



SEELOS CENTER NEWS

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

*Volume XLIX
Number 4*

www.seelos.org

919 Josephine Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

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April 2010

"I was recently diagnosed with lung cancer in December 2009. I heard about the Seelos Birthday Healing Mass in January, so my husband & I attended. We didn't know what to expect, only honored to have the opportunity to be there, along with hundreds of others, for this special event. We both received blessings, & I then found my way to the Shrine containing Fr. Seelos' remains & the Mother of Sorrows statue, where I knelt to pray. I pray daily to Fr. Seelos & am privileged to share I have had two different doctors; one is a specialist who can't explain what is happening. The tumor has changed significantly and the nodules aren't growing. I am thankful this humble priest is such an integral part of my prayer life!" -- Slidell, LA



22nd Annual Bl. Francis Seelos (Healing) Mass April 25 -- 1:00 pm

The 22nd Annual "Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month, April 25. A memorial Mass will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church (at Josephine & Constance streets in the Irish Channel) at 1:00 p.m. Father John Murray, C.Ss.R. of San Alfonso Retreat House, West End, NJ will be the principal celebrant & homilist. Before & after the Mass there will be an opportunity to venerate a mission crucifix of Fr. Seelos & to view the National Shrine of Francis Seelos, where his mortal remains are permanently housed in a sacred reliquary. Parking for the Mass is also available in an adjacent lot on St. Andrew Street.

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 will offer this additional 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 Mass & anointing immediately after.

An angel of the Lord came to the stone, rolled it back, and sat on it. In appearance he resembled a flash of lightning while his garments were dazzling as snow ... "Do not be frightened. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, but he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised" (cf. MT 28). Stained glass, c.1900, Seelos Welcome Ctr.



EASTER SUNDAY MORNING IN AMERICA

"Welcome to our parish, Father. Do you have the Mass this morning?" grumbled the woman in the sacristy.

"Yes. I'll be taking your good pastor's place at all the Masses today. Anything I should know?"

"Well, Father, we prefer no incense; it sets off the smoke alarm. No sprinkling rite either as a courtesy to our worshipers with eyewear or hair gel. Also, our longstanding tradition at this first Mass is no music; it incites the crowd."

There was an undeniable reverence at the early morning Mass of solitude that bespeaks transcendence. When bells sounded during the Eucharistic Prayer because someone had forgotten to silence a cell phone, the snoring was only momentarily disrupted.

Before the next Mass, the usher reported that a mouse was in the former confessional now converted into a collection basket storage closet. "Release him, set him free!" commanded the priest, evidently a Franciscan. "Father, the mouse has been dead for days. Surely there will be a stench."

During the Liturgy of the Word, the lector turned to the wrong ribbon marker and read from the Book of Exodus, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past, nor recently ... I am slow of speech and tongue" (4:10).

The priest had sacrificed at least twenty minutes on Saturday to compose his homily. Upon delivery, it was immediately drowned out by an agitated, crying baby in the congregation. From the preacher's viewpoint, there was an equal amount of agitation on the numerous faces turned in the direction of the mother and child during the unabated tantrum, so he abandoned the homily and uttered with resignation: "Go and ponder the meaning of the words, 'Church cry rooms are for gathering crying babies ... not cobwebs.'"

After Mass, the priest graciously accepted a parishioner's well-intended compliment, "Nice homily, Father!" but wondered if it was because he had said so little.

Three minutes before the "High" Mass began, an usher asked the priest to hear his confession. After which, he presented his business card to the visiting priest, advertising his professional pest extermination services.

Then the song leader announced before the procession, "We are temporarily experiencing technical difficulties with the microphone; please do not adjust your hearing aids." Later, the visiting priest struggled with the key in the tabernacle to retrieve a supplemental sacred vessel. He stood there and said, "Lord, I stand knocking. We are a people that longs to see you face to face."

The priest swore he heard a voice from inside that whispered, "Behold! Now, turn around!"

The Eucharist gathers a people that longs for God in an all-too-human environment. As a nexus between the sacred and profane, the liturgy can sometimes lift us up and other times drag us down into no-win battles regarding tabernacle placement and whether Christ is more present in the assembly, at the altar and ambo, or within the tabernacle. Additional distractions affect some worshipers who simply look to the Mass in their frantic lives as a time of peace to enter into the Sacred Mystery. Admittedly, much more can be done to enhance the quality of the weekly Sunday liturgy, from lector and cantor training, to homily improvement, to church acoustics. But, on Easter morning, of all times, may there be more yearning than yawning at Mass -- more attraction than distraction by an incited crowd to the "uplifting" of the Risen Lord within our human tabernacles!



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

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

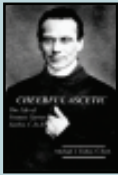
Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

☞ **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.

Byron Miller, C.S.R.

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)



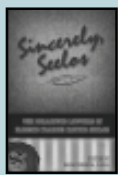
Seelos Perpetual Mass League: one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Ctr. or website for enrollment)



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Marjorie F. Kolb, D.Mn.

When a request is granted to consider a person as a candidate for sainthood, it is common to distribute relics to spread the word about the manner in which he or she lived and worshiped (referred to as his or her cult). The person possessing the relic may pray to that holy person to intercede with God for a miracle. Although other types of miracles have been accepted by the Vatican, the most common is the spontaneous restoration of a person's health. Committees, appointed from the area where the miracle is reported to have occurred, interview doctors, nurses, and anyone else who is able to attest to what happened. A detailed report of these findings is then sent to Rome. If the miracle is declared authentic, the Pope confers the title *blessed* or, in the case of a *second miracle*, saint. (Excerpt from "Fragments of the Faithful: Our Catholic Practice of Venerating Relics," *Liguorian* magazine, November 2009)

"The fact that Blessed Seelos lived so many years before us and yet is with us still, and cares about our well-being, is a miraculous sign of the love that transcends time & space and flows from the abundant graces of God. The work of God is so apparent at the Seelos Center & Shrine. I can't wait to visit your new location and, once again, give thanks for favors granted!"
-- Port Allen, LA

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

CHOICE PICKS

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).

- ① **SEELOS BLACK WOODEN BRACELET WITH BLACK & WHITE IMAGES:** Measures 3-1/4" wide x 3/4" tall before expansion. Depicts various images of our Mother of Perpetual Help & Blessed Seelos. \$13 (incl. p/h).
- ② **SEELOS BROWN WOODEN BRACELET WITH COLOR IMAGES:** Measures 3-1/4" wide x 3/4" tall before expansion. Depicts various images of our Blessed Mother & Blessed Seelos at the Shrine. \$13 (incl. p/h).



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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MOKENA, IL

I have been cancer-free for five years. The doctors told me I only had 6 months to live. My healing was through the hands of Sister Margaret Glenane at St. Anthony's Chapel in Pittsburgh, the power of the Holy Spirit & Bl. Father Seelos. I sing Fr. Seelos' praises & tell my story to everyone who will listen! I wear the Seelos relic for all of my tests, and I lend it out to those in need as well. Their outcomes are like mine: healed! Nothing found! Miraculous!

CARRIERE, MS

I have breast cancer that has spread to my liver and bones. In August I visited the Seelos Center and was prayed over by the priest and people there. Then in January I attended the Seelos Birthday Healing Mass. I wear Fr. Seelos' relic and bless myself daily with holy water from the Seelos Center. I had my PET scan this week and there was improvement in the bones & liver, and no new lesions. I continue to pray to Fr. Seelos and look forward to complete healing.

ROBSTOWN, TX

My wife, age 52, got the startling news that she had breast cancer. During her treatment at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, she & I made a pilgrimage to New Orleans to visit the Seelos Shrine. Our thanks, particularly to Kim Bourgeois & Liz Fitzpatrick, who prayed over us with the Seelos mission cross. My wife had surgery & subsequent pathology reports showed that all cancer was removed; no additional treatment was needed. We were repeatedly told by the doctors that it was unusual for a 4-inch tumor to be fully contained in one area, without any spread into surrounding tissue.

TESTIMONIALS

SHREVEPORT, LA

My daughter was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in April 2009. We, along with so many friends & family members, prayed tirelessly. We turned to Fr. Seelos and knew we were being heard. She went through 4 months of chemo and a month of radiation. Her last scan was clear. I continue to call out to Fr. Seelos in all my times of need and I do believe that he is listening.

BATON ROUGE, LA

In 2004 my husband suffered a stroke that affected his speech. The doctor in ER told me that a clot had lodged in the speaking part of his brain. Our pastor at St. Joseph Cathedral, Fr. Gerard Young, gave my husband the sacrament and blessed him with the Seelos relic. The next day, my husband was released from the hospital; the explanation given by the hospital staff is that they "missed the diagnosis." Since that time, he has suffered no ill effects.

LAFAYETTE, LA

My granddaughter is a Bl. Seelos miracle. She was 9 years old when she developed leukemia. That's when I began my prayers to Fr. Seelos. She is now married, a mother of two, and such a well-adjusted young lady. My entire family and so many friends are devoted to Fr. Seelos.

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.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I've had kidney infections every few years for the past two decades, with unmistakable symptoms when the illness comes. In the past I've taken antibiotics for the days of suffering from the infection. After Sr. Lucretia Burns, D.C. of San Antonio introduced Fr. Seelos to me I have thought much of him and asked for his intercession. When the sickness last occurred I could barely move, vomited for hours, and was in much pain. My mother, an RN, took care of me. After a few hours, I prayed to Fr. Seelos and at once my eyes opened and felt clear, and I became calm & relaxed. I have taken no medication and have not had any sort of treatment, save vitamins. Previously, these frequent infections would last for days and would only be cured with antibiotics.

GRETNA, LA

I was diagnosed with 100% blockage in my right leg, & 60% in my left. The doctor refused to do surgery because he said that it was too dangerous. The pain was so bad that I could hardly walk. I immediately turned to Bl. Seelos to find a doctor who repaired my legs. With full blood flow in both, I'm able to walk again pain-free. I'll never stop thanking Father Seelos for his intercession.

PORT ALLEN, LA

We are not native to this state, but shortly after moving here 9 years ago I heard of Bl. Seelos & his shrine, which I visited as soon as I could. As God's will would have it, my husband began a battle with Hepatitis C shortly after that visit. I immediately petitioned Bl. Seelos for his intervention. He responded positively to the treatment & has been cured of the disease for several years.

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. SELOS

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.

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CITY _____

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