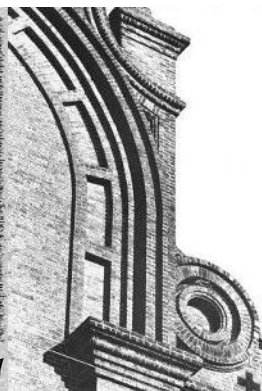




# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

*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 12 December 2009 [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO FRIENDS & HELPERS

The time may be approaching fast  
when in Rome I will be canonized,  
& the goal that you've worked for with such devotion  
will finally become realized.

I'm trying to help as many people as I can.  
To our Father everyday do I plead  
that He'll answer each petition that comes my way,  
most *importantly* every spiritual need.

"Cheerful ascetics" *all* people can be  
by accepting His will, come what may.  
To do so with a smile when life's burdens are heavy --  
no greater tribute to faith can one pay!

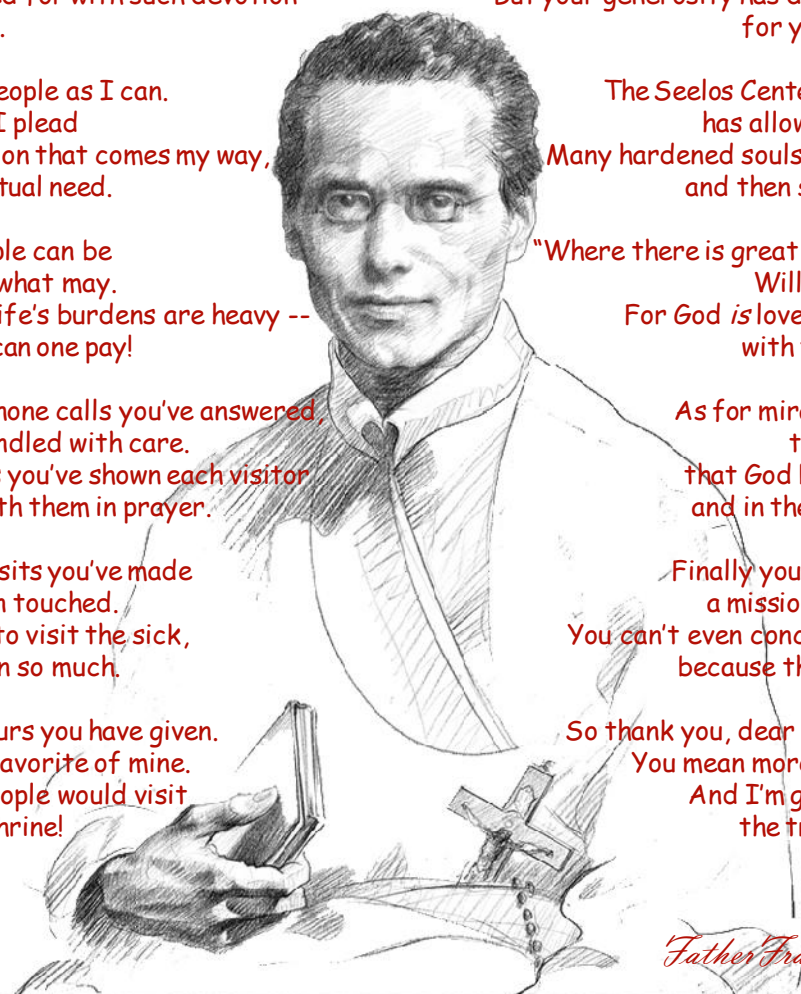
Thank you for the myriad phone calls you've answered,  
and each letter you have handled with care.  
Thanks too for the kindness you've shown each visitor  
and the time you've spent with them in prayer.

For the numerous hospital visits you've made  
be assured I have truly been touched.  
Through you I've continued to visit the sick,  
which to me will always mean so much.

Thanks for the countless tours you have given.  
Saint Mary's Church was a favorite of mine.  
I never imagined one day people would visit  
to pray in Blessed Seelos' Shrine!



