

NEWS

Seelos Center



VOLUME XLI • NUMBER 5 • MAY 2002

All Things Are Possible With God

I knew before I even started 5th grade this year that my religion project would be on Father Seelos. I didn't even know who he was before August 7, 2001, but that day he changed our lives forever.

On August 5, 2001, my 6-year-old cousin, Caroline, was found unresponsive in her bed in the middle of the night. By the time she reached the local hospital where my uncles [who are doctors] treated her, she was seizing continuously and not breathing. Caroline was flown to Children's Hospital in New Orleans where she continued to have seizures all day and into the evening. We were all told Caroline would probably die. If she did survive, she would never be normal again.

I remember how much my family prayed and prayed. My Mom didn't come home for three days because she stayed with my cousins and Nana at the hospital. She just said to pray because we may not get Caroline back. My Grandmother in Baton Rouge told us about Father Seelos and how he preached to the ill in New Orleans before he died of Yellow Fever himself. The people at the Seelos Center began to pray for her as soon as we called them and Caroline was blessed with the cross of Father Seelos on August 7th. That very day, she regained consciousness and began to recover.

Against all odds, Caroline not only recovered, but also is completely normal. Since that day, my life has just been a little different. With the help of Father Seelos, I have been taught that all things are possible with God.

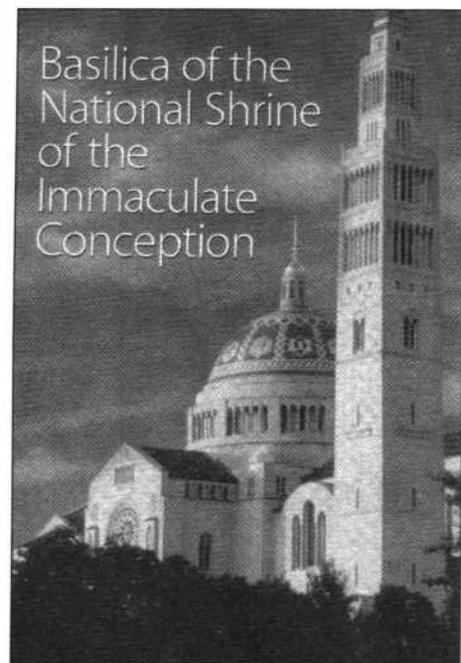
Nicholas Logarbo
Fifth Grade
Covington, Louisiana



Engraving detail of Fr. Seelos ministering to yellow fever victims from the Seelos Reliquary. Photo credit: Diane C. Garcia

Seelos Window Approved for Mary's Shrine

We are happy to inform our readers that the Iconography Committee of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., unanimously approved our request for the inclusion of a stained glass window dedicated to Blessed Francis X. Seelos, C.Ss.R. on March 1, 2002! Now that the committee has given its approval, the process of design, fabrication, and installation will be forthcoming. Anyone wishing to help support this exciting development can contact the Seelos Center, 504-525-2495.



Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

A Message FROM THE EDITOR

Washington Irving wrote, "There is an enduring tenderness in the love of a mother to a son that transcends all other affections of the heart. . . . She will sacrifice every comfort to his convenience; she will surrender every pleasure to his enjoyment; she will glory in his fame and exult in his prosperity; and if adversity overtake him, he will be the dearer to her by misfortune; and if disgrace settle upon his name, she will still love and cherish him; and if all the world beside cast him off, she will be all the world to him." Visualize the Italian sculptor Michelangelo's *Pieta*, where Jesus is cradled in his mother's arms after being removed from the cross, and these words from the American author come to mind.

We can also visualize the great love Frances Schwartzbach Seelos had for her son Francis Xavier. Of the many virtues that Mrs. Seelos instilled into her son's mind, the love of prayer was paramount. Prayer became all the more appealing to her son when she had him visualize the glories of heaven and the deep love that the Virgin Mary has for us. Mrs. Seelos would later say, "I have not done more than what every Christian mother is supposed to do, only it struck deeper roots in my dear Xavier than in others."

Fr. Seelos recalled jocularly that his father was always talking and his mother was always working. She prayed during all her work. She even knelt down in the field when she heard the bell for consecration in some nearby church. Years later he was quoted, "Dear Mother, how I thank you for having taught us children a great devotion to the Mother of God. Such an inheritance from parents is worth more than gold or silver."

Fr. Seelos was in New Orleans just over five weeks when the sad news reached him from home that his mother had died in Germany. He once told his seminarians that if he ever had the chance to see his mother again, he would fall on his knees and kiss her feet for all she had done for him. That chance came for him less than a year later, when he himself joined his mother in heaven.



May Crowning: detail of the high altar in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans. Photo credit, Donald Laughlin.

WE'RE STILL HERE!

