



SEELOS CENTER NEWS

*National Shrine of Blessed
Francis Xavier Seelos*

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

919 Josephine Street (504) 525-2495
New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 525-2499

Volume XLVIII Number 9 September 2009

www.seelos.org

**YOU ARE
CORDIALLY INVITED!**

**THE ANNUAL SEELOS
MEMORIAL MASS**

**Sunday, October 4, 2009
1:00 p.m.**

St. Mary's Assumption Church

(corner of Josephine & Constance)

Homilist & Presider:

Fr. John Fahey-Guerra, CSSR
Director of Seelos House, Chicago

**SIXTH ANNUAL SEELOS
GALA DINNER & AUCTION**

**Sunday, October 4, 2009
5:30 p.m.**

**Audubon Tea Room
6500 Magazine Street**

Call 504-525-2495 or 2499 for
Gala reservations by Tues., Sept. 29

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2009, Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes, Archbishop of New Orleans, received a Vatican decree establishing the October 5th celebration of Blessed Francis X. Seelos as an obligatory memorial in the New Orleans Archdiocese & an optional memorial in each of the dioceses of the New Orleans Province.

To those who celebrate sacramental confession and pray for the Pope's intentions, the Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence during the Year of the Priesthood on the first Thursday of the month or on any other day established by the local bishop. Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi also designated Seelos' October 5th feast day as a day for this indulgence in the Archdiocese of Mobile, Alabama.

"IT TURNED OUT TO BE WONDERFUL"

What started as a sore throat in February 2008 ended with a diagnosis of cancer three months later that took Deacon Eddy Beckendorf and his family on a journey through dark days of pain & amazing moments of grace. Deacon Eddy was eventually diagnosed with cancer on the left side of his neck. Driving home from a PET scan in Baton Rouge not long after the original diagnosis, he received a call from the doctor: There was cancer on the right side as well. "That's where a blessing comes in," Deacon Eddy says. If he had gone through all of the treatments for the left side, he could not have been treated for the other side. The doctor said his chance of survival was about 40%.

After undergoing the strongest chemo treatments possible, in combination with radiation, Deacon Eddy and his wife, Susan, began to see hope. But in September, another PET scan showed microscopic indications of cancer on the left side of the neck that had to be removed surgically. That's where Blessed Seelos comes in. Deacon Eddy had become familiar with Seelos through his friendship with parishioners Bill & Sunny Schulz. They had given him some third-class Seelos relics, which he often gave to cancer patients.

When Deacon Eddy met the surgeon who would operate on him, it was Dr. Anna Pou, who has a strong connection to Seelos herself. "The Lord has always given me cue cards," Deacon Eddy said. "I am a hard-headed German." He brought Dr. Pou a Seelos prayer card before surgery; when he awoke in his room, pinned to his gown was a third-class Seelos relic the doctor had given him. "I knew the Lord said, 'I was there.' It turned out to be wonderful."

By April, Deacon Eddy was back to the usual routine. Each Sunday at Mary, Queen of Peace parish, when he picks up the Book of Gospels on the altar, he says thank you to Blessed Seelos, whose relic is there in our sanctuary. The first time Deacon Eddy preached after his battle with cancer, his grandson Luke spoke to him after Mass to set something straight: "Does this mean I can stop praying for you, 'cause I have other people to pray for."

[Adapted text written by Karen Baker in *Peace Times* (Vol. 9, #4, July 2009), the newsletter of Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Mandeville LA.]

SIGN OF PROGRESS!

Workers install exterior signage to the new Seelos Welcome Center at 919 Josephine Street, adjacent to the Seelos Shrine in St. Mary's Assumption Church. Details in the next issue.



"PEARLS (OF WISDOM) BEFORE SWINE"

Father Seelos' familiarity with *Poor Richard's Almanac* by Benjamin Franklin is not known, but he adopted a similar common sense approach found in its pages: "A good example is the best sermon," "No gains without pains," "Work as if you were to live a hundred years; pray as if you were to die tomorrow," "Eat to live, and not live to eat" -- although, had Seelos lived in New Orleans longer than a year, he arguably might have "lived to eat," like many locals!