Poem by Seelos Center Volunteer  
Elizabeth Fitzpatrick



Thank you to the benefactors over the years.  
Canonization has long been a goal.  
But your generosity has done so much more in the process,  
for you've helped to save many a soul.

The Seelos Center ministry that you've supported  
has allowed my main goal to be achieved:  
Many hardened souls have learned of me or a healing,  
and then said, "My Lord & God, I believe!"

"Where there is great love, there are *always* miracles,"  
Willa Cather once said, and it's true.  
For God *is* love and you've brought Him to many  
with the work in my name that you do.

As for miracles (which get much attention),  
the greatest one we often forget:  
that God became human, died for our sins,  
and in the tabernacle remains with us yet.

Finally you're proving a point I'd like made:  
a missionary doesn't have to travel miles.  
You can't even conceive how many souls now believe  
because they saw God in your warm smiles.

So thank you, dear friends, for all that you've done.  
You mean more to me than mere words can say.  
And I'm glad I'll have all eternity to prove  
the truth of my words to you this day.

Merry Christmas,

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

### COME ALL YE FAITHFUL!

Has it been a long time since you've  
visited "the old neighborhood"? If you  
grew up in the Irish Channel but moved  
elsewhere, or if it has been a number  
of years since you've prayed before the  
"tomb" of Father Seelos, much has changed! The neighborhood is quite different;  
the "tomb" of Father Seelos is now a beautiful reliquary in a shrine, and the Seelos  
Center has recently relocated. During this busy time of year please "come home"  
and stop by for a prayer to stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

PLEASE VISIT US  
AT OUR NEW  
LOCATION,  
919 JOSEPHINE  
STREET!



*The New Orleans Garden District:  
Where Even the Streets  
are Ploughed Up!*

This isn't a bumper sticker; besides, something with far greater adhesion is needed to help retain our bumpers, given the notorious street conditions of New Orleans!

The Garden District is an urban eden so-named, of course, for its lush, verdant gardens and recognized for its concentration of historic, antebellum architecture.

"These mansions stand in the center of large grounds and rise, garlanded with roses, out of the midst of swelling masses of shining green foliage and many-colored blossoms. No houses could well be in better harmony with their surroundings, or more pleasing to the eye ..." wrote Mark Twain after a visit in the 1870s.

Likewise, Father Seelos was captivated by the semi-tropical surroundings of his New Orleans home. In a letter to a Redemptorist confrere, he wrote, "Oh, what a blessed winter as

that in New Orleans. I had no idea though you often told me. And the southern plants! The bananas, oh, wisdom of God. Oh, beauty of that creative power which brought to existence such a vegetation."

Seelos penned these remarks on Christmas Day, 1866. How characteristic of him to spend time on Christmas praising God for the beauty of southern plants, rather than lament the absence of snow and other elements associated with his upbringing in alpine Germany!

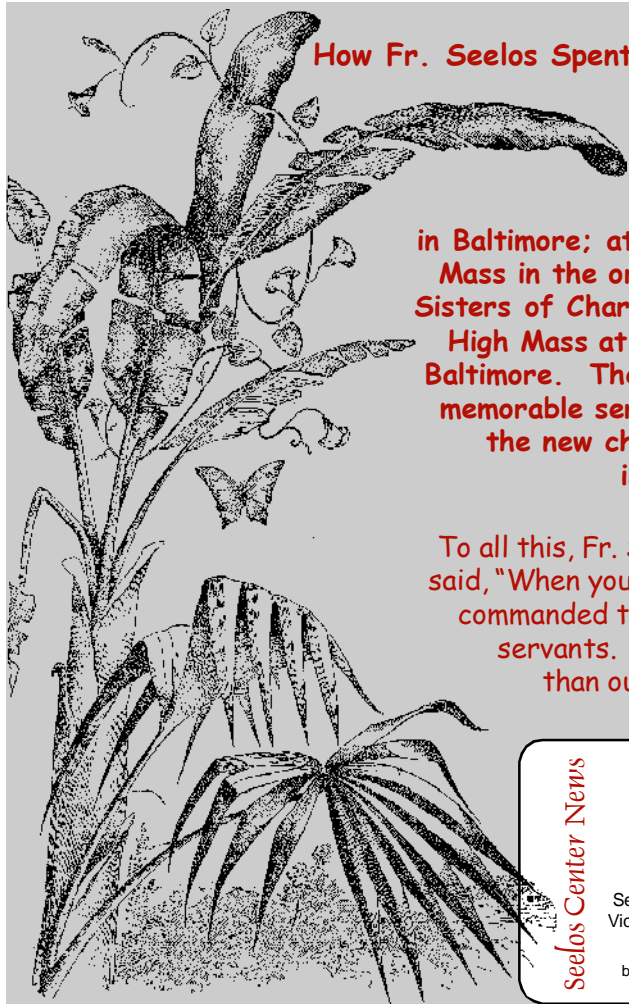
During this time of hustle 'n bustle -- amid potlucks & potholes -- may God's beauty be found in little things ... in Spanish moss or in snowflakes, wherever applicable. Great wonders do come in small bundles. After all, it was a tiny Infant brought to human existence by such a mighty creative Power that we celebrate at Christmas!

*Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.*

**How Fr. Seelos Spent Christmas 150 Years Ago**

**On Christmas 1859, he celebrated Midnight Mass at the Visitation Convent in Baltimore; at 5:30 a.m., he celebrated Mass in the orphanage operated by the Sisters of Charity; at 10:00, he sang the High Mass at Saint Alphonsus Church, Baltimore. The next day, he preached a memorable sermon at the dedication of the new church of Saint Michael in Baltimore.**

**To all this, Fr. Seelos would no doubt have said, "When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, 'We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty'" (Lk 17, 10)**



**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.

**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.

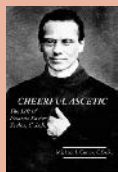
☞ **Blessings of the Sick** with a Seelos Crucifix in designated area hospitals:

- 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**  
Gasper 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



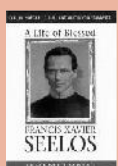
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>-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.

## "LET'S BUILD SOMETHING SPECIAL TOGETHER!"

Through the pages of this newsletter for the better part of the year, you have charted the progress of the Seelos Welcome Center construction project. The Seelos Center has now relocated to its new facility adjacent to the Shrine at 919 Josephine Street -- near the corner of Constance & Josephine streets, one block away (& across the courtyard) from our old site. Please visit us at our new location!

The Seelos Welcome Center is a \$1.5 million dollar fundraising project. Less than \$665,000 is needed to reach this goal for expanding our ministry as we work toward Bl. Seelos' canonization. No amount is too little. May we please rely on your generosity to help us furnish & complete the SWC building?



A Special Healing Mass  
with Sacrament of Anointing  
to Commemorate the  
Birthday of Father Seelos

SUNDAY, January 10, 2010  
1:00 p.m.  
St. Mary's Assumption Church  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans

New  
Items!

### DISTINCTIVE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEA!

THE SEELOS CENTER IS PLEASED TO OFFER AN EXCLUSIVE 8 1/2" DEVOTIONAL STATUE OF BL. SEELOS BY ROMAN INC., A LEADING PRODUCER OF INSPIRATIONAL GIFTS. FINE DETAIL, RESIN-STONE MIX

- Wood-Tone Finish (\$38, incl. p/h)
- Bronze Finish (\$38, incl. p/h)
- Hand-Painted Finish (\$38, incl. p/h)
- 1 Statue (specify finish) + Seelos DVD (\$60, incl. p/h)

"Dear Fr. Seelos, Recently I watched a program about your life & it brought tears to my eyes. Your love for Jesus was tremendous."  
-- comment posted on seelos.org prayer guestbook



## MAURICE, LA

Our 9-year-old son was rushed to Tulane Hospital after a mass was found on his brain. Further testing revealed a second brain tumor, totally different from the first & in a different area of the brain. They had never seen this before in one person. Jack Pitkin from the Seelos Center blessed our son with the relic cross before his first surgery & we started to pray to Fr. Seelos ever since. Two brain surgeries over 6 months later, we are double blessed that both of the different tumors were benign. I truly believe that Fr. Seelos touched our lives for our son's health.

