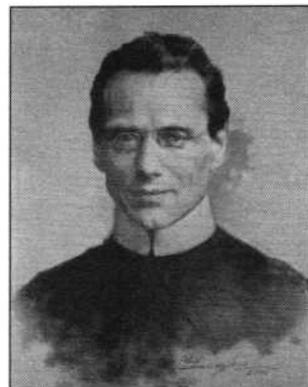


# NEWS

## Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 4 • APRIL 2002

## Blessed Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans – APRIL 28



Fr. John Kelly, C.Ss.R.

The Fourteenth Annual “Blessed Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans” will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month, April 28<sup>th</sup>. A memorial Mass will take place in St. Mary’s Assumption Church (on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel) at 11:30 a.m. Reverend John W. Kelly, C.Ss.R. will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. Fr. Kelly is a Redemptorist missionary preacher stationed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Last year, he celebrated his fiftieth anniversary to the holy priesthood.

Immediately following the Mass, a luncheon will be held at the Pontchartrain Hotel, 2031 St. Charles Avenue (between St. Andrew & Josephine Street). A cherished landmark in the historic Garden District of New Orleans, The Pontchartrain has been accommodating discerning guests since the 1920’s. Entertainment will be provided and a Parade of Prizes will support the canonization cause of



The Pontchartrain Hotel

Father Seelos. Door prizes will also be awarded. Tickets for the luncheon are \$28 per person. They may be obtained at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, or by calling (504) 525-2495.

### Baton Rouge Cathedral Houses Seelos Reliquary

A sacred reliquary of Blessed Francis Seelos and a sculpture in his likeness are now permanent additions to the Cathedral Church of St. Joseph in Baton Rouge. During Father Seelos’



Fr. Young and Fr. Miller in Procession

lifetime, Baton Rouge, in fact the whole state of Louisiana, was part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Reverend Gerard F. Young, Rector of the Cathedral, writes:

*“The celebration [in Fr. Seelos’ honor on Sunday, January 20, 2002] was a Mass with memories of old liturgical solemnity. Our choir and Master of Ceremonies did him beautiful honor. The director of the Seelos Center, Fr. Byron Miller, celebrated the Mass, and I was proud as pastor to assist him, along with five priests of the Redemptorist Congregation. Father Thomas Picton, Vice Provincial Superior, gave an impressive homily to fit the occasion, and there were people in attendance from all over the state who love Father Seelos. The sick and handicapped were blessed, and the*

Continued on page 3

## A Message FROM THE EDITOR

Spring! Easter! Earth Day! Arbor Day! Edward Hays writes, "As the sun's rays strike our planet more directly, the earth responds with newness and freshness. Prehistoric priesthoods set this time apart as sacred to celebrate the resurrection of the earth. The sun, radiant and healing, revitalizes the dark and dormant, as days and nights are again of equal length on the day of equinox"

(PRAYERS FOR A PLANETARY PILGRIM).

This month we celebrate two days devoted to environmental themes, Earth Day (April 22) & Arbor Day (April 30). Historically, the founder of Arbor Day thought that a day set aside to show our appreciation of nature would be a positive event to uplift people's spirit and energies. He chose the planting of trees as a symbol of birth and renewal for that celebration. He saw the interdependence of people and nature in the biblical sense – that the Creator had given us all the good things of the earth to be put to God's use. He also recognized the biblical admonition that we must be good stewards of the earth and added, "we ought to bequeath to posterity as many forests and orchards as we have exhausted and consumed." As Teddy Roosevelt so aptly said on the first Arbor Day in 1885, "Any nation which in its youth lives only for the day, reaps without sowing, and consumes without husbanding, must expect the penalty of the prodigal."

Earth Day was established in the early 1970s out of concern for clean air and clean water. Its founders

emphasized good stewardship and a clean environment. The initial Earth Day was organized largely in response to corporate refusal to deal with rampant destruction, symbolized by an oil spill off the California coast.

