

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

Volume XLVII Number 1 January 2008

## National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church  
of Saint Mary's Assumption

2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

(504) 525-2495  
(504) 525-2499

[www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)



"I paint scenes of New Orleans to remind me of happy times and the very unique city in which I was so fortunate to grow up," writes artist Riece Walton, now residing in Pensacola, FL. Encouraged by his former art professor, Lloyd Sensat, Walton paid homage to historic Saint Mary's Assumption Church on one of his large colorful canvases in time for a solo exhibit at a New Orleans gallery. This original artwork was then donated to the Seelos Shrine by K. Vong of New Orleans. (More photos on page 2)

### THE 28th ANNUAL JOHANNES HOFINGER CONFERENCE

The Johannes Hofinger Conference is recognized as an event of quality and excellence, symbolizing the dedication, inspiration, and professionalism not only of its namesake -- world-renowned Jesuit evangelizer, Johannes Hofinger -- but also of religious educators throughout the Gulf Coast. This year's conference is held at the majestic Astor Crowne Plaza, overlooking Canal & Bourbon streets in New Orleans on January 11 & 12. This year, the Seelos Shrine is one of the exhibitors -- please come by and visit our booth!

ESCHACH is a tiny hamlet situated atop a hill between Fussen & Hopfen am See in Bavaria, Germany. It enjoys magnificent views of the two towns & the Alps. Francis Seelos may have frequented the small chapel there that serves the local agricultural community. The local faith community recently renovated this chapel where Mass is celebrated twice a year - in the spring & in autumn. A relic of Blessed Seelos was placed on the altar & his picture now hangs in the chapel. In November 2007, Msgr. Karlheinz Knebel, Regional Dean & Pastor of St. Mang Church in Fussen, celebrated Mass in the newly redecorated chapel & blessed it.



### You're Invited!

Note New  
Day & Time!

A Special Healing Mass  
with Sacrament of Anointing  
to Commemorate  
the Birthday of Father Seelos

SUNDAY, January 13, 2008  
1:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Assumption Church  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans



## Message from the Editor

"May all your troubles in the coming year be as short-lived as your New Year's resolutions," quipped an unknown author! Father Francis Seelos once offered wholesome advice in a letter presumably written to a student of his who left the seminary. This saintly advice is equally inspiring to us and to our own resolutions for 2008:

1. Above all, love your calling in life, your daily duty, your daily work. Everything with the purest intention, and when difficulties arise say: "O Jesus, I embrace my cross, I kiss it, I want to carry it after you until death." The peaceful life of the Holy Family at Nazareth must be your greatest consolation.
2. If you have some free time, use it for prayer and spiritual reading.
3. When extraordinary and unexpected sufferings, sadness, and despair come, encourage yourself on the spot to the greatest trust in Divine Providence. O, if we would only believe it: these are the days of salvation, here we can become rich for heaven.
4. Then preserve the spirit of self-denial, love for Jesus the Crucified, and the desire to be crucified with him ... to seek always to be pleasing to God until Jesus has completed the beautiful work.
5. Whoever wants to serve God must be purified and made holy in the school of suffering, as gold in the furnace....

## The Seelos Center offers the following services:

☞ *Pilgrimages* to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. Call the Center at 504-525-2495 or 525-2499.

☞ *Daily Spiritual Message*  
Call 504-586-1803.

☞ *Blessings of the Sick* with a Mission Crucifix of Blessed F. Seelos in New Orleans & other area hospitals. Please call:

### East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-554-1912

Teresa LaCour: 504-887-0214

### Ochsner

Mark/Monica Surprenant 504-895-5371

### Uptown/Innecity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591

### Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213

Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

### Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-767-8432

Marie Giorlando: 225-615-7888

### Covington

Dr. Ann Logarbo, MD: 985-886-0218

### Houma/Thibodaux

Dan Montz, L.P.C.: 985-446-1805

### Lacombe/Abita Springs

Billy Bachemin: 504-232-0349

### Lafayette/Abbeville

Rita King: 337-984-4607

### Mandeville

Bill & Sunny Schulz: 985-792-5394

Pam Crutchfield: 985-966-0358

### New Iberia/Berwick/Baldwin

Rachel Gonsoulin 337-224-7855

Fred Roy 337-380-0646

### Reserve/LaPlace

Deacon Percy Vicknair: 985-652-9313

### Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-925-9975

### Slidell

Carmelie Mancuso: 985-641-6999

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-643-5548

### St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

☞ *Veneration of Bl. F. Seelos' Mission Crucifix* in historic St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

☞ *Weekly Mass* celebrated for the intentions of the Seelos benefactors. Please list Special Intentions in the space provided on the enclosed envelope.



## THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

2008 promises to be an exciting one for the Seelos Shrine and all those affiliated with its cause! Below are a few highlights:

✦ The Seelos Shrine is a first-time exhibitor at the renowned Hofinger Conference on January 11-12 that anticipates over 1,300 participants.

