

# 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 11 November 2008

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

*The Stereoscope Series  
Part I of III*

## *The Sanctuary as Seelos Saw It*



Construction on the present Saint Mary's Assumption Church began 150 years ago in 1858 and was completed in 1860. However, the interior of the church was far from finished at that time. The Stations of the Cross were the first items installed on July 4, 1860 and the statue of the Blessed Virgin arrived from Munich a few months later, along with two other statues, Jesus as Savior and St. Alphonsus as Bishop.

The advent of the Civil War did not hinder the two church bells cast in France and the organ from being installed in 1861. The pulpit was added in 1862.

When Father Seelos arrived in 1866, embellishments for Saint Mary's continued. After the statue of our Mother of Sorrows arrived from Germany, an occasion on July 17, 1867 was recorded as follows: "Father Seelos blessed the life-sized statue of the Mater Dolorosa. After he had placed it below the mission cross in front of Saint Alphonsus' altar in Saint Mary's Church, he remarked that he hoped soon to be buried under the statue of his dear mother." Perhaps at the time of this July blessing, it was already known to



Father Seelos that in only a few short months he would be stricken with yellow fever and buried directly under this statue.

The present-day magnificent high altar in the sanctuary was not installed until 1874. Under the direction of Fr. Joseph Colonel, C.Ss.R., workers dismantled the old altar and dug up the sanctuary to construct ten burial vaults (where, among others, Fr. Colonel himself rests to this day, and where Fr. Seelos was transferred for much of the 20th century). A Redemptorist brother helped erect the new altar and install the stained glass above it.

*This rare stereo card by photographer S.T. Blessing helps satisfy a curiosity of what the early sanctuary of St. Mary's looked like before the 1874 renovation. It depicts an unidentified Redemptorist kneeling before the altar rail. The original statue of the Blessed Virgin that arrived in 1860 is believed to be the one now displayed on a lakeside column in the nave of the church.*



*Stereo cards were especially popular from the 1840s through the 1930s. Two nearly identical pictures were mounted on a stiff cardbacking to create a three-dimensional image when viewed through a stereoscope.*

## Message from the Editor

"O how deep is the wish of my heart, to find you again on the other side," replies Father Seelos to a friend. In an earlier letter to her, he writes of "the happiness of the citizens of heaven -- nothing but hearts glowing with love, all so pure, each one free of passion, in one unbroken harmony."

For Morton Kelsey in his book, *Afterlife: The Other Side of Dying*, "the most obvious and striking feature of Jesus' view of life after death and the final state of our existence is that it is a 'kingdom.'" It is social in nature. We need each other as well as God if we are to be completely human and come to our full potential as future "citizens of heaven." Because the kingdom has this universal significance, all humankind -- present, past & future -- will be one. Thus, to use his own words, you and Father Seelos will not be estranged in that "one unbroken harmony!"

A 94-year-old woman from Wisconsin never married. At the time of her death, she left specific handwritten instructions on how she wanted her funeral service. She wrote, "I don't want any male pallbearers. They wouldn't take me out when I was alive; I don't want them taking me out when I'm dead."

Please don't take this the wrong way: May there be many people waiting in line to take you out when your time comes -- for the Kingdom which Christ Himself has perfected, there will be many people in that family standing in line to pull you in!

*Byron Miller, C.S.R.*

## On Campus with Seelos

1843 is the year that Francis Xavier Seelos came to America; it is also the year that Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts opened its doors to provide a liberal arts education in the Jesuit tradition. As the oldest Catholic college in New England, Holy Cross is top-ranked nationally for its academic excellence.

David S. Zamierowski, M.D. (Class of '64), & his wife Mary, were the generous donors of a new state-of-the-art Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Theater for campus and community events. The dedication and blessing of the Seelos Theater & Seelos statue took place on September 5, 2008. Also, a Father Francis Xavier Seelos Scholarship at Holy Cross was recently established for first-generation & non-traditional students from the Worcester area.

Holy Cross President, Rev. Michael McFarland, S.J., unveils the Seelos statue with David & Mary Zamierowski. The statue was crafted by Franco Alessandrini of New Orleans.



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 sizes suitable 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 November



## 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

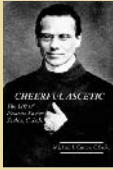
### St. Bernard/Arabi

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:**



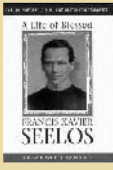
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.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.

