

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

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

*Volume XLIX
Number 3*

www.seelos.org

919 Josephine Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

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March 2010



In September 2009 the Seelos Center staff began the arduous task of moving into their new edifice, a former School Sisters of Notre Dame convent built in 1940. Shortly thereafter, a School Sister showed up unexpectedly at the door of the Shrine director's office while he was busy unpacking, and announced, "This was my bedroom!" No doubt, Sister kept a neater bedroom than the Redemptorist director does his office!

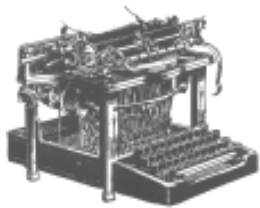
Nevertheless, the staff was able to tidy up the entire building sufficiently enough for a dedication, blessing & open house on January 30th. The auspicious occasion had almost 200 honored guests in attendance, including Most Rev. Gregory Aymond, D.D., Very Rev. Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R., many School Sisters of Notre Dame, and those most involved in the Seelos Welcome Center construction project.

The blessing of the SWC is the culmination of a master plan that was years in the making. It is the completion of one component, but sets the stage for another. A School Sister who wrote after the ceremony stated our mission best: "The building looks wonderful! The dedication was elegant! Now we're ready for the next act, Father Seelos' canonization. Then we can say that the only two canonized American priests are Redemptorists."

*How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place,
O Lord!*

Clockwise: Entertainment by New Orleans Ragtime & Dixieland Band; Archbishop Gregory Aymond of New Orleans; Sr. Christine Hippler, SSND; Br. Frank Roberts, CSSR & Fr. Gerard LaPorte, CSSR; SSND Srs. Marie Claire Powell & Clared Coyne of Chatawa, MS; SWC Administrator Joyce Bourgeois; Phyllis Taylor, guest; Redemptorist Provincial, Rev. Thomas Picton.





MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

An extensive study reported in a recent issue of the journal *Science*, found that people in sunny states say they're the happiest Americans. Ranking number one in happiness was Louisiana, home of Dixieland music, Cajun/Creole cooking ... and finally, the NFL Super Bowl champions! Rounding out the blissful five were Hawaii, Florida, Tennessee & Arizona. According to the study, at the other end of the scale, last in happiness, is New York state. (Why is LA first & NY last? Unscientifically, I wonder if it's because New York is the city that never sleeps, and New Orleans is the one that never sobers!)

Climate conditions may contribute to one's contentment in life, but there are numerous factors. Other studies present significant data on the positive effects of religion and spirituality on our overall happiness. There is a familiar story about an elderly man who had his share of struggles in life, but endured each challenge with a smile. When asked the secret to his happiness, despite so many hardships, the man replied, "The Bible often says, 'And it came to pass,' but never once does it say, 'It came to stay.'" While mild depression may be a fact of life, and some struggles in life are always without adequate explanation, people of faith find contentment and consolation in God's Word & sacraments, in abiding by a Code of Life and adhering to a community of believers. Our worldview gains perspective when faith & prayer become a *modus vivendi*. We can smile in the face of adversity because we know that "this too shall pass!"

Father Seelos was quite content in the "sunny south," as he described his time in Louisiana, but his happiness seemed to emanate from a far less fickle source than the weather. Jesus said, "All this I tell you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11).

Byron Miller, C.S.R.

"Thank you for the beautiful celebration. The [January] Healing Mass & Anointing was so spiritual; I really felt like heaven was right here on earth.

My husband & I were so impressed that we will return next year if God wills it.

We have been praying for several relatives & friends with cancer and so far, most are doing better than expected. -- Memphis, TN

New!

ADDITIONAL SEELOS HEALING MASS ADDED!

For the past 20+ years, a Seelos Mass & Luncheon were held on the last Sunday of April; and for the last 9 years, a Healing Mass coincided with Fr. Seelos' birthday every January. The Healing Mass has steadily grown in attendance! This year's Mass attracted a thousand people, despite inclement weather, making it difficult for the "standing room only" crowd. On Sunday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m., we wish to offer another Seelos Healing Mass and forego the traditional April Luncheon. (However, our 7th Annual Gala at the Audubon Tea Room will still be held after the October 3, 2010 Seelos Feast Day Mass.)

