

# NEWS

## Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 1 • JANUARY 2002

### SEELOS & SEPTEMBER 11, 2001



Gertrude L. Beauford (left) and her daughter Gertrude Marie (right), organizers of the traveling Seelos Reliquary on Sept. 11, 2001. Mr Joe Beaud venerates the relic of Bl. F. X. Seelos.

After the terrorist attack on our country, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York had to add five or six masses weekly and their volume of vigil candles was up thirty percent. In Louisiana, 89-year-old Gertrude Lorio Beauford and her daughters, Gertrude Marie and Kathy, were ready to assist those emotionally affected by our national crisis through the intercession of Blessed Francis Seelos. From September 11 through September 25, the Seelos Traveling Reliquary visited St. Agnes Church in Jefferson, LA, Immaculate Conception Church in Lakeland, LA, and Lakeview Nursing Home in New Roads, LA; people from all over the Baton Rouge / Pointe Coupee Parish (county) area attended due to the media

coverage. Approximately 2,350 people visited these two churches; another 75 homebound and nursing care patients had the reliquary brought to them. Mrs. Beauford reported "the most visible and moving signs were from people in wheelchairs, on crutches, children with various ailments and those depressed by the country's current warlike footing." Another highlight of the event was the St. Agnes schoolchildren who venerated the reliquary at Mass. Their principal had previously given them written information and instructions on Father Seelos.

Father Seelos ministered to a nation torn asunder during the tumultuous Civil War. His priestly services at that

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*"I felt that the great crisis had come ... I went to my room and got down on my knees in prayer. Never before had I prayed with so much earnestness. I wish I could repeat my prayer. I felt I must put all my trust in Almighty God. He gave our people the best country ever given to man. He alone could save it from destruction. I had tried my best to do my duty and found myself unequal to the task. The burden was more than I could bear... I asked him to help us and give us victory now. I was sure my prayer was answered. I had no misgivings about the result at Gettysburg."*

— President Abraham Lincoln (reportedly spoken after the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863, during the same month the gentle President received Father Seelos at the White House.)



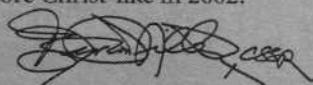
Seelos vigil candles at the Seelos National Shrine, New Orleans.

Photo credit: Diane C. Garcia

## A Message FROM THE EDITOR

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** Recall the ambitious list of New Year's resolutions that you may have created with every good intention at the beginning of this month? Resolutions to lose weight, gain indulgences, quit smoking, begin flossing, and so forth? Well, if you're like me, a few commitments in this annual ritual have already been conveniently abandoned. Alas, I keep assuring myself there is always the upcoming Lenten season for Catholics to try those commitments again, or perhaps, my New Year's resolution *next* year will be to no longer make any New Year's resolutions!

Father Seelos made many personal resolutions in his lifetime and was quite self-disciplined. For instance, during his entire life as a Redemptorist he vowed never to use tobacco and to avoid delicacies in food and drink. He never used salt or any seasoning in his food, even while stationed in gastronomic New Orleans! While on his retreat in 1848 at Pittsburgh, he resolved to include further abstinences and self-disciplinary practices, in addition to those acts already prescribed for all Redemptorists by their Rule. Certain eyewitness accounts give us every reason to believe that Father Seelos was conscientiously faithful to the resolutions he made for himself. May his spirit be with us as we set our own directions to become more Christ-like in 2002!



Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

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time extended to wounded soldiers and prisoners of war. Concerning the war, he wrote, "Earthly things are truly quite secondary to me and I leave all to the wise Providence of God. He only knows how to bring good out of evil." May Father Seelos assist us in bringing good out of evil by working tirelessly for peace and justice and for the victims of violence.



Photo credit: Diane C. Garcia

## Seelos Center NEWS

*A monthly newsletter for friends of Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R.*

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# Cherub Cards

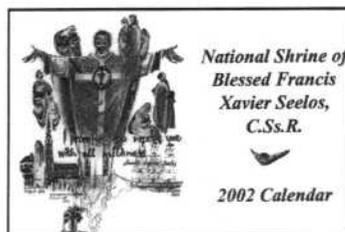
Available in time for Valentine's Day

The people of Terni, Italy are convinced they have the real St. Valentine. He was believed to be the first bishop of Terni who was beheaded in 273 on the day that became his feast day, February 14. He was buried under the basilica that now bears his name and was adopted as patron of the city. Written in gold letters on the Tomb of St. Valentine is the inscription, "Saint Valentine, patron of lovers."

When asked about the inscription, Bishop Franco Gualdrini, a modern successor to St. Valentine as leader of the Terni Diocese, explained, "He is not the official patron the church has declared as protector of lovers," he said with a smile. "It is a popular tradition ... As often happens in the church, some things are proclaimed from above, some are proclaimed from below."



Detail, high altar,  
St. Mary's Assumption Church,  
New Orleans.  
Photo by Bill Coskrey



## Special Offer!

CHERUB CARDS AND BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS 2002 CALENDARS Gift-boxed set of 20 "Cherub" cards and envelopes along with a 13-month calendar for the year 2002 for the special price of \$20 (includes p/h). Please reserve your gift set by mailing your request and payment to:

SEELOS CENTER  
2030 Constance Street,  
New Orleans, LA 70130

## "With Him is Plentiful Redemption"

(Psalm 130:7)

### The Seelos Center offers the following services:

- Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Assumption Church, the Shrine and Museum of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans. For details and appointments, call the Center at 504-525-2495.
- A Daily Spiritual Message. Call 504-586-1803.
- Blessings of the Sick with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in the Greater New Orleans area, please call:  
Gerry Heigle (E. Jefferson) 504-482-4404  
Jack Pitkin (Uptown/Innecity) 504-524-6591  
Teresa LaCour (E. Jefferson) 504-887-0214  
Rita Kaul (Arabi) 504-271-4520  
Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423  
Jim Howard (St. Bernard) 504-277-7949  
Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213  
Peter Lukinovich (N.O. East) 504-241-2746  
Ethel Kuhn (Ochsner) 504-837-3957  
Bill and Sunny Schulz (Mandeville) 985-792-5394  
Carmelie Mancuso (Slidell) 985-641-6999  
Mary Jo Stewart (Slidell) 985-643-5548  
Pam Crutchfield, R.T. (Covington) 985-892-6560  
Ethel Gallagher (Reserve) 985-536-0276  
Dan Montz, L.P.C. (Houma/Thibodaux) 985-446-1805
- Veneration of Blessed F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 am Mass in the historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine and Constance Streets).
- Weekly Mass celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos Center. If you have Special Intentions, please list them in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

### The Seelos Center / Seelos Foundation Office offers the following devotionals:

(Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery of item(s) requested):

- "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," an informative documentary on the life of Blessed F. Seelos; 30-minute VHS cassette. (Suggested donation: \$15 - includes postage.)
- "A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos," a new 108-page paperback biography by Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R. & Alicia von Stamwitz. (Suggested donation: \$8.50 - includes postage.)
- Nothing Short of a Miracle*, a 207-page paperback book by Patricia Treece on the healing power of the saints; two of the chapters feature Father Seelos. (Suggested donation: \$12.50 - includes postage.)
- Messengers: After-Death Appearances of Saints & Mystics*, a 343-page hardbound book on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos; photos included. Autographed by author, P. Treece. (Suggested donation: \$21.50 - includes postage.)
- Seelos Medals: Blessed F. Seelos medal, made of nickel silver. Round (3/4" diameter), with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the United States. (Suggested donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5(+\$1p/h).)
- Pamphlets and prayer cards of Blessed F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.
- Audio cassette of a spiritual conference talk on God as Father and Blessed F. Seelos, given by Father Charles Mallen, C.Ss.R. (Suggested donation: \$6 - includes postage.)
- A Blessed F. Seelos vigil candle will burn near his tomb or in the Seelos Museum at St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans for an offering of \$3.00.
- First, Second and Third-Class relics of Blessed F. Seelos. Please contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495

# Testimonials

## ***New Orleans, LA***

My 77-year-old aunt was diagnosed with a very severe case of emphysema in March 2001 and was in the hospital for a month. She could hardly breathe and could hardly sit up without getting totally exhausted. The doctors had the family called in because they held no hope for my aunt and funeral arrangements were made. The lawyer was summoned for her last will and testament. I refused to believe that she was ready to leave us. So, I went to the Fr. Seelos Center for candles, medals, scapulars, relics and prayers. I pinned two medals on her, left prayers and prayed for her. Her oxygen level went up and she left the hospital within two weeks. In fact she just returned (30 Sept.) from California where most of her kids are. Signed, a true believer of a Miraculous Healer Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

## ***Patterson, LA***

My mom had melanoma (skin cancer) and when undergoing a very aggressive treatment she became quite ill. The doctors were puzzled and didn't seem sure of how to treat her. She was diagnosed with pneumonia, fluid on her lungs, and ARDS. She spent five weeks in the hospital, eleven of those days in ICU on a breathing machine. The nine doctors on her case were unsure of her diagnosis and treatment. My family and I turned ever stronger to prayer. A friend had given me a Blessed Seelos prayer card and a cloth scapular. I placed the cloth on my mom's chest and I prayed his prayer twice a day while in Houston. My mom is home now!

## ***Port Allen, LA***

In January 2001, I was almost paralyzed in both legs and had much pain in my feet. I was bedridden for two months, diagnosed with four ruptured discs in my lower spine. Operation was not an option since I had had open-heart surgery and I wear a pacemaker. With epidural steroid shots I was able to attend church with the aid of a cane since April. My wife and I served as hosts for the Reliquary Mass and prayer services for Blessed Seelos on September 19<sup>th</sup>. We prayed for a "special intention" and a week later we believe to have received a small miracle. I can now feel my legs again; they are no longer numb. We will continue to pray for his canonization.

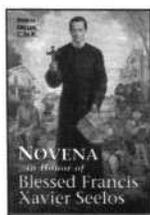
## ***Gretna, LA***

My daughter-in-law was on a waiting list for 13 months. After going to the Seelos Center in September 1999, our prayers were answered in 32 days. She had her double-lung transplant and open-heart surgery and did quite well. She had lupus for ten years before this, and had been in a wheelchair for 14 months. My son said he now has his wife back. Through the intercession of Father Seelos we have a lot to be thankful for.

## ***Metairie, LA***

Since my visit to the Seelos Shrine in August, I have not had as much stomach pain and anxiety. Also, I have been able to eat more and regain most of my weight. My phobias have also lessened and I have been able to lead a much more normal life than before. I attribute this recovery to Blessed Francis Seelos. Before, I was a shell of a person. Now I am whole again and able to enjoy my life, make plans and have renewed interest in everything. I don't know if this would be considered a legitimate "miracle," but to me it certainly has made life worth living again.

## **NOW AVAILABLE!**



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- Have a new address**       **Receiving more than one copy of the newsletter**  
(please return enclosed envelope with your correction(s))

OR CALL: 800-464-2555 Ext. 425 (Please allow a minimum of 30 days to process your changes.)

The Seelos Museum, Shrine and Gift Shop are now open on Saturdays!  
New Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 9 AM - 3 PM • Saturday - 10 AM - 3:30 PM  
Tours available during the hours of operation - Other times by appointment. (504) 525-2495