campus.

Also, a *Father Francis Xavier Seelos Scholarship* at Holy Cross College was recently established to provide full tuition support and make a Holy Cross education possible for first-generation & non-traditional college students from the Worcester area. Rev. McFarland said the Seelos Scholarship will "make an important contribution to our mission of building a more just and compassionate society."



*"My wife Mary & I met and started our married life in Baltimore exactly 100 years after Seelos' death... We were married in New Orleans, which is where my wife was from. My wife's aunt, as she was dying, told us about Seelos and gave us the medal she had carried in her wallet all her long life. Now, you need to know that my wife and her family are and were all Protestants. What kind of life did Seelos live? What example did he give, that in one short year before he died in New Orleans, he became such a legend that my wife's aunt would stop as a young woman and listen to a stranger on downtown Canal Street tell her about this priest from St. Mary's Assumption Church just a few miles away, & carry this medal and pray for his intercession all her life?"*

*Why this statue of Blessed Seelos? To present to you the image of the Mission Cross, held by an immigrant priest who spoke English as a second language - to stretch your understanding of what it means to go to the School of the Holy Cross. Yes, the Crusader will always be the icon of Holy Cross College, holding up the virtues of dedication, courage & loyalty in the service of Christ. But we need to remind ourselves that the Cross of Christ is more than a flat painting on a shield. Seelos holds up to you the crucifix with the image of the suffering Christ with the message, 'In this sign is your salvation.' May your four years here be fulfilling & fruitful. May the image of the Mission Cross that Seelos presents to you each time you walk through these doors help you understand yourself, your God & our place here on this earth.*



-- Excerpts from remarks made by David Zamierowski, M.D. at the Dedication & Blessing of the Seelos Theater, Holy Cross College, Worcester MA.

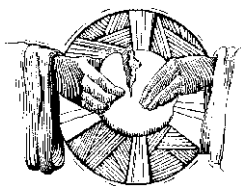
Left: Very Rev. Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R. at the statue's unveiling. The statue was crafted by Franco Alessandrini of New Orleans.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**

*The Annual Blessed  
Francis Xavier Seelos  
Memorial Mass*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008  
1:00 P.M.**

**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH  
(AT JOSEPHINE & CONSTANCE STREETS)  
NEW ORLEANS, LA**



## Message from the Editor

Andre Dubus is an author, originally from south Louisiana, who lost a leg and use of the other in an accident while providing roadside assistance. In his book of essays, *Meditations from a Movable Chair*, Dubus writes that he lacked the energy to attend morning Mass after his accident. A priest occasionally brought him the Eucharist and told him, "Every day you are receiving Communion of desire; other people are receiving it for you." Dubus rightly concludes that "to eat God's love, we do not even have to open our mouths." Elsewhere in the book, he writes about his effort to actually attend morning Mass and the peace of mind and profound sense of communion that it provided him, in that he no longer felt like a broken body alone in his wheelchair. "The old man assisting the priest handed me the Host, and I placed it in my mouth and was in harmony with the old man, the priest, the walking communicants passing me and my chair to receive the Eucharist; one with all people in pain and joy and passion, one with the physical universe, with Christ, ... one with God." Dubus observes how he drove his car to church and consumed God!

In a letter to his sister, Francis Seelos recommends that she shows Jesus her love in a practical way, particularly during the time of Mass, but above all before and after Holy Communion: "Go to Holy Communion ... and place before [Him] all that weighs you down and troubles you, with great confidence and with renewed resolutions, if you want to lead an upright, open, and childlike life." Likewise, in a letter to a friend, Seelos advises that "it is most important to use very well the precious time before and after Holy Communion." In approaching the Sacrament, he recommends repeating one or another sentiment, very quietly and slowly over and over, such as "O Jesus, be gracious to me! O Jesus, be merciful to me." Right after Communion, he encourages expressions of reverence as, "O Jesus, I live for you! O Jesus, I will die for you! O Jesus, I am yours in life & in death!" Seelos suggests saying these sentiments in our hearts; in other words, when we eat God's love, we do not even have to open our mouths!

