

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

*National Shrine of
Blessed Francis
Xavier Seelos
In the Redemptorist Church
of Saint Mary's Assumption*

*Volume XLIX
Number 1*

www.seelos.org

919 Josephine Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

(504) 525-2495 / (504) 525-2499

January 2010

SHORT-TERM ASSIGNMENT; LONGTIME IMPRESSION

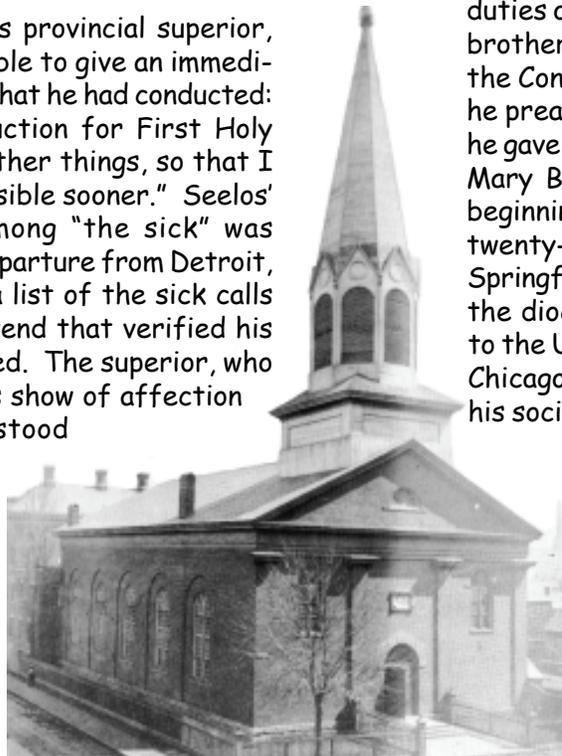
It is astonishing how Father Seelos easily endeared himself to the people of New Orleans after serving here for only a year. It may be even more surprising to know how beloved Father Seelos was in the short ten months that he was stationed in Detroit, just prior to his arrival in the Crescent City.

Even though Father Seelos was assigned to St. Mary's Church, Detroit, in November 1865 to September 1866, he was often absent from the parish due to prior preaching obligations. Nevertheless, on the night before his departure, a large, appreciative crowd gathered to say farewell. There were speeches, to which Seelos replied, followed by serenades from St. Mary's choir and city bands that commenced at 11 p.m.

On a separate occasion, even the bishop of Detroit astutely remarked, "I am sorry that Father Seelos must leave my diocese, for one has only to look at him to know he is a saint."

In a May 1866 letter to his provincial superior, Seelos explains why he was unable to give an immediate written report on a retreat that he had conducted: "I had the children for instruction for First Holy Communion, and the sick, and other things, so that I can, in truth, say it was not possible sooner." Seelos' reference to his ministry among "the sick" was understated; in fact, upon his departure from Detroit, Seelos gave his local superior a list of the sick calls to which he could no longer attend that verified his zeal and devotion to the infirmed. The superior, who was confounded by the people's show of affection toward Seelos, better understood their display of gratitude when he discovered the level of extreme impoverishment by those on the list that Seelos had befriended.

St. Mary's, the third oldest parish in Detroit, was founded in 1834. The Redemptorists administered the parish from 1847 to 1872.



Come One,
Come All!

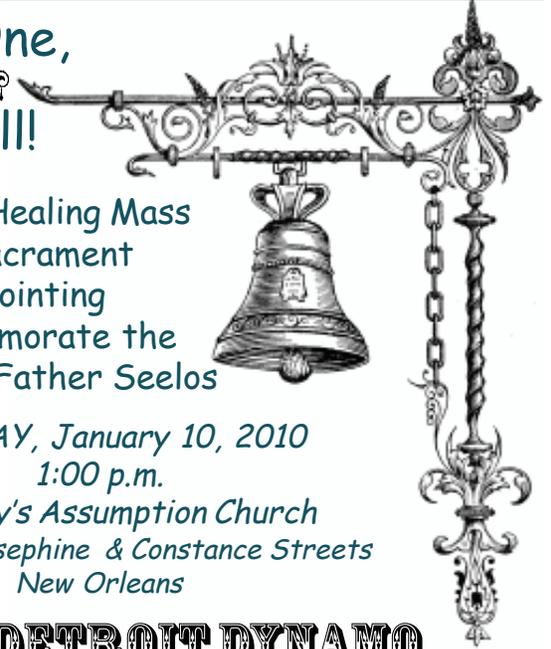
A Special Healing Mass
with Sacrament
of Anointing
to Commemorate the
Birthday of Father Seelos