**In this Season of Thanks:**

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others," wrote Cicero. We thank the Lord each day at the Seelos Shrine for all our benefactors. Below is a partial listing of our helpers in ministry:

- Denis & Judy Powers - Houston, TX
- Kermit & Sue Menard - Crowley, LA
- Nick Punch - Belle Chasse, LA
- Christopher Judge - New Orleans, LA
- Dr. Michael P. Hurley - Joplin, MO
- Ray & Kay Eckstein - Paducah, KY
- Robert & Marilyn Lobrano - Braithwaite, LA
- Maureen Moreau - New York, NY

**Our Gift to You**

The original cast iron coffin of Father Seelos is on display at the Seelos National Shrine in New Orleans. Votive lights alongside the casket will burn during the month of November for all the souls of the faithful departed who have been a part of the Father Seelos Cause.

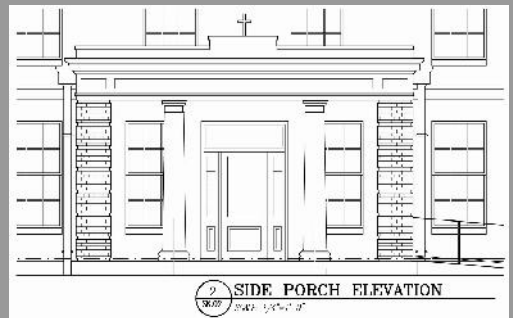
**Sanctity Loves Company: Meet Our Staff**



When it comes to the Seelos ministry, there is little that Anthony Catalano, Jr. won't do -- without the power of prayer! He is a man of faith who genuinely enjoys praying with people, not only at the Seelos Shrine, but elsewhere, as an outstanding representative of the Shrine. In addition, his wife Carla and daughter Kristin volunteer at various Seelos functions, for the family that prays together ....

**NEW SEELOS WELCOME CENTER UPDATE:**

On September 8, 2008 the City of New Orleans Department of Safety & Permits issued a Building Permit to "convert vacant commercial building to Seelos Welcome Center as per plans"!



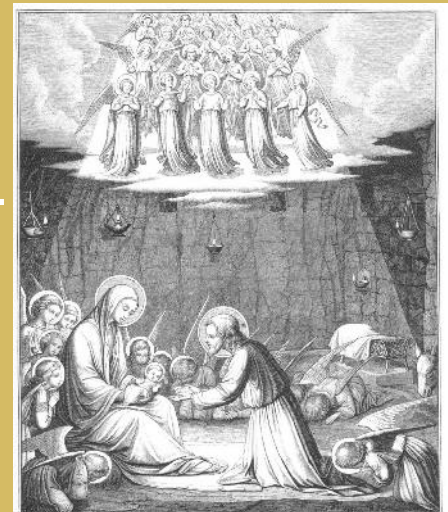
**IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!**

Nativity Scenes by Brother Max Schmalzl, C.Ss.R. on quality ivory card stock with religious message  
6-1/2" x 4-1/2" / matching envelopes  
**\$10 per 20 (incl. p/h)**

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

www.seelos.org  
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Subscription is \$12 per year.



**Savings to be Thankful For**

\$10 off items shown throughout this November newsletter totaling \$75 or more (with p/h incl.)

OR

\$10 off any purchase of \$75 or more at the Seelos Center Gift Shop. Does not apply to website shopping cart orders. Valid only through Nov. 30, 2008. Limit one-time use.

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for your employer matching gift program or end-of-year gift. Our Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

## HOUSTON, TX

My husband passed away in February. His faith in Fr. Seelos was so strong that he never stopped believing he would be healed. He kept his relic with him at all times, especially for any kind of treatment. He fought so hard and relied so heavily on Fr. Seelos that he was crushed when the doctor told him there would be no more treatments. His words were, "I'm a fighter, but what can I fight?" So heart-wrenching to see such a strong-willed devoted man come to that realization! Did God or Fr. Seelos forsake him? Was his strong faith not rewarded? No! I believe there are some things that a person is meant to endure on this earth that even faith & prayer cannot stop. I'm sure my husband offered his suffering up to God and that Fr. Seelos was there to help him make the transition. Do you think he might be with Fr. Seelos now helping him perform miracles and giving a part of his faith to the people who need it?