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

### GUSTAV & KATRINA: Twice Removed

Essential Seelos items were again removed for safety when Hurricane Gustav wreaked havoc on the Gulf coast almost three years to the day that Hurricane Katrina had made her impact known. The city of New Orleans feared the worst and fared for the better. There were no significant damages to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos, or to the unflappable spirit of its Seelos Center volunteers! Prayers at the Shrine are offered for those still adversely affected by the storm throughout the region.

A monthly newsletter for friends of Bl. Francis X. Seelos

**Seelos Center News**  
 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  
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 New Orleans, LA 70130-5004  
 504-525-2495/2499 ♦ FAX 504-581-9181  
 www.seelos.org  
 Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly  
 by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos  
 Subscription is \$12 per year.



Artist Riece Walton paid homage to historic St. Mary's Assumption Church on one of his large colorful canvases for a successful solo exhibit at a New Orleans gallery in October 2007. Quality color prints are now available with a wide border in suitable sizes for framing, each signed by the artist.

- 20" x 24" on watercolor paper, \$40
- 12" x 16" on watercolor paper, \$30
- 11" x 14" on matted paper, \$20

Prices above include  
P/H during the month of October

### The Seelos Center offers the following services:

☞ *Pilgrimages* to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. Call the Center at 504-525-2495 or 525-2499.

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

☞ *Blessings of the Sick* with a Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in designated area hospitals. Please call:

#### East Jefferson

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

#### Ochsner

Mark/Monica Surprenant 504-895-5371

#### Uptown/Innecity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

#### Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213  
Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

#### Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432  
Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

#### Covington

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

#### Houma/Thibodaux

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

#### Lacombe/Abita Springs

Billy Bachemin: 504-232-0349

#### Lafayette/Abbeville

Rita King: 337-984-4607

#### Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394  
Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

#### New Iberia/Berwick/Baldwin

Rachel Gonsoulin: 337-224-7855  
Fred Roy: 337-380-0646

#### Pearl River

Gail Garay: 985-863-7562

#### Ponchatoula/Hammond

Gaspar Corpora: 225-294-5938

#### Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-925-9975

#### Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325  
Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

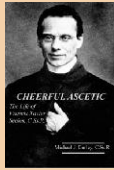
#### St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

☞ *Veneration of Bl. Seelos' Mission Crucifix* in St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

☞ *Weekly Mass* celebrated for Seelos benefactors. Please include Special Intentions in the enclosed envelope.

**The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:**



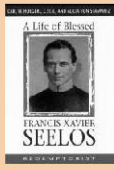
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal** Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$58 - includes p/h).



**Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story**, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$13, incl. p/h)



**A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos**, a 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$12 - 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)



**Seelos, Tireless Intercessor**, a 68-minute documentary on the miraculous life of Seelos, as seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$29 DVD / \$17 VHS - incl. p/h)



**Death, Where Is Your Sting?**, a tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details of his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$24 - incl. p/h)



**Sincerely, Seelos**, the 201 collected letters of Fr. Seelos. Hardbound, 512 pages, illustrated. (Donation: \$35 - incl. p/h)

☞ **A Seelos Vigil Candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in the Seelos Shrine, New Orleans, for an offering of \$4.

☞ **Seelos First, Second & Third-Class Relics / Seelos Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.



Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.

**We received an overwhelming response to the "Check-Up on Dr. Anna Pou, M.D." in our August '08 issue.**

*For the complete interview please visit [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)*

A friend just passed along to us the August issue of your wonderful newsletter! We are so happy to learn of Dr. Pou's "check-up" - how inspiring! We rejoice with all in the outcome, thanks to Blessed Seelos. (Mobile, AL)



**"Do not lose courage, but continue until you see prepared the crown for those blessed souls who have their Spouse in heaven and who will enjoy spousal love in heaven forever at the great wedding feast."**  
-- Francis Xavier Seelos, 1857

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**  
\$20 offering to enroll deceased spouses in Perpetual Mass League only through November 2!

