



# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

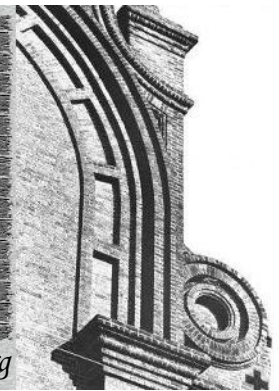
Volume XLVII Number 4 April 2008

## National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church  
of Saint Mary's Assumption

2030 Constance Street (504) 525-2495  
New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 525-2499

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



### Special 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Bl. Francis Seelos Day on April 27 -- 1:00 pm

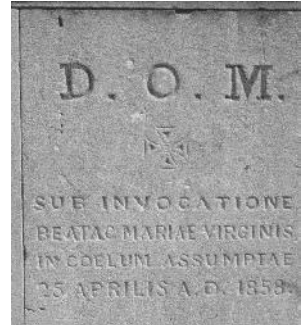
The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual "Blessed Francis Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be celebrated on the last Sunday of the month, April 27. A memorial Mass will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church (at Josephine & Constance streets in the Irish Channel) at 1:00 p.m. (*please note new time*). Father Gregory Chauvin of Abbeville, LA will be the principal celebrant & homilist. After the Mass there will be an opportunity to venerate a mission crucifix of Fr. Seelos and to view the National Shrine of Francis Seelos, where his mortal remains are permanently housed in a sacred reliquary. Parking for the Mass is also available in an adjacent lot on St. Andrew Street.

Immediately following the Mass, at 2:00 a luncheon will be held at the Hampton Inn Convention Center Grand Ballroom, a cherished landmark in the historic Warehouse District of New Orleans (1201 Convention Center Blvd., between Gaienne & Calliope streets). A Parade of Prizes will support the canonization cause of Fr. Seelos. On-street parking & additional paid parking is available at the hotel & the Fulton Garage across the Square. Tickets for the luncheon are \$35 per person. Contact the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, or by calling 504-525-2495 or 504-2499.

## ST. MARY'S CORNERSTONE OF FAITH: 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

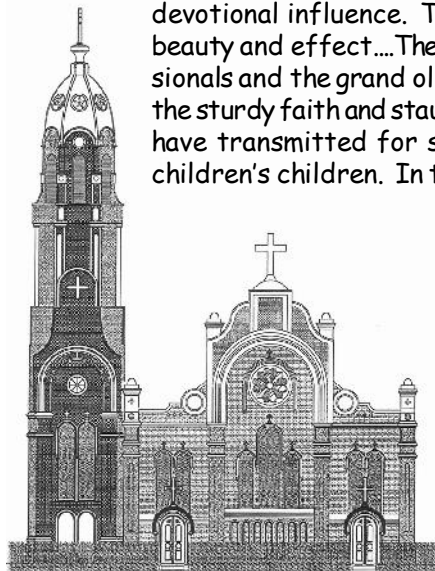
1858 - 2008

On April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1858, at four o'clock in the afternoon, on the very day that the church of St. Alphonsus was consecrated, the Most. Rev. Archbishop Blanc blessed and laid the cornerstone of St. Mary's Assumption Church. He was assisted by Right Rev. W. H. Elder, Bishop of Natchez; Right Rev. J.M. Odin, Bishop of Galveston; and Right Rev. M. Portier, Bishop of Mobile.... All the societies of the parish attended, with bands playing and banners fluttering in the breeze. The immense throng of people was deeply impressed by the solemn and imposing scene. It was especially through the untiring efforts of Father Anwander that St. Mary's German Church was built. -- B. J. Krieger, C.Ss.R., *Seventy-Five Years of Service* (New Orleans: 1923)