## BELLMORE, NY

In 2007, my grandson was born prematurely, weighing 5 lbs., with Cystic Fibrosis, and needing immediate stomach surgery. We prayed hard and put a Fr. Seelos relic on our baby. My husband & I stayed with him constantly for 3-1/2 months at Snyder Institute. Every day we were in shock that he survived another day. He is our miracle Seelos baby, now over 2 years old. When my daughter takes Kendall Matthew Seelos for his check-ups, the doctors are amazed!

## METAIRIE, LA

I have been devoted to Fr. Seelos since I was a small child. My mother took me to the shrine where I was comforted by the presence of Our Lord & his servant, Fr. Seelos. Last October, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I immediately began wearing my relic & was prayed over at the shrine. I knew that our prayers were being heard. After treatment, the MRI & surgery showed that the tumor was gone. All praise & glory to our faithful God & sincere thanksgiving to Fr. Seelos' intercession for my healing.

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.
- furnishing the new Seelos Welcome Center.
- item(s) designated below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- my Mass Intention(s):

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.*

# TESTIMONIALS

## UNIONTOWN, OH

My wife suffered with seizures for 4 years. Then I heard about Fr. Seelos on EWTN. In March 2008 we went to the Center & prayed; when we returned home, we went to a new doctor who changed her medication for the better. However, she continued to suffer only minor seizures, so in March 2009 we returned to the Seelos Center for prayers. She has not had a seizure since.

## KENNER, LA

In 2006 I was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma. Upon leaving the doctor's office I immediately went to the Shrine and received the prayers & blessings of the relic cross by Joyce Bourgeois. Soon after the blessing I felt a calmness and inner strength to face my treatment. During the treatment I wore the relic & medal of Bl. Seelos. As a result of Bl. Seelos' intercession I was healed and have been in remission for 2-1/2 years now. I can't thank Bl. Seelos enough for his powerful intercession & I continue to pray that he be declared a saint soon.

## MONROE, LA

My 87-year-old mother checked into the hospital for a simple outpatient surgical procedure, but she had a reaction to the anesthesia. She ceased breathing and was put on the respirator. We began to say the Fr. Seelos prayer at her ICU bedside & placed one of Fr. Seelos' relics in her hand. She gradually improved & was released from ICU; however, she had very limited movement in her extremities, which the doctors attributed to a stroke. The hospital staff had to literally pick her up & place her in the chair. In the

following weeks, she made a miraculous recovery that still seems to amaze the doctors. However, our family attributes her recovery to Fr. Seelos' intervention.

## HAMILTON SQUARE, NJ

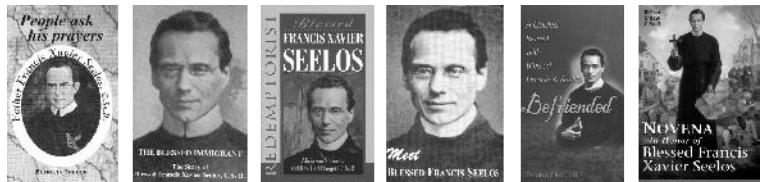
My son & his wife recently visited me from Nevada where they live. They were going to spend 3 days in New Orleans on their return trip home, so I asked my dear daughter-in-law if she would be able to locate the National Seelos Shrine and light a candle for me. My son does not go to church & I have been praying to Bl. Seelos for his return to the faith for two years. Lo & behold, my son called me to tell me *he* went to the Seelos Shrine with his wife and they toured the facilities. He also told me he lit a candle as well and got some holy water. I am so thankful and hopeful because I think he will return to his faith after being at the shrine.



*As you review your year-end plans, please consider our canonization cause & ministry at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos (Fed. Tax ID #72-0516253). Federal tax laws & those of many states make it possible to bypass income, gift, & estate taxes on funds you donate for charitable purposes. This can result in a lower tax bill while you gain the satisfaction of supporting causes in which you believe. Most Americans make charitable gifts in December.*



## KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!



Make a Self-Guided Advent Retreat with Bl. Seelos: All 6 for \$13, incl. 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_