

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

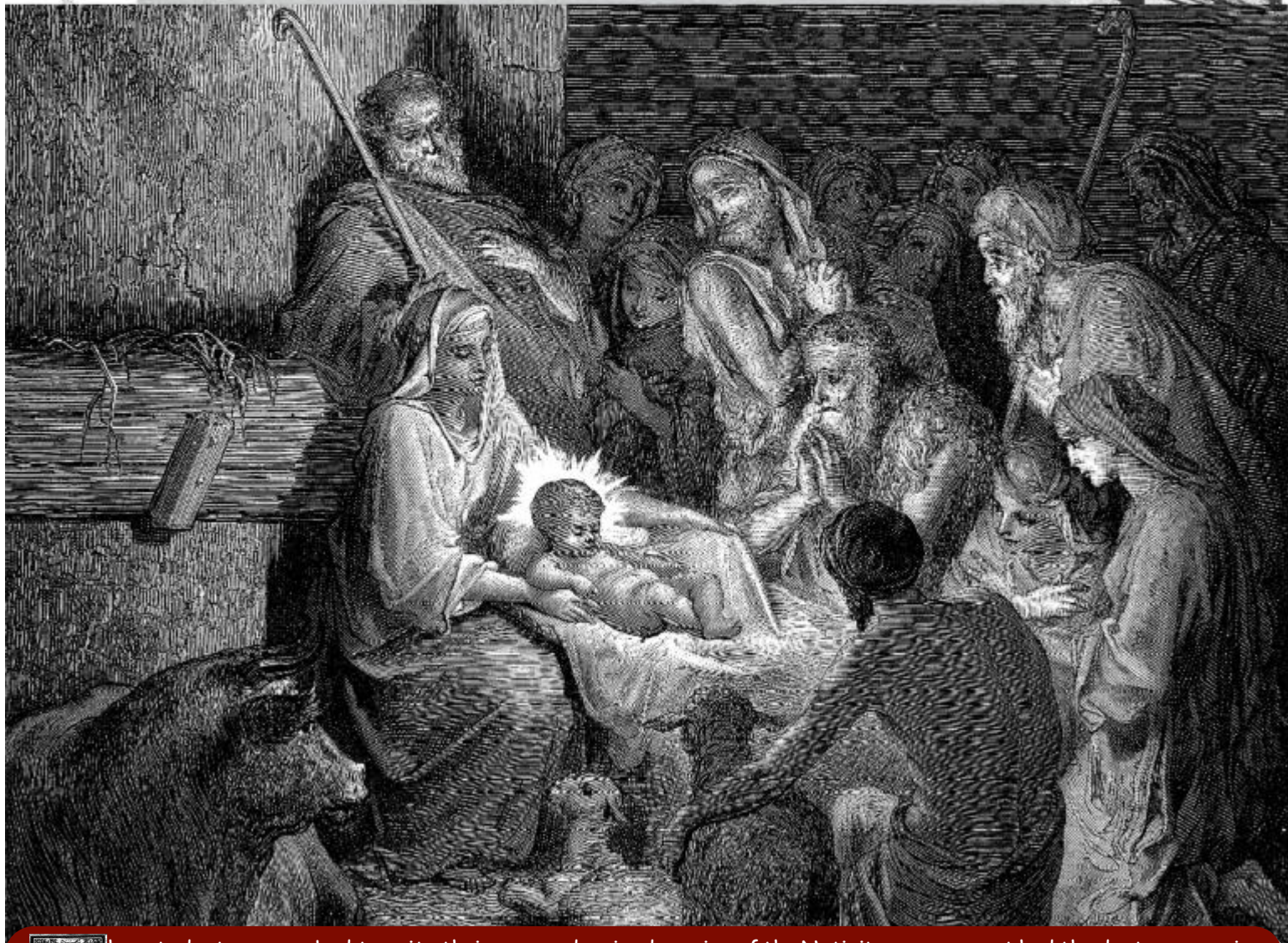
*National Shrine of Blessed
Francis Xavier Seelos*

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

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

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www.seelos.org



hen students were asked to write their own modernized version of the Nativity, one account had the doctor emerging from the delivery room to exclaim, "Congratulations, Joseph, it's a God!" In a first-grade class presentation of the Nativity, the boy playing the innkeeper told Joseph, "You're lucky. We just had a cancellation." In another presentation, the innkeeper said to Joseph, "Are you kidding? We're booked clear through Easter!"

Priceless stories like these abound this time of year; they are like gifts of gold, frankincense, and *mirth!* Saint Anthony of Padua said it best in a 13th century Christmas sermon: "Today God made the glorious virgin laugh, because from her is born our laughter. Laughter is born, Christ is born! Therefore, let us laugh and rejoice with the blessed virgin because God has given us in her a cause for laughing and rejoicing."