SUNDAY, January 10, 2010
1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Assumption Church
Corner of Josephine & Constance Streets
New Orleans

THE DETROIT DYNAMO

While a member of the Redemptorist community in Detroit, Father Seelos was entrusted "with the duties of assistant to the pastor and prefect of the brothers. He often gave the evening conference to the Confraternity of the Holy Family. In February, he preached the parish Forty Hours. April 24 - 27, he gave a three-day retreat to the students at Saint Mary Boarding School, Nazareth, Ohio. ... At the beginning of July, he gave a retreat in German to twenty-five priests of the Diocese of Alton (later Springfield), Illinois. After the retreat he attended the diocesan synod, after which he gave a retreat to the Ursuline Sisters. Returning to Saint Michael, Chicago, he was appointed by the provincial ... to be his socius. During the first week in August, he gave a retreat to the clergy in the Milwaukee Diocese. On the way back to Detroit, he preached in English for the feast of the Assumption in Immaculate Conception Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. At the end of August, he was transferred to New Orleans, for which he departed on September 25 ..." -- *Sincerely Seelos: The Collected Letters of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos*, edited by Carl Hoegerl, CSSR



PATRON OF OPTIMISTS

Fr. Michael Heher recounts how a woman parishioner at the daily morning Mass prays collectively "for vocations, the homeless, and an end to abortion," as though she believed them to be equally hopeless causes. Yet, in rings a new year... and hope springs eternal!

No doubt, had Optimist International existed in Father Seelos' day, he gladly would have been a card-carrying member! Over 3,000 Optimist Clubs in more than 35 nations conduct positive service projects in local communities aimed at improving the lives of children. Fr. Seelos -- the ever "Cheerful Ascetic" -- would have resonated with the Optimist Creed that urges members "to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile; to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others; to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble."

What better time than beginning a new year to adopt such a worthwhile credo!

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.



FOR A NEW YEAR'S TOAST

*If you would fill your flagons
To toast the New Year's birth,
We know the sweetest vintage
That bubbles on the earth.*

*A redder wine than Cana's,
Where water, flaming, flushed.
As if a million rubies
Were thrown within, and crushed.*

*A dregless draught, and dearer
Than pearls without a taint,
Or relic softly stolen
From the body of a saint.*

*It wins us timeless treasures,
To live and linger yet
When all the stars are cinders
And when the sun is jet.*

*And when this toast is taken,
Unlike the ruder wine,
It lifts a man from lusting
And makes him half divine.*

*But where to find the wonder --
The drink beyond surpass?
Behold! a priest is lifting
A Cup at Holy Mass.*

*-- Thomas H. Cosgrove, C.Ss.R.,
January 1943*



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/Innercity

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: 225-753-3800
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.

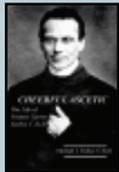
Seelos Center News

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 Devotionals



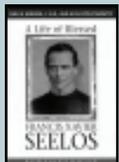
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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 your favorite Valentine in the month of February. (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)



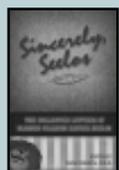
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Ctr. or website for enrollment)



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.



NEW YEAR'S READING RECOMMENDATION



Anne Rice's first autobiography. Called Out of Darkness: A Spiritual Confession is an inspiring faith conversion account, with evocative descriptions of growing up in New Orleans, & Anne's personal memories in the parish with the Redemptorists, Mercy Sisters & School Srs. of Notre Dame. Hardbound/245 pages. Also, receive a complimentary souvenir issue of Liguorian magazine featuring an "Interview with Anne Rice." \$30 donation (incl. p/h).



THEY THOUGHT TO TELL US

"I love getting my newsletter every month. I love all the bits of wisdom and the things Father Seelos recorded." - Metairie LA

"I visited the Seelos Center a week ago and was awed at how the old nuns' house had changed. Fabulous! And the meditation yard is glorious." - New Orleans

Thanks for your help during the past year in converting the former School Sisters of Notre Dame Convent into the new Seelos Welcome Center. Less than \$625,000 of the \$1.5 million dollar fundraising goal is needed to expand 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?

HOW TO FIND US

The Seelos Center has 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!



From US 90, take the Tchoupitoulas exit to Josephine St. Or, from St. Charles Avenue, take Jackson Ave. to Annunciation (turn left) and turn onto Josephine. Visitors please be advised that a nearby section of Jackson Ave. is now camera-enforced for its 25 mph speed limit, and the city of New Orleans will soon extend its parking meter hours to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday; this will apply to the shopping/dining corridor on Magazine Street, one block away from the shrine.

DISTINCTIVE DEVOTIONAL!

New Items!