**TIMELY READING**  
for the Anniversary of Father Seelos' Death

- ❖ Read how Father Seelos foretold his own death.
- ❖ Learn why the doctor was so amazed.
- ❖ Discover the irony of the person who spoke last into Father Seelos' ear.
- ❖ Meet the one who was cured with a touch to Father Seelos in the casket.

Please send request & payment to:  
**Seelos Center**  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

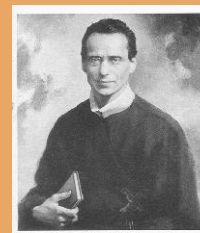
My reason for writing is to comment on the very inspiring testimonial by Dr. Pou. I was very moved with Dr. Pou's "faith journey" comments, where she says, "It's as though He brought me to the depths of hell knowing that He would not let the flames consume me, but purify me." Very nice *Seelos Center News*. (Canal Fulton, OH)

I enjoy my *Seelos Center News*. When I read Dr. Anna Pou's testimony, I cried with joy to see how God used her trials and suffering to bring her and her husband to be blessed with so many graces. (Lafayette, LA)

Thanks for the narrative from Dr. Anna Pou in the recent *Seelos* bulletin. She went to the right place to pray & meditate. Thank God and Blessed Seelos' intercession in clearing Dr. Pou's name & reputation. (New Orleans, LA)

I just received your August newsletter. I wept as I read the story of Dr. Anna Pou. My wife & I have had the great pleasure of visiting the Seelos Shrine. I personally received a blessing with the Fr. Seelos cross. I had colon cancer and needed surgery, 30 chemo/30 radiation treatments. I was at home & unable to work for a year, but was considered cured after 5 years by my doctors. A total of 10 years have passed and I'm in excellent health. I know that Dr. Pou, & countless others like myself are forever grateful that the Seelos Shrine is there to turn to and receive God's blessing. Thanks for keeping the life and works of Fr. Seelos alive. (Charlotte, NC)

**NOW AVAILABLE! Printable Seelos Prayer Cards**



On the Intentional: 2013 - 2014 Edition of the Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.B. Card. My strength and the weakness of my heart be pleasing in Your light. I offer praise to You for the grace You have bestowed on Your humble Redemptorial ministry, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, May I have the same joy to enjoy that Fr. Seelos possessed during his earthly life to love You simply and live faithfully Your gospel, Amen. Do not mention your special intention!

Use as Funeral Memorial Cards or for Anniversary & Special Occasions

4-color image & prayer on front; blank on back for printing;  
size: 2-5/8" x 4-1/2"  
\$9 per 100 (incl. p/h)

## GONZALES, LA

My relatives live in Houma & Thibodaux. The rest of my family lives here in Ascension Parish. Before Hurricane Gustav I got my Fr. Seelos 1<sup>st</sup> class relic and I told him, "This is our state, Fr. Seelos. You ministered here. Please protect my family for me." Amazingly, there was no damage to any of my family members' homes and no one was hurt! Fr. Seelos watched over us. Also I prayed to him after the storm and asked him to intercede that we would get electricity. At that point, we had two 1<sup>st</sup> class relics in the same house (mine & my grandmother's). We were the only neighborhood in the entire parish to have electricity for a few hours. I just want to thank Fr. Seelos and let you all know what happened!

## ANNAPOLIS, MD

I have a health problem and was without a job for more than two months. I went to [St. Mary's Church] & found information on Francis Seelos. I took it and asked him to help me find a job. Then a lady calls & asks if I want to take care of her mother-in-law. I really believe it was a miracle because I had not given my phone number to anybody. This long waiting is over. I'm working and I want everybody to know how blessed I am.