✦ The 8th Annual Seelos Birthday Healing Mass is Sunday, January 13 at 1:00 p.m.

✦ St. Mary's Assumption Church celebrates the 150th anniversary of its cornerstone foundation on April 25, 1858.

✦ The 20th Annual "Seelos Day in New Orleans" Mass & Luncheon is Sunday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.

✦ The 5th Annual Seelos Memorial Mass & Gala is Sunday, October 5 at 1:00 p.m.

✦ A book containing the 201 extant letters of Father Seelos, edited by Rev. Carl Hoegerl, C.Ss.R., will be published in the Spring.

✦ The Seelos Shrine is a new member of the Catholic Book Publishers Association that facilitates networking among those involved in Catholic book publishing in support of Catholic literacy.

✦ Construction on a Seelos Welcome Center adjacent to St. Mary's Assumption Church is expected to begin in '08 (details in a future issue).

✦ Advancement to an official "inquiry phase" in the Seelos canonization cause is predicted for 2008 (details in a forthcoming issue).



Top: Artist Riece Walton with Lloyd Sensat, Bottom: Artist in studio

## Seelos Center News

A monthly newsletter for friends of Bl. Francis X. Seelos

Denver Provincial Superior:

Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:

Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

Seelos Center Administrator:

Joyce Bourgeois

Seelos Center / Shrine

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Seelos Center News (USPS 4472)

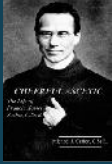
published monthly

by the Redemptorists /

National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos

Subscription is \$10 per year.

## The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:



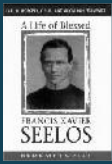
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



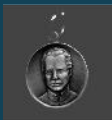
**.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal** Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse and edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$52 - includes p/h).



**Willy Finds Victory: A Blessed Francis Seelos Story**, Introduce youth, ages 7 - 12, to Fr. Seelos in this 110-page illustrated book by Joan Stromberg (Donation: \$12, incl. p/h)



**A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos**, a 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$11 - includes p/h)



**Seelos Medals:** Made of nickel silver, round 3/4" dia. with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the U.S. (Donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5 + \$1 p/h)



**Seelos Perpetual Mass League:** A one-of-a-kind lasting remembrance for you or for someone dear, living or deceased. (Donation: \$25, contact Seelos Center for enrollment)



**Seelos, Tireless Intercessor**, a 68-minute documentary on the miraculous life of Seelos, as seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$35 DVD/ \$30 VHS - incl. p/h)



**Death, Where Is Your Sting?**, a tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told primarily by those who witnessed his death. Seldom revealed details of his encounter with yellow fever transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$23 - incl. p/h)

**Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** of Bl. F. Seelos, available in English, Spanish & Vietnamese.

**A Bl. F. Seelos vigil candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, for an offering of \$3.

**First, Second & Third-Class Relics** of Bl. F. Seelos. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

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



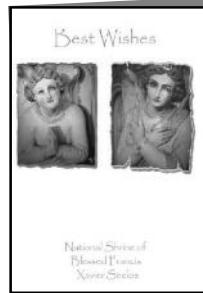
### NASPA VISITS SEELOS SHRINE

RIGHT: In October 2007, members of the National Association of Shrine & Pilgrimage Apostolate visited the Seelos Shrine during their annual convention held in New Orleans. Left: Rev. Louis Studer, OMI, (former director of Our Lady of the Snows Shrine), Archbishop James Keleher, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Liaison to NASPA, & Monsignor Walter Rossi (Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception).

### The National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos Proudly Offers 3 Deluxe Remembrance Cards



Healing

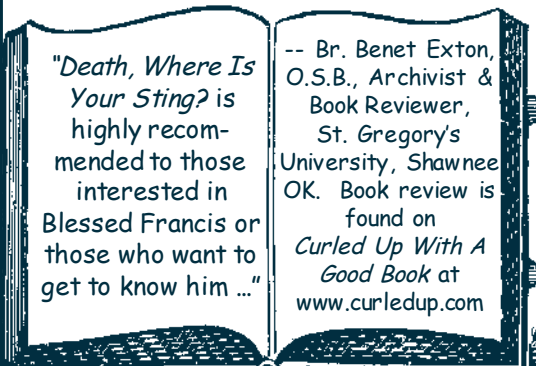


All-Occasion



One-Year League

Please contact the Seelos Center for cards. A gift of \$12 per card supports the ministry at the Shrine.



#### NOW AVAILABLE!

Engaging bust of Francis Seelos by artist Franco Alessandrini & his wife, Margaret. Plaster with deep gold finish, weighing over 5.5 lbs. Handcrafted in New Orleans. Measures approx. 11.5" H x 8" W x 5.5" D. Donation: \$97 (incl. P/H)



Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

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ADDRESS

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Kindly return in the enclosed envelope with any corrections or CALL 504-525-2495 or 2499 Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your request.