"I thought you moved" are the frequent words we hear by some local residents of New Orleans, undoubtedly due to the establishment in 2001 of a parish in New Orleans that bears the name of Blessed Francis Seelos. For clarification, the Seelos Parish on Dauphine Street and the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos are not one in the same. The church where Father Seelos was pastor in New Orleans is St. Mary's Assumption Church in the Irish Channel / Lower Garden District. It is here at 2030 Constance Street where his remains are and where his national shrine is located.

Happy Mother's Day!

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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Vice Provincial - New Orleans

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A Mother's Day Gift

THE SEELOS SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIP

Father Seelos spent one-third of his priestly life ministering to seminarians. He was the prefect of students and he also taught them dogmatic theology and Sacred Scripture. On his part, Father Seelos thought highly of the young men entrusted to his care, but it was the affection of the students for their prefect that was even more apparent. In 1859, the house chronicler wrote: "The re-appointment of Reverend F. Seelos as prefect of the students caused universal joy, and the students let their much cherished Father know how much they loved him."

A scholarship for U.S. Redemptorist seminarians in the name of the much-cherished Father Seelos was established in May 2001. In the United States, our seminarians study in Chicago (where the residence of professed students is now called Seelos House), Washington D.C., New York City, and San Antonio. It is the intention of this newly established scholarship to specifically support the students in this country who are most in need and offer them the same inspiration from Father Seelos that the seminarians in his day received.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund in a personal way or loved one's memory is invited to contact the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, (504) 525-2495, or kindly designate your intention on the enclosed envelope.

"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
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Elaine Freeman (Westbank) 504-341-2213
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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

Baton Rouge, LA

[Regarding my father's condition in 1989], a surgeon met with the family and said a Whipple procedure would last 10-14 hours. Approximately two hours later, he called the family to the consultation room. He told us that it was in fact pancreatic carcinoma and there was too much adjacent tissue attached to the pancreas to remove it. Instead the surgeon performed a "bypass" that would help lower his bilirubin. He stated that my father had 2 weeks to 2 months to survive.

On Sunday, October 8, 1989 our family attended Mass at St. Gerard Majella Church in honor of Fr. Seelos. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Stanley Ott. Fr. Edward Glebe, C.Ss.R. mentioned to the congregation that our father needed their prayers.

When we returned to the hospital later that afternoon, the surgeon said that my father's blood work numbers were starting to fall. He indicated that this was not supposed to happen. Four days later the lab reports indicated that it was not pancreatic cancer. Five pathologists reviewed the mass. My father was sent home a few days later and was told that he was still "not out of the woods."

A few weeks after the surgery, we traveled as a family to St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans to pray at the grave of Fr. Seelos. My father began to regain his weight and his blood levels all returned to normal. He returned to work six months after his surgery. He worked eight more years until he retired with 40 years of service. He leads an active life today. I am enclosing two letters from the surgeon: the first is an operative report dated 10/6/1989; the second is a letter supporting this miracle, dated 2/19/2002. I have over 300 pages from Our Lady of the Lake Hospital concerning my father's case.

Mt. Laurel, NJ

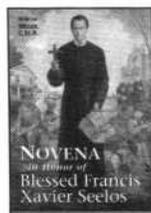
My husband was diagnosed with liver cancer and was told he did not meet the criteria for a liver transplant because of too many tumors. Then by the grace of God and Blessed Seelos' intercession we were told that he was able to have a transplant if a donor was found. After a year of treatment and no sign of a transplant my husband was told that another tumor was found. After many prayers, only two days later he was called to the hospital for the transplant. That was May 10, 2001. He received the liver and went through chemotherapy and is doing just fine. I know that was possible through Blessed Seelos' intercession. I thank God and Blessed Seelos for favors received.

Iota, LA

I am a 64-year-old with a history of cancer since 1994, when I was diagnosed with colon cancer. I had surgery, but the cancer was in the third stage, and had already invaded my lymph glands. I had chemotherapy every week for 52 weeks. The cancer test, which is called a CEA, was done every three months. In 1996, the level started rising, which meant there was cancer somewhere in my body. It was located, and in 1997, half my liver was removed. Not long after, the CEA was on the rise again and in 1999, surgery removed some lymph glands; then in 2000, all lymph glands in the abdomen were removed. By 2001, I had my fifth cancer surgery.

About the time my CEA started going down, my niece had started praying to Father Seelos. At that time the count was 7.6 (normal is 0-2.5). I was tested every month, and every month it would be lower, and by January of this year it was normal. I believe a miracle has happened, because a normal CEA has never happened for me before. My niece started the novena to Fr. Seelos the time that the relic of Blessed Seelos was in her church parish. Also, at that time I began praying to him too. Now, I say a prayer of thanksgiving every day.

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(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