## WASHINGTON, DC

My mother passed away after living many years with an illness. Included in her final wishes was a bequest to support the Seelos Shrine. When compiling her arrangements, I had not heard her speak of the Shrine and I inquired about her choice to include it in and among only a few other bequests. She replied quite simply that when she was first diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2002, the

# TESTIMONIALS

doctors told her she would likely not live more than two or three months. During that time, and in a debilitated state, she asked for prayers from the Shrine that her disease be other than it was, and that her sentence be extended. Upon further lab investigation, the doctors altered their diagnosis to another very rare but less immediately life-threatening cancer form. She then stayed with us and in our love for five precious years. She enjoyed a broad and diverse spectrum of religious experiences over her sometimes tumultuous, but always well-lived life, and she believed in prayer as a powerful petition. This included gift was her way of saying thank you for yours. I'm not sure how or why she found you, but she thanks you, as do I, that your prayers found her.

## JERSEY CITY, NJ

When I first laid the Seelos relic on my daughter's head, and said a prayer over her, she made a sigh. She is 25 years old. Because of her autism, she's on a casein & gluten diet; she can have very bad & violent behavior when given the wrong foods -- like dairy. Now, even a scoop of ice cream doesn't affect her. She's fine to this day and even talking more.

## HAMMOND, LA

My husband had surgery for prostate cancer 4 years ago. Test results for the last few years indicated that chemo would be required. When we visited the Seelos Shrine for the first time, Anthony Catalano gave us a tour and prayed with us. Soon after, my husband's PSA test results improved slightly, and he was required to test 3 months later.

We went to the Shrine again and thoroughly enjoyed a beautiful Seelos Mass. Three weeks ago the test results were very good: the PSA level had decreased considerably! We attribute this to the prayers & intervention of our Bl. Seelos. We are forever grateful and devoted to him.

## CHOICE PICKS

Out-of-town guests at the Seelos Shrine often ask for our recommendations during their visit to New Orleans. So, why not take the streetcar uptown on St. Charles Avenue to Our Lady of Prompt Succor Shrine, or downtown for the customary beignets & cafe au lait after a visit to the Cathedral & Ursuline Convent (where an original letter by Fr. Seelos is on display). Across the street from the Seelos Shrine is Saint Alphonsus Art & Cultural Center and a block away stretches the Magazine Street shopping district, rated by national travel writers as one of America's "hippest," with restaurants, art galleries, bohemian clothing stores & antique shops. Let Lee Zollinger be of assistance at her Antiques Magazine, or step into Aidan Gill, an old-world barbershop, for a hot towel shave to the jazzy sounds of Pete Fountain. When uptown on Magazine Street, drop by Hazelnut and let them know you were sent by Gayle Batt, the proud mother of Bryan Batt on television's "Mad Men." Head down on Annunciation in the Irish Channel and get a classic po-boy sandwich from Miss Dot at Domilise's, or let Tim the maitre'd at Commander's Palace show you what defines our fair city. After lunch, allow Lloyd Sensat to give you a walking tour of the fabled Garden District. Meet him at the Garden District Book Shop where Deb might interest you in Anne Rice's novels on Christ. New Orleans is all about familiarity. It may not exactly be a city "where everybody knows your name," but we probably know your mama's name!

Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for:

- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- the Seelos Scholarship Fund to support Redemptorist Seminarians.
- item(s) designated below:

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

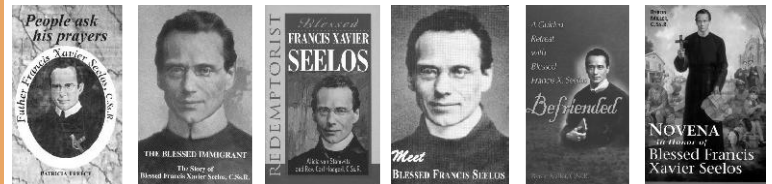
- my Mass Intention(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.

## ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FR. SEELOS



ALL SIX ITEMS FOR ONLY \$13 (INCLUDES P/H)

- Please delete me from your mailing list.

- Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

Kindly return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or call 504-525-2495 or 2499 or e-mail to [bmiller@seelos.org](mailto:bmiller@seelos.org) Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your address change request.

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