Cures? Child's Play for Father Seelos

Rochelle Freeman was terminally ill in August 1993 due to a grapefruit-sized cancer wrapped around the toddler's aorta. In addition, companion tumors were in her bone marrow, and behind each eye, making one protrude slightly.

Doctors at New Orleans' Children's Hospital told her parents treatment could buy time but only that.

One day Rochelle was in the hospital receiving chemotherapy, being watched over by her grandmother who was in an adjoining space, from where she could hear everything going on in the room. The grandmother heard Rochelle talking to someone. When she emerged hastily into the room, Rochelle said yes, someone had been there. She called him "that little man" and said he told her she was sweating as he put his hand on her forehead and then on her belly where the mass could be felt.

Who was he? The grandmother and nurses immediately checked but saw no one around that part of the hospital. Rochelle said she knew who he was. She claimed he was the man whose picture was among many on relics and sacramentals in her room. She identified Father Seelos whenever shown any likeness of him, even when it was very dissimilar to others.

Was Rochelle imagining things? Who knows, but from the moment the two-year-old said Father Seelos spoke to her and touched her, her massive, rock-hard tumor became soft and began to shrink. Just over a year later it was so small doctors decided to try to remove it. To their amazement they found that the tumor was no longer wrapped around the aorta. Now completely detached, removal was child's play.

Rochelle had plenty of treatments, certainly, but her cancer — against all medical predictions — was eradicated and she is a healthy youngster today. Instead of buying time, she and her family are sold on Father Seelos!

Excerpt from article that first appeared in Patricia Treece's column of February 8, 2002 in The Tidings, the archdiocesan newspaper of Los Angeles, CA.
With each new year comes change. The challenge is whether we can embrace change as a friend or reject change as an enemy. Before we give thanks to God for where we are going, let us recall with gratitude where we’ve been. Permit me to share with you a brief look at the Redemptorist past and some exciting changes in our future.

In 1732, the Redemptorists were founded by Saint Alphonsus in Italy. The first Redemptorists arrived in America one century later in 1832.

In 1875 a decision was made to divide the American Province into two provinces—the Baltimore Province and the St. Louis Province. It was in 1952 that the Superior General from Rome made a paternal visitation of the St. Louis Province. When he studied the map of the province territory, he exclaimed: “Too big, too far, too much travel, too many men.” So a decision was made for the West Coast to become a province of its own (Oakland Province) and for the states in the South to become a Vice Province of the St. Louis Province (New Orleans Vice Province).

The quality of travel and the quantity of men have changed dramatically since that succinct observation from the Superior General. In 1996, the St. Louis and Oakland Provinces made a decision to reunite into a new entity, the Denver Province, for the sake of the Redemptorist mission and community life. And, in a historic vote last October, the Redemptorists of the New Orleans Vice Province made a decision to be reunited with the Denver Province by the year 2005.

When Father Seelos was a Redemptorist he belonged to the one American Province. Some things have a way of starting to come back full circle.

Fr. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.


One of the highlights of the week was a ride in the evening on a “Streetcar Named Seelos” down historic Saint Charles Avenue. The visitors on this chartered streetcar were treated to a live jazz band while being served various New Orleans-style desserts by the staff of the Seelos Center. There was a cool breeze flowing through the streetcar that night since Hurricane Lili hit landfall just west of New Orleans the very next day. The patronage of Father Seelos protected us all through the storm.

Those attending the Blessed Francis X. Seelos Pilgrimage enjoyed a ride down historic Saint Charles Avenue, New Orleans.

A Streetcar Named Seelos

Changes to the Seelos Newsletter

This year we hope that you will be pleased with the new look given to our monthly issues. Also, please note that the donation envelopes included in these mailings are addressed to the Seelos Shrine in New Orleans; the staff at the Seelos Center is now equipped to receive all correspondence directly.

Seelos Center

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:
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Visit our Web site at www.seelos.org
"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.


- 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
  - 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 Saturday after the 4 p.m. Mass and Sunday after the 11:30 a.m. Mass in the historic St. Mary’s Assumption Church (Josephine and Constance Streets).