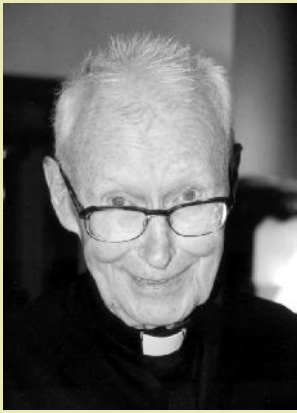
In 1844 the first German Catholic church in the state of Louisiana was built, a modest frame structure, which was named St. Mary's Assumption church. It served the congregation for a decade and a half until a much more pretentious church was built on Josephine Street next to the original church. The entire congregation of St. Mary's worked alongside the Redemptorist fathers in building the new church. A plaque today describes how the women parishioners carried bricks in their aprons to the building site. The church was built in modified baroque style with a gilded, domed bell tower that can still be seen throughout the area.... Still today one can view the beautiful stained-glass windows, great organ, and high altar made in Munich, Germany, one of the finest examples of woodcarving in the country. -- Ellen C. Merrill, *Germans of Louisiana* (Gretna LA: 2005)

The church edifice is remarkable for its classic architectural lines and particularly for its pervading atmosphere which is one of piety and deep devotional influence. The altars are rich in design and of real artistic beauty and effect.... The stations of the cross, the statuary, the confessionals and the grand old organ - all bespeak the precious inheritance of the sturdy faith and staunch Catholicity, which the founders of this church have transmitted for several generations to their children and their children's children. In this soil of America they not only prospered in a

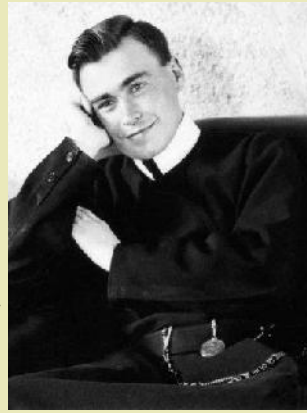


material way, but their spiritual life was maintained and made to bear beautiful and golden fruit....

— Most Reverend James Blenk, S.M., (7<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of New Orleans, 1906-1917), 1912



REV. JOSEPH XAVIER STEFFES, C.Ss.R.  
ARDENT PROMOTER OF SEELOS CAUSE



"Well Done, Good & Faithful Servant"

Come, my good & faithful servant  
into the kingdom I've prepared.  
Well done, good & faithful servant.  
Walk with me. Don't be scared.

For I was thirsty & you gave me to drink.  
I was hungry & you fed me, too.  
So enter now the eternal home  
that love has built for you.

Well done, good & faithful servant.  
Come with me and have no fear.  
For eye hasn't seen and ear hasn't heard  
what's waiting for you here!

The race is over. The prize is won.  
And true life has just begun.  
Welcome home, my faithful servant.  
Well done!

Come, my good & faithful servant.  
Drop your yoke. Your work is through.  
Have no fear, my faithful servant.  
I will always be with you.

For I was lonely & you visited me.  
I was homeless & you showed your care.  
Now in return my heav'nly home  
with you I'll always share.

It's time to rest. Your work is done.  
And true life has just begun.  
Welcome home, my faithful servant.  
Well done!

(Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, 2004)

Father Steffes, a Redemptorist since  
1935, died on February 23, 2008  
at the age of 93.

*"Immigrants to the U.S.A. often built great churches & cathedrals while they themselves were housed in poor circumstances. The church building was to them a sign of continuity with the tradition & faith they had known as children in their native countries."* — Fr. Raymond E. Brown



Artist Riece Walton paid homage to historic St. Mary's Assumption Church on one of his large colorful canvases for a successful solo exhibit at a New Orleans gallery in October 2007. Quality color prints are now available with a wide border in suitable sizes for framing, each signed by the artist.

- 20" x 24" on water-color paper, \$40
- 12" x 16" on water-color paper, \$30
- 11" x 14" on matted paper, \$20

Prices above include P/H during the month of April

## 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 Crucifix of Blessed Seelos in designated area hospitals. Please call:

### East Jefferson

Gerry Heigle: 504-482-4404  
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

### Pearl River

Gail Garay: 985-863-7562

### Ponchatoula/Hammond

Gaspar Corpora: 225-294-5938

### 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

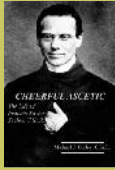
### St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

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

☞ *Weekly Mass* celebrated for Seelos benefactors. Please include Special Intentions in the enclosed envelope.