I'VE MOVED



# CANCER TESTIMONIALS



## QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

In 2003 I went to the Seelos Center with the kind assistance of my nephew, who is a doctor in New Orleans. I asked for the healing of my son who was then suffering from his ailment of cancer of the thymus. Fortunately, his ailment was cured after his operation in 2003. At present, my son is now okay and strong and busy helping his patients from their sickness of cancer – because he himself is an Oncologist. I am so grateful to Fr. Seelos for this miracle.

## BROOKLYN, NY

In April 2007 my husband was diagnosed with lung cancer. We prayed the Novena to Bl. Seelos and my husband carried his relic throughout treatments of chemo and radiation. He had 1/3 of his lung removed in September and the surgeon told us the treatments worked — all cancer cells were dead. I'm grateful to the wonderful doctors who treated my husband, but feel Bl. Seelos is the one who answered all our prayers to bring about this miracle.

## METAIRIE, LA

I had a lung operation and a cancer spot was removed. I've been praying for Fr. Seelos to help me and to let everything be okay. He came through for me and now I'm going to a cancer doctor to be watched for the next 5 years. My recent scan did not show anything. I'm so grateful to Fr. Seelos for answering my prayers and I will always honor him.

## ABERDEEN, SD

My friend, Fr. Martin Lawrence (Salem, SD) gave me the Blessing of the Sick & a 1st Class Relic of Blessed Seelos prior to my hysterectomy. I feel a very personal connection to Bl. Seelos and to this day when I walk by his Relic in my home, I either thank him or give him a small kiss. Or both. In 2005 I was diagnosed with breast cancer and Stage 3 Endometrial Cancer. I had a complete hysterectomy & a lumpectomy for the breast cancer. Shortly after that, I began radiation treatment and chemo-

therapy. The chemo created gallstones that resulted in gallbladder surgery, and an "unknown" stomach problem seemingly stemmed from the surgery. That stay in the hospital required a tube into my stomach via my nose. In the last several weeks I have had a colonoscopy (all clear) and a CT scan and chest X-rays, which are absolutely clear. No sign of anything even remotely related to cancer of any kind. In my heart I know that my healing is because of Bl. Seelos' personal intercession on my behalf. I am so blessed.

## BAY SHORE, NY

About a year ago, I was diagnosed with Stage 4 Lung Cancer. My friend called me and shared her experience with thyroid cancer. She told me about Bl. Seelos and sent me a relic and I prayed for his intercession. I have always been close to Jesus and I put my total trust in His healing presence. I received 8 chemo treatments and throughout this time had little to no side effects. In May my scan showed no cancer activity, praise God. In August, I had another clear scan. I am so grateful; every day is a gift from God.

## LAFAYETTE, LA

My wife was diagnosed with thymoma, a rare form of cancer of the thymus. Thymoma is always malignant, and the prognosis is based upon the stage, type and size of the cancer. The Mayo Clinic determined the cancer to be Stage II. Along with prayers for intercession by the Blessed Mother and others, I also said the Novena to Bl. Seelos. The day after I said my Novena, we met with the oncologists who said the tumor was only invasive of the thymus sac; that all cancerous tissue had been resected; that it was a type that rarely recurs; and that no radiation or chemo would be required. I believe that Bl. Seelos interceded directly and personally with God for my wife's sake. Without his intercession, she might very well still be fighting the evil that had invaded her body.

## UNDISCLOSED LOCATION:

*My wife was 12 weeks pregnant when we looked at the alien-like figure on the screen at the doctor's office, its little heart was beating and our hearts filled with joy. Then we were told that the baby appeared to have "high drops," a condition that occurs from the baby's exposure to a virus. Fluid had gathered around the brain and babies with this condition typically terminate or miscarry around 5 months. Our joy quickly turned to sorrow. A specialist confirmed the findings and an amniosentesis could be done around 16 weeks. That day began our journey into embracing surrender. A dear friend brought over a relic, prayer candle, and novena of Bl. Seelos. I had never heard of him, but our friend swore by his intercession. My wife, being very devout to the saints' intercession, began asking Fr. Seelos to pray for our unborn child. Our friend also suggested that we visit the shrine and pray with the Bl. Seelos relic cross, and so we did. It was an amazing experience and we continued to pray for his intercession. With each doctor's visit the baby grew and things looked better. We declined to have the amnio and continued praying. Around 5 months the doctor told us the baby no longer had a chance of miscarrying and that the fluid around the head was gone & that we would be welcoming a little girl into our family. We will name the baby Catherine Francis, after Fr. Francis Seelos. I encourage you to look up info on Fr. Seelos & ask his intercession for your intentions. He was an awesome humble priest!*

## "Praying the Rosary with Saint Alphonsus Liguori"



2-CD set with original music, lyrics & prayers. Led by Rev. Peter Schavitz, C.Ss.R.

Sung/Performed by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, L.A. Master Chorale, Padre Serra Children's Choir. **\$21.75 (incl. p/h)**  
Supports Redemptorist missionaries in Brazil & Nigeria