Anyone who attended the January Mass and would again benefit from the Healing Sacraments of Penance and/or Anointing, please come. Those who have attended the April Seelos Masses in the past, but are not in need of Healing Sacraments, please come too -- since confession is offered before the Mass & anointing immediately after.

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

Kenner (Ochsner)

Linda DiMaggio: 504-275-8827

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: 225-753-3800

Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

Bogalusa

Mary Haaga: 985-735-1056

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

LaPlace

Courtney Guidry: 985-653-1343

Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394

Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

Ponchatoula/Hammond

Gasper Corpora: 225-294-5938

Prairieville/Gonzales

M/M Claude Bourgeois 225-673-6688

Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

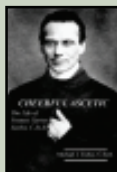
St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

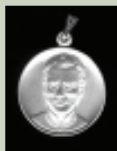
☞ **Veneration of Bl. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** in St. Mary's Assumption Church at Josephine & Constance St.

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

Seelos Center Devotionals



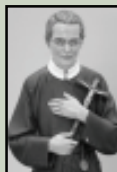
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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).



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)



Statue of Bl. Seelos, Roman Inc. exclusive 8-1/4" hand-painted finish, fine detail, resin-stone mix. (Donation: \$38 - includes p/h)



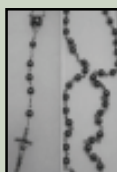
Seelos Scapular: B&W images of Bl. Seelos & Mother of Perpetual Help, each measuring approx. 3/4" on cord necklace. Made in Brazil. (Donation: \$12 - includes p/h)



Seelos Healing Card: a deluxe remembrance card for someone in need of healing. (Donation: \$12, contact Seelos Ctr. for enrollment)



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



Seelos Hematite Rosary, round rosary beads & silver-colored cross with Bl. Seelos image as the divider medal. (Donation: \$26 - incl. p/h)



Seelos Bust, plaster with deep gold finish, weighs over 5.5 lbs. Hand-crafted in New Orleans, approx. 11.5"H x 8"W x 5.5"D (Donation: \$97 - incl. certified 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fr. Joseph Elliott, C.Ss.R.

It would be ashamed if the *Seelos Center News* were to ever stop printing and no longer offer news about the Blessed that is more than fit to print. This "news" comes from another St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, located in Whittier, California, about 15 miles east of Los Angeles. Here, a baptismal room was renovated into a shrine for popular Redemptorist saints; it was blessed by Very Rev. Thomas Picton, C.Ss.R., Provincial Superior. The saint at the center is Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer. He is seated in episcopal robes as though presiding over a court of Redemptorists. In a manner of speaking, those depicted in this shrine have lived by the sentence from this saint. Alphonsus is surrounded by Saints John Neumann, Gerard Majella, Clement Hofbauer, and last but not least, is the one whose glory is revealed at the National Seelos Shrine. Just as he is central to St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans, so he and the other Redemptorist holy men are the pride of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church in Whittier, CA.



St. Alphonsus Liguori, Whittier CA

CHOICE PICKS
FOR LENT



Handmade Ceramic Plaque of Blessed Francis Seelos

The monks at Saint Andrew's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery situated in the high desert of Southern California, have added Father Seelos to their unique collection of ceramic keepsakes. Each plaque is made entirely by hand with natural materials, twice fired, no two exactly alike. The plaque measures approximately 10" long by 4" wide. \$45.00 (incl. p/h).

Praying the Way of the Cross

The 14 Stations are taken from the classic text by Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Redemptorist Founder. The Prayers are accompanied by the sacred hymns of this great saint. CD features acclaimed Irish-Amer. actor Liam Neeson. \$22 (incl. p/h)

PRAYING THE WAY OF THE CROSS
FEATURING LIAM NEESON



Music, Lyrics and Prayers by St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori
Prepared by the Reverend Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

LITTLE LAMB MUSIC

You are Invited

to the 22nd Annual

Blessed Francis Seelos

(Healing) Mass

in New Orleans

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010

1:00 p.m.-- St. Mary's Assumption Church

Presider/Homilist:

Fr. John Murray, C.Ss.R.,

San Alfonso Retreat House, West End, NJ

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

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METAIRIE, LA

After a thorough examination & MRI follow-up, my doctor diagnosed severe L4 & L5 disc problems. They were literally touching each other, causing extreme pain in my lumbar area & down my left leg. I could only walk for a short time and would have to rest all day thereafter. I said prayers to Bl. Seelos daily to help me. I visited the shrine and would use the relic on the damaged area of my back. A short time ago I woke up completely free of the pain associated with the problem. The 3-1/2 hour surgery scheduled to put rods & screws with a man-made disc in my back was cancelled. I can think of no other reason except divine intervention by Bl. Seelos for this. I truly believe that he is an instrument of God that continues to help the sick and misfortunate here on earth.