What is certain, however, is that Father Seelos was most familiar with the Scriptures, and from its pages, he adopted Christ's sensible approach to life: "Turn the other cheek," "Love thy neighbor," "Do unto others what you would have them do unto you."

Christ's message has universal appeal. Whether in ancient biblical times or in American colonial ones, some principles and ideas are timeless because many aspects of human behavior are universal. To that collection, Seelos offers us his own inspirational time-worn nuggets for widespread application: "Be faithful in little things," "Strive to embrace the crosses which God sends us with a willing, even joyful heart," "Have a reason to live, and know how to sacrifice yourself for it," "In matters of faith and piety, let us rather believe too much than too little."

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Bountiful God, in Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos You have given Your people a model for those who labor joyfully in Your earthly kingdom. May his smile dwell on those who find life burdensome. In him, our eyes continually behold the gentleness of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen
(here mention your special intentions)



THE FINAL STRETCH!

The new Seelos Welcome Center is a \$1.5 million dollar fundraising project. Less than \$850,000 is needed to reach this goal for expanding our ministries as we work toward Bl. Seelos' canonization. No amount is too little. For example, if only a hundred new donors contributed \$100 each month for the remainder of the year, \$40,000 would be generated to the cause! May we please rely on your generosity to help us complete the SWC project?

Seelos Center News

A monthly newsletter for friends of
BL. FRANCIS X. SEELOS

Denver Provincial Superior:

Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.

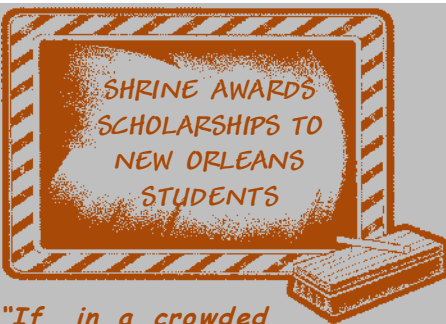
Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:

Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois

Vice-Postulators: Frs. John Vargas & Byron Miller

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



"If, in a crowded school, the teacher wished to spread youthful joy, all they had to do was to say to the children: 'Father Seelos is coming!' If it was desired to fill a church to overflowing for a special sermon, all that was necessary was to get the word around: 'Father Seelos is going to preach today!'"

Scholarships at the National Seelos Shrine support students who demonstrate academic merit & financial need, and offer 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 currently enrolled in Catholic schools 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 was **TAYLOR LEMOINE** (Metairie) to Brother Martin 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 university in the country.

The 2009 Outstanding Recipient of the Seelos High School Senior Scholarship was **ALLISON DA CUNHA** of Mt. Carmel Academy, New Orleans; the Honorary Recipient was **OLIVIA BOURGEOIS** of Academy of Our Lady, Marrero (photo below).



Seelos Center Services

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

☞ **Daily Spiritual Message**

Call 504-586-1803.

☞ **Blessings of the Sick** with a Seelos Crucifix in designated area hospitals:

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

Dennis Waldron: 504-442-6336

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: 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

Prairieville/Gonzales

M/M Claude Bourgeois 225-673-6688

Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-797-3116

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

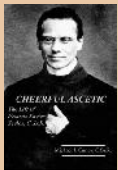
St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

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

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

Seelos Center Devotionals



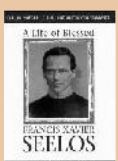
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



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



Seelos Rosary Ring: Made in Italy, great gift for First Communion in honor of Mary for the month of May. (Donation: \$3, incl. p/h)



A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, 108-page paperback biography, illustrated. (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: one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Ctr. or website for enrollment)



Seelos, Tireless Intercessor, a 68-min. documentary on Seelos' miraculous life; seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$25 for DVD - incl. p/h)



Death, Where Is Your Sting?, tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told by witnesses of his death to yellow fever. Seldom revealed details 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 pgs., illustr. (Donation: \$35 - incl. p/h)

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

☞ **Seelos 1st, 2nd & 3rd-Class Relics/Seelos Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** in English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.