**The Seelos Center offers the following devotionals:**



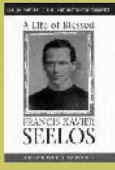
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.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 / \$29 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).



**Best Attended January Seelos Healing Mass**

*"For God the Holy Ghost is the Paraclete, but what is a Paraclete? ... A Paraclete is one who comforts, who cheers, who encourages, who persuades, who exhorts, who stirs up, who urges forward. A Paraclete is one who calls us on to good, [who] cheers the spirit of man, with signals and with cries ... calling on him, springing to meet him half way, crying to his ears as to his heart: 'This way to do God's will; this way to save your soul: Come on, come on!'"*

— Gerard Manley Hopkins, Jesuit (1880)

On January 13, 2008 the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Seelos Healing Mass was celebrated on the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. The Gospel proclaimed, "Suddenly the sky opened and he saw the Spirit of God descend like a dove and hover over him" (cf. MT 3:13-17). There was quite a sensation at the Mass when a feathered visitor found its way inside St. Mary's Assumption Church and made itself known at all the right times & places! At "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all," the bird remarkably took its cue at the "Holy Spirit" part and swooped down in the main aisle; during the homily the bird hovered over and then perched on the altar. For the packed church of people in need of healing, many interpreted it as the Lord's comforting sign that His Spirit was present among us, "stirring us up and cheering us on."



Photo Credits: Above, Bill Coskrey, Below, Diane Garcia

*"Thank you for the most beautiful Bl. Seelos Birthday Mass on January 13, 2008. Exactly forty years ago, I was in tears and kneeling on Fr. Seelos' grave behind the communion rail, praying for my father who had died just hours earlier. Good Fr. Joe Steffes came out of the back & knelt beside me. He asked what was wrong and then he knelt & prayed with me. He sat me in the front pew and we talked for a long time. He helped me tremendously that day! ... The bird that celebrated the Mass with us was a blessing. I came home from the Mass with a deep feeling of peace!"*

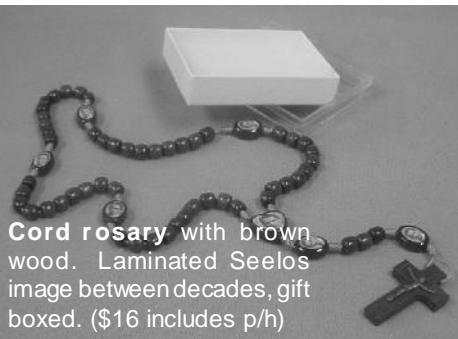
— Gulfport, MS

**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

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www.seelos.org  
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 National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos  
 Subscription is \$10 per year.



**Cord rosary** with brown wood. Laminated Seelos image between decades, gift boxed. (\$16 includes p/h)



**SEELOS ROSARY RING**  
 Made in Italy  
 (\$3.00 offering includes p/h)

Please contact the Seelos Center  
 2030 Constance Street  
 New Orleans, LA, 70130  
 504-525-2495



# TESTIMONIALS



## SWANSEA, IL

Our grandson, JD, was born in 1996 and diagnosed with Biliary Atresia, which is blockage in the ducts that carry bile from the liver to the gallbladder. This blockage in babies can lead to liver damage that is fatal if untreated. JD's dad gave him a portion of his liver when he was 6 months old, which saved his life at the time, but he developed blood flow blockage between the heart and liver. Requiring a second liver transplant, JD was placed on the donor list and underwent a third major surgery in 2002. To avoid rejection of the liver, JD takes a significant amount of immunosuppressive drugs & steroids that damage the kidneys. We have been praying to Bl. Seelos for over a year asking him to intervene to protect his kidneys from damage. Six months ago, JD was tested to determine the damage. He carried with him a relic of Fr. Seelos. The doctor fully expected his kidney function to be less than 50%. The test results showed them functioning at 85%. We have no doubt that Bl. Seelos did indeed intervene to help JD, and truly believe this to be a miracle.