WEBSTER, NY

Last March my brother was diagnosed with esophagus cancer; an enlarged spleen prevented him from receiving chemo. He was given 3 months to live. A recommended new doctor did a 9-1/2 hour surgery with a 50/50 chance of survival. A week later, his wife of 47 years died. In October he had extensive radiation, & is still cancer-free. I believe the Seelos relic I gave him before his surgery pulled him through. Thank you, Bl. Seelos.

BALTIMORE, MD

I am currently dealing with metastatic breast cancer. I received a Fr. Seelos prayer card at St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore, and started praying weekly for special intentions, including one concerning a nodule that had appeared on my lung. I prayed for it to be removed by the time of my next scans in three months, and the nodule was gone.

TESTIMONIALS

KENNER, LA

A special young man with Downs Syndrome was in ICU, fighting pneumonia and ARDS (Adult Respiratory Disease Syndrome). He had never been this sick in 27 years. He was intubated & sedated; doctors at first offered no hope. Prayers were started to Bl. Seelos, including the 9-day novena. On the 9th day, doctors finally offered words of true progress in his recovery. We know that Fr. Seelos aided us with his intercession.

HOW TO FIND US: We've relocated to our new facility adjacent to the Shrine at 919 Josephine Street -- near the corner of Constance & Josephine, 1 block away (& across the courtyard) from our old site. From US-90, take the Tchoupitoulas exit to Josephine St. Or, from St. Charles Ave. take Jackson Ave. to Annunciation (turn left) & turn onto Josephine.

ABBEVILLE, LA

Last June our 20-year-old son had headaches when in the sun. An ophthalmologist diagnosed him with peripheral vision loss. A week later, another scan showed no improvement & he was told that he may lose his vision; once his peripheral vision was lost, it could not be recovered. After additional blood work, vision scans, & more tests, still no improvement. A friend gave him a Fr. Seelos relic and advised him to place it in his pillow when he said his nightly prayers to ask Bl. Seelos to help keep his vision. Two months later, he sought additional treatments from a specialist & scans showed no peripheral vision loss whatsoever. He had 20/20 vision. His specialist was in New Orleans, and needless to say, we went to Fr. Seelos' shrine that very day to offer prayers of thanks.

NEW ORLEANS, LA

My younger brother had surgery to remove an infected dialysis graft from his arm; he coded twice in surgery. The doctor told us he probably would not survive; there was no corneal reflex and he was brain dead. My mother-in-law then told me there was going to be a Mass that very day at Fr. Seelos' shrine, where miracles happen. I immediately went and asked for one. As soon as I stepped in the church, I felt a spiritual sensation. I told the Lord that I lost my faith years ago when I had asked for something & did not get it. I prayed, "Please bring back my faith today. I promise you I will do whatever you want me to do if you can help my brother survive." After the Healing Mass, I received a phone call from my family at the hospital saying my brother was responding to verbal stimuli. The surgeon said there was some corneal reflex now & his CAT scan showed no bleeding. Later in the week, I returned to Fr. Seelos' shrine. In short, my brother went from being brain dead to walking out the door on his own in less than 2 months. Miracles do happen. The Lord works in mysterious ways & I am also very grateful that He has helped bring back my faith.

DALLAS, TX

I acquired a vial of Seelos oil from the Shrine. Wow! The myrrh aroma when you open the bottle definitely touches the senses. Prepare to be healed! I first made the sign of the cross on my forehead, then on my throat because it had been scratchy -- to prevent any type of infection. Amazing results with a dramatic drop in blood sugar level this morning! Had to share a little with friends. Truly, it's Fr. Seelos' healing touch & prayers that make the blessed oil so special.

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 _____