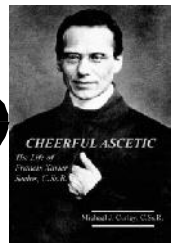
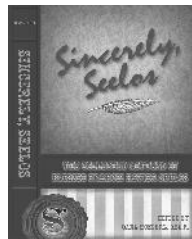
BOOK REVIEWS

The Collected Letters of Blessed Francis Seelos

Cheerful Ascetic: The Life of Francis Seelos

Carl Hoegerl, CSSR

Michael Curley, CSSR



The collected letters of Francis Xavier Seelos (1819-1867), the Redemptorist missionary priest and Bavarian immigrant to the United States who was beatified in 2000, are an astonishingly rich resource. This new annotated edition of Seelos's letters, expertly compiled by the Redemptorist historian and archivist Carl Hoegerl, is an elegantly produced volume that, although clearly designed with scholars in mind, will be quite appealing to devotional readers as well. The editor has wisely chosen to provide all of the 201 extant letters in their entirety, including fragments where these are all that exist, as well as reproductions of hand-drawn sketches from Seelos's original letters. Summaries of the contents of each letter, which are arranged chronologically in the book, are also given with headings that make for easy browsing. Each section features introductory commentary and background by the editor....

This collection of Seelos's letters is remarkable for the rare glimpses it offers into several aspects of nineteenth-century religious life spanning about twenty-five years. It records not only the author's own experiences and perceptions but also provides place descriptions and accounts of meetings with prominent individuals, insight into formation experiences in religious orders of women and men, spiritual advice, and poetry. Abundant and detailed information can also be gleaned about early American Catholic education, challenges to immigrant Catholics from both nativists and the harshness of frontier life, the author's experiences ministering to Civil War soldiers, and his often strongly voiced opinions about the war, among much else. ... This book is indeed a most valuable contribution to American Catholic history and a commendable achievement by its producers.

(Excerpt from review by Michael S. Carter, University of Dayton, in *The Catholic Historical Review*, Vol. XCV, No. 3, July 2009)

"I have come to dearly love Bl. Fr. Seelos. He has become a 'friend' and his letters are a constant source of good spiritual direction & encouragement. I speak about him to everyone in need of prayers & give out his holy cards." -- B. Bernardi, Pleasant Plains, IL

This book includes copious illustrations, mainly black-&-white photos, as well as endnotes, bibliography & index. Curley quotes from Seelos's works and from others who lived with and knew him. The epilogue tells about the process leading up to his beatification, updating the 1969 edition of the book. The front cover features an image of Seelos; the front flap bears an image of the reliquary that holds his relics kept in New Orleans. The title is not easy to come by. Used bookstores may have it, but the best place is to contact the Seelos Center. *Cheerful Ascetic* is highly recommended to those interested in Blessed Francis or those who might want to learn about an American blessed & American Church history.

(Excerpt from review by Br. Benet Exton, OSB, St. Gregory's University, Shawnee OK, as found on *Curled Up With A Good Book*, www.curledup.com, 2009)

① Great Gift Idea! Round hematite rosary beads & silver-colored cross with sepia-toned image of Bl. Seelos as the divider medal. \$26 (incl. p/h).

② Attractive pendant necklace depicts Bl. Seelos on one side & Mother of Perpetual Help on the other. Color images approx. 1" tall on cord necklace. Made in Brazil. \$12 (incl. p/h).

③ Popular scapular necklace with black & white images of Bl. Seelos & Mother of Perpetual Help, each measuring approx. 3/4" on cord necklace. Made in Brazil. \$12 (incl. p/h).



WILLIAMSVILLE, NY

Over the past several years I prayed daily to Bl. Seelos for my father's health, primarily his battle with Alzheimer's disease. At first I prayed for a cure or some sort of remission or stabilization of the disease, but I came to realize that miracles aren't always cures. Through Fr. Seelos' intercession I believe that my family found the appropriate assisted living facility for my dad that was close to us and allowed us to continue to be a part of his life & supportive to him. Throughout this time, I continued to pray to Fr. Seelos & would often touch my father with the Seelos relic. My father passed away from advanced dementia in May. We thank God for the graces given to Fr. Seelos & for the gift he gave us of our father.