- Weekly Mass celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos benefactors. If you have Special Intentions, please list them in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.

The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:

- "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 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 (+ $1 p/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 sacred resting place in 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.

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

Houston, TX

Blessed Seelos performed another miracle in Houston. In June, my co-worker at Ben Taub Hospital was not expected to live one month. She was comatose and I saw with my own eyes at LBJ Hospital how she was unconscious, grayish in color, all swollen and stiff. I even asked the supervisor in ICU who had been my co-worker whether she would live and I was told she wouldn't make it. After many months of not hearing anything, I thought that she had died. No one could tell me. Then I heard her voice on the phone saying how okay she is now. I had rubbed the relic on her last June. Your holy Redemptorist is amazing!

Winter Harbor, ME

Through the intervention of Fr. Seelos my life was miraculously spared during two health crises this past year. I received a liver transplant at Ochsner Transplant Hospital in New Orleans in February. While recovering, I was introduced to Fr. Seelos. The day I completed a novena for his intercession in my recovery, I was called into the hospital to be treated for a severe rejection episode, and was hospitalized for two weeks. The doctors told me afterwards that it was the worst rejection episode they had seen, where someone didn't die or need a second liver transplant! Fr. Seelos was with me the whole time, and spared my life. Then, upon returning to Maine to recover, I began to feel very ill. I confess I had forgotten about Fr. Seelos, having misplaced the pamphlet. However, just three weeks ago, feeling very ill, a friend called me out of the blue, saying "I have just seen a TV show about Fr. Seelos on 'Unsolved Mysteries,' and feel I should pray to him for your healing." Within two days I was in the hospital for a week with an antibiotic-resistant pneumonia, high fever, toxic blood shock, and anemia. Thank goodness, a proper diagnosis was made, which meant I finally got proper treatment. For a second time, Fr. Seelos' intercession saved my life during a life-threatening hospitalization. Had I not phoned for an ambulance, I would have lost consciousness and died within a matter of hours!

Gretna, LA

About three years ago, I was diagnosed with colon cancer. Shortly thereafter, the colon was removed. The doctors thought the cancer was confined to my colon and the prognosis was good. Then cancer was found on my liver. A procedure was performed with a probe that effectively "cooked" the malignant area of the liver. Again, the prognosis was good. One-and-a-half years later, blood tests and a PT scan rather conclusively indicated that the cancer had returned to the liver and surgery was recommended. I objected to surgery and consented to the probe procedure that was previously performed on me.

Prior to having the probe procedure, I visited the Father Seelos Shrine and asked for Father Seelos' intercession. I prayed with Alma Weilbaecher [Seelos Center volunteer] while I held Father Seelos' crucifix.

As the doctors performed the probe procedure, they took five biopsies of the targeted area. Contrary to the results of the previous blood test and PT scan, all five of the biopsies were negative. I believe that my prayers and those of Father Seelos were answered.

New Castle, PA

In September 2002, I was diagnosed with Invasive Ductal Carcinoma of the breast; in short, Invasive Breast Cancer. I am 27-years-old with a daughter and a loving husband. This was very difficult for us to deal with.

A cousin of mine told me to pray to Blessed F. Seelos and proceeded to tell me a bit about him (because of Mother Angelica). She frantically ordered 150 Seelos prayer cards and distributed them to all my family and friends at my wedding! What a great wedding favor. My family and friends prayed non-stop to him.

On the Monday following my surgery in October, my nurse told me that the tumor had been 1.7 cm in size. The doctor removed tissue surrounding the tumor and 28 lymph nodes for further testing. And to what surprise when she told me that all of the pathology reports on the tissue and lymph nodes came up clean! The cancer did not spread! Thank you to his Blessedness.

NOW in its 2nd printing!

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2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST CURRENT. Select one of the following.

☐ Have a new address  ☐ Receiving more than one copy of the newsletter
Send return enclosed envelope with your correction(s).

OR CALL: 504-525-2495 (Please allow a minimum of 30 days to process your changes.)

The Seelos Museum, Shrine and Gift Shop are now open on Saturdays!

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) 525-2485.