

NEWS

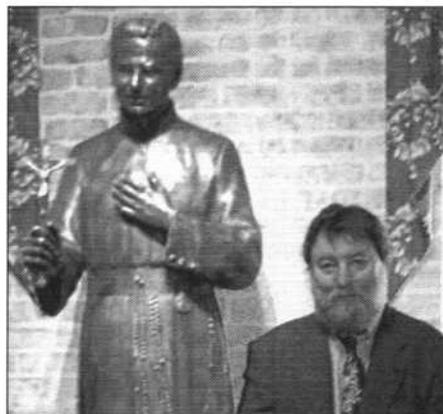
Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 3 • MARCH 2002

STATUE FIGURES PROMINENTLY AT SHRINE

On January 11, 2002, a Mass was celebrated at the National Shrine of Francis Seelos to commemorate the day of his birth in 1819. The director of the shrine, Father Byron Miller, C.Ss.R., was the principal celebrant and homilist. The Eucharist was followed by the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. The participants were then invited to witness a blessing of the life-size Father Seelos statue, located near the original Seelos casket. The image, cast in bronze, upon a white carrara marble base, is the artistic accomplishment of Franco Alessandrini. Mr. Alessandrini and his family reside in New Orleans, where he has a studio. However, it was at a studio in Italy for several months in 2001 where the sculptor crafted this astonishing bronze likeness of Father Seelos. The generous donor of this sacred devotional work of art is Mr. Kent Zimmermann of New Orleans.



THE MAN & HIS STATUE: Franco Alessandrini, sculptor of the Seelos statue, on the day of its solemn blessing, January 11, 2002.



A STUDY IN BRONZE IN THE MAKING: the statue begins to capture the spirit of Fr. Seelos at a studio in Italy



Franco's wife, Margaret, beams with delight during the blessing ceremony.



Photo credit: Kent Zimmermann

MAY THE SMILE OF FATHER SEELOS BE INVITING TO THOSE IN NEED. OPEN IS HIS HEART TO THE NEIGHBOR AND TO THE STRANGER. MAY HIS FRIENDS WHO COME TO HIM IN TIMES OF SPIRITUAL NEED FIND HIM ATTENTIVE TO THEIR PRAYERS. MAY THE HOLY LIGHT OF GOD'S PRESENCE SHINE FORTH BRIGHTLY THROUGH THIS LIKENESS OF FATHER SEELOS AND BE A BLESSING FOR ALL WHO VISIT HERE AND FOR EVERYONE WHO SHALL COME UPON THIS HOLY GROUND.

A Message FROM THE EDITOR

"JUST DO IT!" reads the expression emblazoned on the T-shirt. Here is some advice in a popular health magazine for those who can't decide what to do with their lives:

I was riding with my grandfather, Claude Boyles, in this huge old Chrysler just outside nowhere, Kansas, when a jackrabbit jumped out in the middle of the road. "Now, watch," he said. The rabbit feinted left, feinted right, then left again, then right, then, at the last minute, just as the car was right on top of him, left again, and right under the tires, flat. I was upset. Claude Boyles said, "The problem was he couldn't make up his mind. It wouldn't have mattered either way."

What a good lesson! The advice columnist adds that the problem with not making a decision is that if we don't, events – those big Chryslers on the highway of life – will make the decision for us. On March 15th, the Redemptorists celebrate every year the feast of Saint Clement Hofbauer, C.Ss.R., the patron saint of Vienna, Austria. The Papal Nuncio told the pope during St. Clement's lifetime (1751-1820), "Father Hofbauer is the most influential priest in the entire Austrian Empire." Saint Clement was given the task of establishing the Redemptorists beyond the boundaries of Italy. Because of a bold decision to cross the Alps in search of the most abandoned, many Redemptorists throughout the world

trace their roots to Clement and our Austrian confreres – and look to him as our second founder. Similarly, in 1832, when the Redemptorist Congregation was a hundred years old, a decision was made for six Redemptorists from Austria to cross the Atlantic and begin ministry in the New World, in search of the most abandoned here in North America. A short eleven years later, Francis Seelos joined those pioneer activities.

The Church is in need, more than ever, of people like Saint Clement who are able to make bold initiatives. Many well-intentioned but indecisive Christians spend years "sitting on the fence," feinting left, feinting right, not making up their minds on how to make their faith meaningful, watching life speedily pass them by. Your faith in life really does matter, and what matters most is that you act upon it! So, "go ahead, make your day!" "Take the plunge!" JUST DO IT!