## BATON ROUGE, LA

I was introduced to Bl. Seelos in 1987 when my first daughter was born. We almost lost her to persistent fetal circulation. My husband's aunt from Lafayette told us about Fr. Seelos and asked if she could place a relic on my daughter's ICU bed & pray for his intercession. The next day my daughter was off of 100% oxygen. Three years later, doctors thought my second daughter had leukemia. Again, my husband's aunt brought a relic & prayed for his intercession during the bone marrow procedure. My daughter ended up having ITP, not leukemia. To this day both girls still sleep with a Fr. Seelos relic pinned to their beds & I pray to him often for their safety & wellbeing.

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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- my Mass Intention(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.

# TESTIMONIALS

## EVANSVILLE, IN

Good news from a person on your Shrine prayer list who has been fighting cancer all year and had to stop high school as a sophomore. He attended band camp last week & played the keyboard! He plans to go back to school in August. I gave him my 1st class relic of Bl. Seelos. Fr. Seelos is at work!

## SHREVEPORT, LA

My son had been sick with a recurrent high fever for weeks. He was evaluated extensively, and while he had inflamed lymph nodes, no clear organism could be found. My friend brought us a cloth relic of Fr. Seelos that my son touched. We also prayed for Fr. Seelos to intercede for my son. I just wanted you to know that my son recovered. Thank you and God bless you.

## GULFPORT, MS

Our 3-year-old autistic son had a relapse & for days could not keep still, or communicate. It was devastating because he had improved so much. Confident that Fr. Seelos has been on our journey, my husband & I prayed for his help. A few days later we learned that our son had a huge overgrowth of yeast in his intestines, which is common with autistics. He is on a 30-day detox treatment now and is doing better than ever. I still pray over him many nights with the Seelos relic while he is asleep. I have completely entrusted his care to Fr. Seelos, and I'm confident that in time he will be totally fine. I finally read *Cheerful Ascetic* and want you to know how much I just love Bl. Seelos more than ever. While reading it, I kept wishing that I could have known him in person. He really has become an example for me.

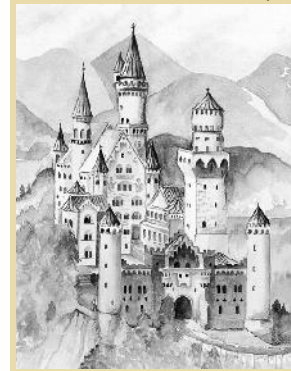
## LORANGER, LA

My husband was diagnosed with squamous cell cancer in February. My daughter-in-law met [Seelos blesser] Gasper Corpora who brought a Blessed Seelos cross to pray with my husband. He went through six weeks of radiation & chemo and then had surgery to remove the remainder of the tumor. Everything went well and the doctor says he is now cancer-free. We are all so thankful to God, Blessed Seelos, and all the saints. Our prayers were heard. By the way, my husband's surgeon was the great Dr. Anna Pou, who has also visited the Seelos Shrine.

## Desperately Seeking Füssen!

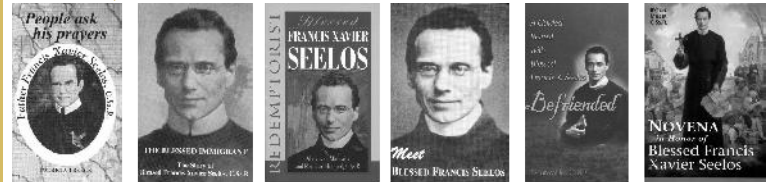
Journey on a Pilgrimage tracing the Redemptorist Roots through Germany, Austria & Poland, visiting sites honoring Blessed Francis Seelos, St. John Neumann & St. Clement Hofbauer!  
Spiritual Director: Fr. John Murray  
Departs from JFK, May 14-24, 2009  
Contact: MurrayCSsR@aol.com  
or (800) CATHOLIC - Ext. 208

Journey on a Pilgrimage to Austria, Germany & Poland to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. Clement



Hofbauer's Canonization.  
May 17-31, 2009  
Contact Sheila Drumm at  
sdrumm@redemptorists-denver.org  
or 866-788-0343.

## ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FR. SEELOS



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