BIRMINGHAM, AL

I have had renal cell carcinoma since 2001 with reoccurrences in 2001 & 2007. My last CT scan indicated no growth in the tumor and it was in stable condition. This is great news to me since chemo is not recommended. For the past 2 years I have kept a relic of Bl. Seelos & his picture in my room, and have called the Seelos Center many times for prayers. Thank you very much.

DALLAS, TX

After two miscarriages, my husband & I wondered if our dream of being parents would ever be a reality. Growing up in New Orleans, I knew of Bl. Seelos' many miracles & began to pray for his intercession. I became pregnant with twin boys in 2008; however, the doctors did not immediately see a membrane separating the twins and warned us that the pregnancy may not be healthy once again. In my 19th week, I visited the

TESTIMONIALS

Shrine and prayed with Joyce Bourgeois & all the wonderful people there. Unfortunately, I went into premature labor at 20 weeks. The doctors gave even little hope of survival for the twins. After constant prayers to Bl. Seelos, I did deliver perfectly healthy babies at 34 weeks. The doctors were amazed. My delivery was extremely complicated as I developed HELLP Syndrome and had an emergency partial hysterectomy and wound up in ICU. Bl. Seelos has truly blessed my life and that of my family through his powerful intercession.

PENSACOLA, FL

In 1988 my 18-month-old son was diagnosed with adrenal cortex carcinoma. Only 1 in a million people get this rare cancer. A New Orleans hospital was recommended, and thank God for that! While there, he was diagnosed with a malignant tumor the size of a grapefruit on his right adrenal gland. Doctors couldn't tell whether it was growing into his liver & aorta. The day before surgery, a friend familiar with Fr. Seelos came & prayed with us and brought a Seelos relic. The surgery was over sooner than expected & we feared that nothing could be done -- which is what doctors told us going into the surgery. Instead, we received a miracle from the Lord, thanks to Fr. Seelos' intercession! The tumor was encapsulated and totally removed. Our son was able to go home within a week and never required chemo or any type of treatment!



ODESSA, TX

In November 2008, my mother was recuperating from her 27th surgery for recurrent melanoma, & also to treat her eye, which doctors contemplated removing. Ironically, on my last visit to her in upstate New York, I was watching "Fox & Friends" & heard mention of a woman diagnosed with cancer who credited her cure to a 19th century priest. Instinctively, I knew who the story was about. Later that morning, I watched them interview Mary Ellen Heibel (& was familiar with her story from the newsletter I'd received). My favorite part of the interview was when they posed the question, "Why do you suppose you were chosen for this miracle?" She answered that she wasn't sure, but that Bl. Seelos has been responsible for many cures. Our family has firsthand knowledge of his powerful intercession. We were all astounded after hearing the news in March that my mother is cancer-free! My mother feels that Fr. Seelos & the Blessed Virgin also had a strong hand in her cure. We all give thanks to God, as we realize that he is the ultimate giver of Grace.

STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

In July, I had a hysterectomy & bladder repair at Emory Hospital. I was sent home with the instructions that if I had fever higher than 100.4 I had to go to the emergency room. On my first night at home, I was shaking uncontrollably with a fever of 102.9. I embraced a first class relic of Bl. Seelos and begged him to make we well so I wouldn't have to return to the hospital. I woke up with fever of only 99 degrees and it never came back. Praise God who granted me this favor through Bl. Seelos.

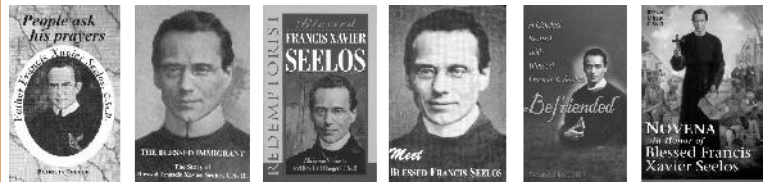
Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$_____ to be used for:

- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- completion of Seelos Welcome Center construction project.
- item(s) designated below:

- my Mass Intention(s):

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.

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- Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

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