St. Clement Hofbauer, as he appears in a niche on the Sacred Seelos Reliquary, New Orleans


Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED A PILGRIMAGE TO THE SEELOS SHRINE?

Pilgrimages, according to Vatican guidelines issued in January, give a concrete physical expression to one's awareness of traveling along the paths of history and journeying toward the Lord. The guidelines state that the church sees many Christian values in pilgrimage, adding that it becomes a sign of the demanding journey which each of Christ's followers is called to undertake in order to attain conversion.

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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 News

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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 artifacts.

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 \$34 (+\$6.50 p/h). Please send request and payment to THE SEELOS CENTER, 2030 CONSTANCE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130-5099.

Depending upon availability of stock, orders are usually processed within days of request at the Seelos Center; however, please allow up to 3 or 4 weeks for delivery when necessary for us to have the item drop-shipped directly to you from the Abbey.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the 14th Annual
BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS DAY
IN NEW ORLEANS
SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2002

11:30 a.m. Mass,
St. Mary's Assumption Church
1:30 Luncheon at
The Pontchartrain Hotel
2031 St. Charles Avenue

(Between St. Andrew & Josephine Street)

CONTACT
THE SEELOS CENTER FOR
LUNCHEON TICKET
RESERVATIONS

"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



Morgan City, LA

I feel that Father Seelos has interceded on behalf of our daughter Elizabeth. She was diagnosed with a strawberry hemangioma birthmark shortly after a month of age. While usually harmless, the mass grew to the size of a lemon in a month. It had obstructed her ear canal, which affected her hearing, and could obstruct her airway if the mass continued to grow at its rapid pace. Treatment was required immediately.

Friends of our family sent us a Fr. Seelos prayer card and cloth that had touched his relic. I began praying the prayer every day. We began treatment only to learn of a study that revealed a small percentage of hemangioma patients who experienced temporary or permanent lower limb paralysis. I prayed for the hemangioma to stop growing and that my baby would not experience any serious side effects. Father Seelos heard my prayer. The mass did stop growing and her limbs were unaffected. My mother-in-law and some friends planned a pilgrimage to the Shrine on behalf of Elizabeth. It just so happened the day they were able to go was the day of her MRI to determine if any of the hemangioma was in the liver. They prayed for Elizabeth at the Shrine the very moment she was having her test. Needless to say, the test results were negative. Our next step was to wait to see if the mass would grow back as some do. I am pleased to report Elizabeth is 15 months old and the mass has not returned. She is a happy toddler. Father Seelos has granted us every favor we asked of him. Thank you.

New Orleans, LA

For a few months, I had large, hard, painful masses under both arms but I was afraid to go to the doctor for fear of cancer. When I went to be checked for a colonoscopy, my colon was punctured and I had to be hospitalized because I was near death. After I recovered, the masses under both arms were gone and so was the pain. Before my operation, I prayed every morning and night to Fr. Seelos to relieve me of this pain and that there would be no malignancy. Thanks to Fr. Seelos for answering my prayers.

Chalmette, LA

My son had a ruptured pancreas and was in ICU for almost a month. He was being fed through his jugular vein and wasn't allowed a drop of water. His pancreas had to be at complete rest. The doctors feared infection and were talking of emergency surgery. Friends who were praying with me called Mr. Jack Pitkin [of the Seelos Center.] He brought a Fr. Seelos cross and laid it on my son's chest and prayed. We knew he was too weak for any kind of surgery. No surgery was ever performed; my son was out of ICU in two days and out of the hospital in one week. Thank you again Father Seelos.

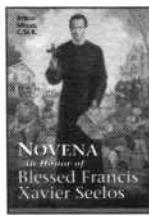
Does your Will include Blessed Francis Seelos?

70% of Americans contribute to charity during their lifetimes; however, only 6% of them continue their support through a gift in their Will or estate plan. Death is the biggest transaction we will ever have in our life! At that time, something will have to be done with accumulated assets. How prepared are you? Do you want some control over your assets after you pass on? It is estimated that only 50% of the people over 65 have a Will. Hopefully, you have made a personal decision about what to do with your assets, rather than let the state government determine where your assets will go. Regrettably, less than 5% of the people with a Will leave something to charity. Are you among that rare five percent?

There are more tax advantages for the living than the deceased. However, there are tax advantages for your loved ones if planned properly. Remember, a Will and proper trusts are for the survivors, not the deceased person.

If you would like to designate us in your Will, the proper name is "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos."

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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