THE SEELOS CENTER IS PLEASED TO OFFER AN EXCLUSIVE 8 1/2" 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



AUSTIN, TX

I asked Fr. Seelos for assistance in buying a home. The experience was easier than buying a car. I put a contract out in September and closed on 10/15, moving in the following day. Fr. Seelos is a wonderful source of prayer.

MURRIETA, CA

I'm very thankful that I have known Bl. Seelos through EWTN. Through his intercession my prayers are answered. Every time I went for a procedure I carried the Seelos 1st class relic and got good results. My MRI & PET scan show no trace of cancer. I am a pancreatic cancer survivor!

METAIRIE, LA

I have carried in my home or on my person a scapular of Fr. Seelos for probably 50 years, but sadly have only prayed for his canonization once when I received the relic. My son, who is quite ill with kidney function loss has a business that was not doing well. Fr. Seelos entered my mind & I called upon him to help my son. Now, the business is flourishing and the latest test for my son's life-threatening kidney condition is the very first one within normal range since onset.

SIMMESPORT, LA

In September, my husband was in a terrible accident. He was unconscious in ICU in Jackson, MS for twenty-five days. Throughout this time, a woman of a family friend sent me this relic of Fr. Seelos, which we prayed with every day. Miraculously, he started improving and awoke. We gave the relic back to the generous woman who loaned it to us. I truly believe my husband is with us today through faith and prayer.

TESTIMONIALS

THIBODAUX, LA

My sister & brother-in-law are very devoted to Bl. Seelos and they often visit his shrine. He had a heart attack on his 63rd birthday and was admitted into ICU with multiple blockages and a blood clot in a main artery. While in ICU a Bl. Seelos relic was given to him & he kept it with him at all times. After undergoing an emergency angiogram, the cardiologist explained to the family that his condition was critical & the outcome uncertain. There were 34 family members & friends at the hospital praying, and after the procedure, the cardiologist was elated with the results. The blood clot dissolved and 4 stents were placed in the blocked artery. The power of prayer! We are all so grateful to God and to Bl. Seelos for his intercession.

BILOXI, MS

In January 2009, my father was diagnosed with small cell carcinoma. By the time it was discovered, it had metastasized to the liver. The doctor found one drug that wouldn't affect the liver & explained to us that if it worked, it would extend his life about five months. In February I went to the Shrine & prayed for Bl. Seelos to help give him comfort, and especially for him not to suffer as the cancer was in his lungs. We pinned a first class relic to my dad's shirt & he spread the story of Bl. Seelos to everyone that visited him. I went back to the Shrine in June thankful that my dad was still alive and not in a lot of pain. He passed away in July on his 73rd birthday. I believe dad was kept here to show people what true faith was and to acquaint Bl. Seelos to them.

NEW ORLEANS, LA

Exactly 22 years ago this week I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was then a young mother with three daughters. By a miracle, I found Fr. Seelos & Angela Boudreaux [former Seelos Ctr. Admin.], who prayed with me over the phone and told me of her own cure from liver cancer. I was too sick from the treatment to go to the Center at that time, although I did go to Mass there several times after I felt better. Years later, a check-up revealed something suspicious in the bone scan. My husband & I decided to visit the Seelos Center for a blessing before going to the hospital, and a great peace came over us. The results indicated that everything was clear! I was never told by my doctor that I was cancer-free, only that they saw no evidence of it. Well, after 22 years, I think I am cured and I know for sure that it is through Fr. Seelos' intercession!

CUT OFF, LA

My husband's cousin was diagnosed with oral cancer & scheduled to have his teeth extracted prior to surgery, because it was thought that the teeth might hamper total removal of the cancer. Upon hearing the news, I went to the Seelos Shrine & prayed for a successful surgery. The day before the surgery, the doctors came in and decided to do another biopsy. They were shocked; there were no signs of malignancy or anything. All the tests came back clean. Thank you Fr. Seelos.

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for charitable gifts and employer matching programs.
Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

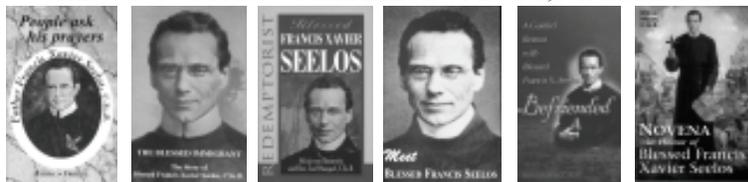
Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$_____ to be used for:

- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- furnishing & completing the new Seelos Welcome Center.
- item(s) designated below:

- my Mass Intention(s):

All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.

ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FR. SEELOS



Make a Self-Guided 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 Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your address change request.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP