

# NEWS

## Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 12 • DECEMBER 2002

## Welcome to Earth, O Noble Guest

**T**wo small children of the street in tattered clothes had stopped to admire the bright new shiny sports car parked at the curb.

It was Christmas.

While they were standing there, a young man came by and was about to get into the car when the older of the two little boys spoke up.

"Is this your car, mister?" he asked.

The young man nodded. "My brother gave it to me for Christmas."

The boy looked astounded. "You mean your brother gave it to ya and it didn't cost ya nothin'? I sure wish I..."

He hesitated. The young man knew what the boy was going to wish. He was going to wish he had a brother like that.

But the young man was wrong.

"I wish," the boy went on, "that I could be a brother like that!"

Here lies the true spirit of Christmas. Thank God we "have a brother like that" who came to earth at Christmas to give us the one gift most



**ANNUNCIATION** by Brother Max Schmalzl, C.Ss.R. (1850-1930). This German Redemptorist is most famous for his illustrations in the Pustet Ratisbon editions of the Missal and Breviary. An original set of his large oil on canvas Stations of the Cross are found in the Seelos Museum, New Orleans

worth having – the everlasting gift of God's redeeming love. But that is only part of the Christmas story. God's great gift was intended to set all the world to giving.

A wish for ourselves on Christmas this year may be that we could *be a brother or sister like that to*

those who are most in need of hearing the Good News, namely, that God so loved the world he sent his only Son to be our Savior! Welcome to earth, O noble Guest!

Giving is one of the secrets of life. It is a basic clue to life's meaning. The grain of wheat cannot release its life unless it dies; the atom cannot give its power unless it is split. In fact, life cannot fulfill itself unless it is generous. During this holiday season, as you reflect on what will give your life meaning – and ultimately, what will give glory to God – may the words of Jesus concerning the generosity of life guide you in the year ahead: "For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:25). In holding onto life, we lose; in giving it away, we keep it. Wishing you a rich and fulfilling holiday as you follow that *bright new shiny star of Bethlehem* in your heart on how to be generous with your life. The Redemptorists and the staff of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos will be holding you in our prayers this blessed season.

In His redeeming love,

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

**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

## Francis Seelos, the "Cheerful Ascetic," knows how God Loves a Cheerful Giver

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ... He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God."

2 CORINTHIANS 9, 6-10

*"ONE SINGLE MASS gives more honor to God than all the penances of the saints, the labors of the apostles, the sufferings of the martyrs and even the burning love of the Blessed Mother of God."*

*Saint Alphonsus Liguori,  
Founder of the Redemptorists*



Enrollment in the Saint Joseph Mass League is a way to ensure that your loved ones will be remembered in six Holy Masses celebrated each day by the Redemptorists.

They also share in the blessings of educating Redemptorist Seminarians and the Missionary work to which the League is dedicated.

Saint Joseph is the Patron of a Peaceful Death. As the Protector of the Holy Family, Saint Joseph was chosen for this Mass League to highlight the Catholic belief that we are all indeed brothers and sisters to Jesus.

Please call 1-800-464-2555, ext. 1425 for annual or perpetual enrollments.



### SEELOS MEDALS NOW AVAILABLE IN GOLD & SILVER!

Exquisitely crafted in the U.S.

Solid .999 Fine Silver  
(\$39 - includes postage)

Solid 14-karat gold  
(\$96 - includes postage).

Please allow up to 15 days to process request.

## Who are the saints, and what is their function in our lives?

A modern writer puts it somewhat like this: From the beginning God intended us to walk before His face in holiness. But we could hardly know what holiness is, for our ancestors became entangled in evil and error, and the fantasies of sin obscured the vision of sanctity within us and among us. And so, God sent His Son to live among us that whoever saw Him might see the holiness of the Father also. But as the years go



Seelos Statue by F. Alessandrini found in the National Shrine of Blessed F.X. Seelos, New Orleans (Photo Credit: Diane C. Garcia)

by, even His likeness is continually darkened by human interpretations, painted over and distorted, until His features are scarcely discernible; we come to remember Him only on the level of doctrine, not as we first saw Him in the flesh and in the glory of His holiness. Then the saint comes and lives the very life of Christ, as it were, before the eyes of those who share the saint's circumstances, work, manner and condition of life. The saint represents that life of Christ so that each of us, seeing both something of Christ

and something of ourselves in the saint, glean and guess with longing how Christ would have lived had He been here and shared our walk in life.

"This is the great function of the saints; this is the temporal point of our preaching and memory of their sublime merits. This is the greatest gift of the saints to us – not the stream of good deeds

which they shower on the earth, not the great works of their hands nor the books of their wisdom – but that, because of them, the living likeness of the Master of all, the hero of our race, the image of the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father full of grace and truth, never quite disappears from the earth. Our saints ... [reflect] that which God wills and our own best selves desire us to be.

— CARDINAL JOHN J. WRIGHT,  
FROM A SERMON PREACHED IN 1956  
IN WORCHESTER, MA (ADAPTED);

*THE SAINTS ALWAYS BELONG TO THE PRESENT,*  
SAN FRANCISCO: IGNATIUS PRESS, 1985, P. 67-68.

## Seelos Center NEWS

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

**Vice-Provincial Superior:**

Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.  
Vice Provincial - New Orleans

**Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:**

Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

**Seelos Center / Shrine**

2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-5099  
(504) 525-2495 / FAX (504) 581-9181  
Visit our Web site at [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)

**Seelos Center News**

One Liguori Drive • Liguori, MO 63057-9999  
1-800-464-2555

Seelos Center News" (USPS 488-660) published monthly  
by the Redemptorists at the Seelos Foundation,  
One Liguori Drive, Liguori, Missouri 63057-9999  
Telephone (636) 464-2500. Subscription is \$9.00 per year.  
Periodical Postage Paid at St. Louis, Missouri.  
Postmaster: send address changes to the Seelos Foundation,  
One Liguori Drive, Liguori, Missouri 63057-9999

## Handmade ceramic plaque of Blessed Francis Seelos is now available!



The monks at St. Andrew's Abbey, a Benedictine monastery situated in the high desert of Southern California, have added Fr. Seelos to their unique collection of ceramics.

Each plaque is made entirely by hand with natural materials, twice fired, no two exactly alike. Each is an expression of the wonder of creation and the joy of the Divine Presence.

The plaque measures approximately 10" long x 4" wide. THE COST IS \$36 (+\$6.50 p/h).

Please send request and payment to:

THE SEELOS CENTER, 2030 CONSTANCE STREET,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130-5099.

## Have you visited our [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org) website lately?

### "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  
Rosary Stoltman (Westbank) 504-393-9423  
Jim Howard (St. Bernard & Arabi) 504-277-7949  
Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213  
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) 985-536-1052  
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.

Spiritual  
Reading

#### 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: \$17.00 - 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: \$9.00 - 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: \$15.00 - includes postage.)
- Messengers: After-Death Appearances of Saints & Mystics*, a 343-page hardbound book by Patricia Treece on the authentic appearances of the holy dead sent as God's messengers. Chapters on Fr. Seelos; photos included. (Suggested donation: \$24.00- 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: \$7.00 - 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***

After a motorcycle accident in 1983, and a minor stroke in 1992, I began having epileptic seizures. About a year ago, after several weeks of asking Fr. Seelos for help, I quit taking my medications. Since that time I have had only a couple of very slight seizures (*petit maul*) where I did not pass out or hurt myself. In the past, my seizures resulted in cuts, bruises and even a few large knots on my head after falling on hard floors and sidewalks. I have now spent nearly a year, virtually seizure free. I maintain that it was through the intercession of Fr. Seelos that this testimony is now possible.

## ***Biloxi, MS***

Since very early 1999, I was diagnosed with "Barrett's Esophagus." This is a pre-cancerous condition and it was developing near my throat (upper portion of the esophagus). Ever since I made a visit to the Seelos Center in May of this year, I've prayed his Novena every day over and over asking him to help me accept my condition or cure me. In August I was called in for the esophageal endoscopy to check on this condition, and I almost fainted when I was told "there is no sign of Barrett's Esophagus anywhere in your esophagus." A miracle my Bl. Fr. Seelos granted me. I will never stop praying his Novena ... it will be a never-ending thank you to Fr. Seelos and the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## ***Slidell, LA***

My aunt, in her 80's, had been ill for the last three years. She was in and out of the hospital. She had lost 40 pounds and the doctors did not know what was wrong with her. We were very concerned for her life. She did not think she would live to see Christmas of this year.

I decided to take her to the Shrine before we admitted her again in the hospital. We prayed to Fr. Seelos and kissed

the cross. A lady went to the hospital and blessed my aunt with the cross again. We all have been praying constantly to Father Seelos.

A nurse discovered that my aunt's heart was not getting enough oxygen. It seems my aunt had been taking a medication for 40 years that she did not need. Thank God she was admitted again because this time she would have died. We give all the praise and thanks to Blessed Fr. Seelos for interceding to God for her. We also thank the staff of the Seelos Center for all their prayers and kindness.

## ***Sullivan's Island, SC***

In April 2001, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer based on several biopsies of my prostate. A subsequent prostate specific image scan confirmed the biopsy and identified metastatic prostate cancer within the lymph nodes at the aortic bifurcation, indicating that the cancer had already spread from the prostate. Since there is no cure for prostate cancer once it has spread, I was quite concerned. I decided on a radical prostatectomy anyway. Prior to the surgery, I asked Father McNerny if he would say prayers for me. He offered to give me the Anointing of the Sick and a blessing with a relic from Blessed F. Seelos, which I gratefully received.

During the surgery, a significant number of lymph nodes were also removed from the area identified by the scan as having metastatic cancer. Post surgery biopsies of both the prostate and all the removed lymph nodes, identified cancer in the prostate, but no cancer in the lymph nodes. My last two PSA tests since the surgery have indicated that I am cancer free. My surgeon and I are optimistic that for some reason the specific image scan was wrong and that the cancer had *not* spread from the prostate.

I cannot, however, help but feel that Father McNerny's blessing with the relic from Blessed Francis had a great deal to do with the absence of cancer outside the prostate.

## ***"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34)***

Are you aware that gifts to charities generally provide the donor with an income tax deduction in the year of the donation? Some planned (or deferred) gifts, such as annuities and trusts, allow the donor to determine that the assets will eventually go to the charity while continuing to get the income needed for the life of the donor. Similarly, a Life Estate can be arranged for a donor's home. The property is deeded to the charity with the stipulation that the donor is allowed to live in the property for a lifetime, after which the charity takes possession. Other types of "planned gifts" include life insurance policies, bequests through your will, and gifts of retirement plan assets. Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos as a favorite charity in your planned giving alternatives.