## LOREAUVILLE, LA

We were introduced to Bl. Seelos seven years ago when our grandson was born with severe heart problems. He has had 3 major surgeries and is doing very well. He is truly a miracle child, and we believe it is through Bl. Seelos' intercession to God. We are eternally grateful.

## STATEN ISLAND, NY

In 2006 I had surgery to remove half of my thyroid. Cancer was found and further surgery was scheduled to remove the other half. Cancer was on both sides. A friend, Fr. John Connor, C.Ss.R., who resides at the Long Branch, NJ retreat house had asked me to pray the novena to Bl. Seelos. My husband

and I started the novena that evening. I asked many friends to also pray the novena. We all continued to pray that Bl. Seelos would intercede to Jesus for my healing. I later had radiation treatment to destroy the cancerous cells. In September 2007 I had a total body scan and no cancer cells were found. Praise God & thank you, Bl. Seelos!

## MOBILE, AL

My symptoms indicated that I had a hiatal hernia with reflux. The procedure to stretch my esophagus discovered that I had a tumor at the base of the esophagus. Part of it extended down into the stomach. The further I got into the tests and chemotherapy, the more I felt like I was dying. I was dreadfully ill, could not eat and lost 70 pounds. They took out part of my esophagus and about 1/3 of my stomach, pulling the balance of my stomach into my chest. My sister gave me a cross that had been touched to the tomb of Fr. Seelos and my pastor had blessed me with a first class relic of Fr. Seelos. The day after my surgery the doctor called my wife & told her that he had done 17 biopsies and that I was cancer free.

## KINDER, LA

In May 2007 my grandsons, ages 19 & 21, were critically hurt while in Santiago Chile for a family wedding. Their makeshift sled took off down the mountainside. They both disappeared from sight of their parents and were found inside a 4-foot hole. One hit a cement block at the bottom of the hole and was bleeding from the mouth; his tongue was in shreds and his chin broken. The other had a closed head injury and was not expected to live. Someone sent me a prayer card to Fr. Seelos, and we all prayed for a miracle. That is exactly what we received. Both boys are totally recovered and we attribute it to the healing power of God and

many prayers & intercession of Fr. Seelos. I still pray the prayer daily.

## CREST HILL, IL

Years ago, my mother was given a first class relic of Bl. Seelos from a friend. In March 2007 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I held the relic almost all day and also slept with the relic at night. Family, friends and I prayed for the intercession of St. Joseph and Bl. Seelos. During the last chemo treatment before surgery, I developed an allergic reaction to the drug. I then decided to have a double mastectomy. This turned out to be a blessing, for after surgery, tests were ran and cancer was found in the other breast too small to detect with today's technology. Words cannot express my deep gratitude.

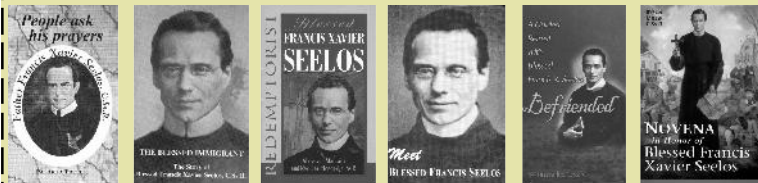
## SAN ANTONIO, TX

I watched Catholic TV the other night and saw "Tireless Intercessor." It was good to renew my prayer life to Bl. Seelos with more vigor. The show had me thinking back to 2006 when I had stents put into my lateral artery. The tests showed 70% blockage and yet when the doctor was ready to proceed after testing, the artery showed only 40% blockage. No stents were required. I had requested prayers and a Mass at the Seelos Shrine. Makes me wonder!

## DEAR READER

You receive this mailing at your own request, or because it was somehow suggested over the years that you were interested in the Seelos Cause. However, during the time that we have been mailing to a number of you, we have not heard whether you are still attracted to our Shrine & its ministry. Please let us know **ONLY** if you **NO LONGER** care to receive mailings from us. Complete box below or send request to: [bmiller@seelos.org](mailto:bmiller@seelos.org)

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