On December 24, 1864, Father Seelos corresponded to a friend while he was on the traveling Redemptorist mission band, "It is the eve of Christmas and for us, too, the words are meant: 'Peace to men on earth, who are of good will.' We have had very difficult times here - under strain day and night, and now on top of it all it is so terribly cold. Yet, I feel completely happy and content."

Happiness and contentment belong to us, for God deemed us worthy of His Son's Incarnation at Christmas! May our earth then be "reincarnated" by Christ's peace and goodwill to all!



Personal Appeal from the Director

Father Seelos was beatified in St. Peter's Square in the Solemn Jubilee Year 2000. Beatification is the final step before sainthood. To say we are still overjoyed is quite an understatement! Generations of countless prayers were offered for that intention and a conse-

quence of his beatification is a dramatic intensity in the ministry conducted at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. That is why we desperately need your help! ***Could you please support us in the construction of a new Seelos Welcome Center in New Orleans?***

Whatever we do for Blessed Seelos is an honor & worthy investment. Our Divine Physician has infused Father Seelos with the gift of His healing and has given us a powerful heavenly intercessor. We implore your help in this one-time appeal and unique opportunity to return a favor to our "friend in such a high place"! I speak from personal experience that Father Seelos is known to grant favors a hundredfold!

A former 3-story convent adjacent to the Seelos Shrine is presently being renovated for the Shrine's ministerial needs to include a visitor center befitting the trademark hospitality of both Father Seelos & the city of New Orleans. Plans are coming together to have the building ready for use by the summer of 2009. May we rely on your generosity to help us through these next crucial months and beyond?

A new Seelos Welcome Center is helpful in revitalizing our city, and most importantly, necessary in providing a meaningful & spiritual experience for the increasing number of national & local pilgrims who visit our Shrine.

We cannot continue this project without your help and we know it. We consider you a part of our extended family at the Seelos Center and kindly ask your support for this exciting development! Please join us in praying

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for your employer matching gift program or end-of-year gift.



Federal tax laws & those of many states allow you to bypass income, gift, & estate taxes on funds donated for charitable purposes, resulting in a lower tax bill while also supporting causes in which you believe. Surveys show most Americans make charitable gifts in December.
Our Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

for the project's success. I thank you in advance for being receptive to this invitation to give what you can to our urgent appeal and by designating "New SWC" on the return envelope; no amount is too small and we trust it will be from your heart.

In the Redeemer,

Byron Miller, C.S.R.

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

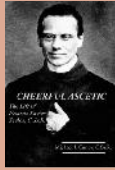
St. Bernard/Arabi

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:



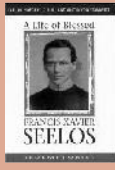
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-page hardbound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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)



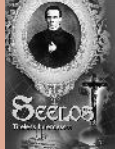
A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, a 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$12 - includes p/h)



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: \$25 DVD / \$10 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.



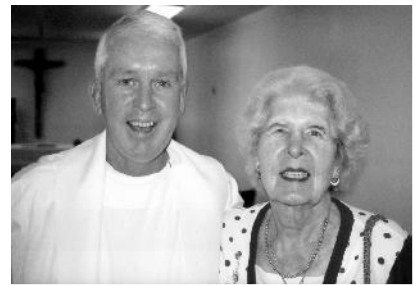
Name Says it All!

In describing the 5th annual Gala Dinner, Nell Nolan, social columnist for "The Times-Picayune" of New Orleans, wrote how the strength of the name Seelos says it all. The same may be said of the elegant Audubon Tea Room, where the well-attended event was held on October 5, 2008 to support the new Seelos Welcome Center project. Platinum & Silver Sponsors who contributed to the fundraiser's success were:

- Hilaire & Ethel Lanoux
- The Bellina Foundation, c/o Deborah Bellina
- Randy & Roslyn Eckstein
- Mary F. Ciolino
- Jack & Carol Dienes
- Wendell & Anne Gauthier
- Dr. David & Alma Weilbaecher

The hard-working Gala organizers were Anne Batt, Nick Punch, Joyce Bourgeois, Diana Maher, Elizabeth Mixon, Wilmae Spedale, Alma Weilbaecher, and Barbara Wheeler. The Gala followed the Seelos Memorial Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church. Redemptorist Fr. Denis Sweeney of Washington, D.C., was the guest presider and homilist.

Photos (from top): Fr. Denis Sweeney, C.Ss.R. & Julia Callahan; Adrienne Engelhardt & Dr. Gary Carroll, M.D.; Anne Batt & son, David. (Photo Credit: Bill Coskrey & Dennis Waldron)



DID YOU KNOW?