What does ecology have to do with being Christian? Simply stated by Redemptorist Father Paul Coury, "If nature leads us back to God then we must act in a godly way toward nature." Or, as our founder, St. Alphonsus Liguori writes:

*God knows that we are won by kindness and so has determined to captivate our hearts by lavishing on us all the gifts of creation....God gave us a body with its senses that we might enjoy all things in creation.... For everything give praise and thanksgiving in these words: "How many beautiful things God has made for me on this earth in order that I may love God." (adapted version)*

For the Christian, every day is an *earth day* when we acknowledge all of creation as God's. That may also mean responsibly taking action to prevent our garbage from being poured out upon the sea and the rainbow from being scratched by acid rain. Is it not our true aim to leave this planet a little better for our having been here? May our experience of Easter awaken in us a personal rebirth and resurrection to allow "From all that dwell below the skies / Let the Creator's praise arise! / Let the Redeemer's name be sung / Through ev'ry land by ev'ryone."

In the Resurrected Christ,

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.



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## Seelos Center NEWS

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

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

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Cathedral will continue this blessing each month for the sick of our parish. The relic is reposed in the area of the Cathedral by the left front set of doors. Please come, visit, and pray for the sick and for your own needs. He is yet a compassionate intercessor at God's Throne in Heaven!"

The reliquary is a gift from the Redemptorists, who were assigned to Baton Rouge in 1944. The Father Seelos Sculpture is the accomplishment of Joe Barth of New Orleans; it was donated to the Cathedral by the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. Kent Zimmermann of New Orleans. ■



## 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.

### "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/Innercity) 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) 985-536-1052
  - 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.



#### 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 Iberia, LA*

I would like to report a cure after praying to Fr. Seelos in July. Our 12-year-old godchild had been scuba diving with her father in Florida when she ran out of oxygen 65-feet down. She had been without oxygen for 10 minutes before being rescued. She was successfully resuscitated and was in a coma for 24 hours. When she began to respond to treatment, she was transferred by air to Pensacola where she stayed in ICU for five days. After praying to Fr. Seelos for a full recovery on her first night there, she regained consciousness and continued to improve. She has made a full recovery with no signs of brain damage. I thought you would like to know of Fr. Seelos' intervention in this case and the miracle and blessing gained from him.

## *San Antonio, TX*

I was given a holy card of Father Seelos over twenty years ago by a friend from New Orleans, and have been praying for his canonization since that time. Recently I prayed exclusively for my nineteen-year-old son to change his ways. I promised Fr. Seelos that I would write to you as a witness in thanksgiving for this favor granted

## *Church Point, LA*

My son is a recovering addict because of prayers to Fr. Seelos. He had back surgery years ago and became addicted. He has been in and out of recovery from drugs. In December 2001, we entered him into a recovery unit for 72 hours. During that entire time I lit a candle to Fr. Seelos and started praying to him for a miracle. He has been healed. I think we got our miracle and we are so grateful. I continue to pray to Fr. Seelos for so many troubled people and addicts that I know.

## *Houston, TX*

This is to thank Blessed Francis Seelos for answering my prayers. On August 31, 2001 I entered a local Houston hospital for a colonoscopy and the doctor found a large Lynch Disorder Adenoma type polyp. This type of polyp develops into colon cancer. I thank God and Blessed Seelos that it had not turned into cancer.

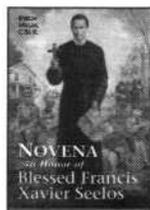
## *Marrero, LA*

Ever since my daughter was born she's had numerous problems, from seizures, to fusions in her neck, ribs, and spine – not to mention the doctor's warnings of deafness, blindness, and mental retardation. The list goes on. But because of prayer to God and the intercession of Fr. Seelos the graces and mercies of Jesus have shined upon her and she has been healed of all those maladies. There is still room for more healing.

Surgery was scheduled for January 11. The doctors decided to wait another week before they would have the surgery so the antibiotics would be given a full chance. So when that door was opened for us to go to [the Seelos Birthday] Mass on January 11, it was a miracle in itself. Somehow I knew then that our prayers were already answered. Healing was on the way.

I can now report to you that my daughter's doctor has decided against the surgery! He believes that the lump in her neck is an infected lymph node that just needs more time to shrink back to size. Isn't that great? In fact, as I was leaving his office, he told me to believe in the power of prayer! Thank you, Fr. Seelos. Thank you, God.

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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