The National Seelos Shrine has provided hurricane relief totaling over \$65,000 to the Archdioceses of New Orleans & Galveston-Houston, the Dioceses of Beaumont, Baton Rouge, & Houma-Thibodaux!

Seelos Center News

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
- Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos
- Subscription is \$12 per year.



IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!

Nativity Scenes by Brother Max Schmalz, 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)



CARLSBAD, CA

I can accept a miracle happening to someone else, but when it happens to me, all I can say is shock sets in. I was diagnosed with CLL (a form of leukemia) and I also had a secondary carcinoma on my breast. A cat scan was done to find the primary cancer. All my friends prayed for me, even though I kept telling them I was tired and wanted to go home – but most of all I was praying to Blessed Francis to accept whatever. After two weeks, the scan came up with nothing. It also showed the breast lump was just that; it can be removed without having chemo or radiation. The blood was rechecked and there is no CLL either!

HARVEY, LA

My daughter has some issues with our religion. She has had to deal with different things in her life that were very hard for her to accept. I prayed to Fr. Seelos for help & my daughter was able to speak to a very special person who has helped so much. I am so grateful to Fr. Seelos for his help.

OXFORD, MS

I have been under the weather for a long time with kidney problems. The last three specialists took cat scans and it always has been a very hard burden on me for years after three painful surgeries. I couldn't go anymore. I prayed hard and others prayed for me. I went to another specialist last week and the scan showed no stones and nothing wrong. Of course, Jesus & Blessed Mother came first; but I prayed hard to Fr. Seelos and I know through his prayers, God healed me. I can't thank Fr. Seelos enough.

TESTIMONIALS KENNER, LA

When my son was three he started to have seizures. An EEG was done and doctors said that he had a form of epilepsy known as Lennox Gastout Syndrome. He was put on 7 seizure medicines, but the seizures kept getting worse. My son would have 100 seizures a day. In his sleep in the middle of the night he would have seizures. Another EEG showed him having seizure activity even when he was *not* having seizures. We took him to the Seelos Center twice in 2007 where he was blessed. When he later got an ear infection the ENT doctor put him on steroids for a week to clear it up. While on steroids, he stopped having seizures! The doctor said my son had a miracle. Although rare, some children with Lennox respond to steroids. My son's last steroid treatment was on Feb. 28, 2008; it was also the date of his last seizure! He's been seizure-free for 8 months now. We truly believe he was healed by the Seelos Center blessing, by our prayers day & night, and by our faith & hope in God.

HOUSTON, TX

My husband & I tried to have a baby for two years and we went to a fertility specialist for over a year. We then drove to New Orleans to the Fr. Seelos Shrine. My mother, husband, and I prayed in front of Fr. Seelos' remains while they were saying the rosary. I asked Fr. Seelos to pray for me so I could conceive. The next month I went to the doctor and was given an ultrasound that showed a little black circle with a heartbeat! I was so happy to be pregnant, knowing this was a miracle that Fr. Seelos helped me with. Every night I prayed to him to protect my fetus and I prayed for a healthy baby. In June, my healthy baby boy was born 4 weeks early, but all of his organs were mature. We baptized & named our son after Fr. Seelos. I am very grateful for Fr. Seelos' intercession and love him very much.

ALBANY, LA

Recently my daughter-in-law became seriously ill resulting from an unknown liver ailment. Within the span of two weeks she became progressively worse and was placed on the transplant list. I had been praying to Fr. Seelos to help her quickly. I visited his shrine and placed a relic over her liver. The very next day a new liver was obtained and surgery was performed immediately. Two months have passed and she is slowly but surely making progress. I know it was through the powerful intercession of Fr. Seelos that her successful transplant and recovery have occurred.

As seen on EW TV

Seelos Stocking Stuffer Special!

"SEELOS, TIRELESS INTERCESSOR"

Offer Good Thru Dec. 31 Only!

68 min. DVD (\$34.50)
\$25 - Best Price Ever!

68 min. VHS (\$29.50)
\$10 - Best Price Ever!

(Sale Price INCLUDES Postage/Handling)

PLEASE VISIT WWW.SEELOS.ORG

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:

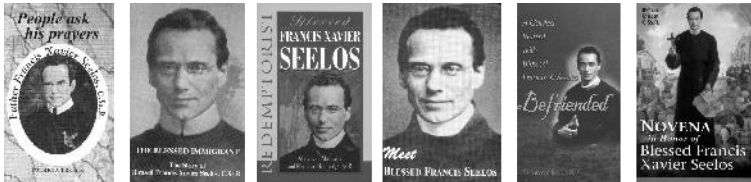
- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- the Seelos Scholarship Fund to support Redemptorist Seminarians.
- item(s) designated below:

- my Mass Intention(s):

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!



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 Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your address change request.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____