



# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

Volume XLVII Number 6 June 2008

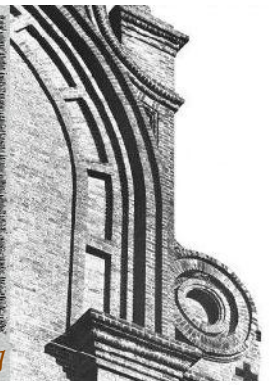
*National Shrine of Blessed  
Francis Xavier Seelos*

*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)



## NEW SEELOS WELCOME CENTER IN THE MAKING!



Some thought it could only happen when pigs fly; but, when Father Seelos is involved, anything's possible! In December 2007, legal documents were signed and recorded with the city of New Orleans that establishes a long-term lease between the Redemptorists & Historic Restoration, Inc. to allow for the rehabilitation of three buildings surrounding St. Mary's Assumption Church for low-income senior citizen housing, as they were used before Hurricane Katrina. A fourth building, also vacant since the storm -- the former School Sisters of Notre Dame Convent adjacent to the Church -- was removed from this lease arrangement. It has now been returned to the Redemptorists unencumbered for the purpose of creating a new Seelos Welcome Center. If all goes well, the building could possibly be completed & readied for use in the spring of 2009.

So far in 2008, a building committee has been appointed by the Redemptorists, a general contractor for the project has been selected and mobilized, and architectural plans are being finalized for the construction phase to begin adapting this 3-story building for the Shrine's ministerial needs. The building will include exhibit space and orientation theater for visitors, offices, gift shop, Seelos archives, and chapel. There was a desire to make some exterior changes to this old convent, which was built during the Depression era. Our consultant proposed those changes to a member of the local Historic District Landmarks Commission who said that any changes to the exterior of this building "would be like putting lipstick on a pig!" To that we can only say, "Flattery will get you nowhere!" Still, if you would like to help with some badly needed "cosmetic" improvements to our building, please respond to our special Appeal inside this newsletter. We would be grateful as pigs in a blanket!



## DID YOU KNOW?



As Father Seelos' reputation for holiness & prayerful intercession continues to spread, statues of his likeness have recently been commissioned for Our Lady of Perpetual Help Redemptorist Church in Kansas City, MO; Blessed Sacrament Church, Kansas City, KS; St. Michael Church, Chicago, IL; and Blessed Seelos Parish, Biloxi, MS. A year before Hurricane Katrina, Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Vanclave, Mississippi was dedicated, and in the fall of 2007, this stained glass window of Blessed Seelos was installed.



MP3 listeners can now download the 27.5 minute audio Episode 93 of The Saintcast featuring the life of Blessed Francis Seelos at [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org)

## Message from the Editor

Imitation may be the highest form of flattery, but saints prefer the highest form of imitation ... for Christ's sake! Saints not only invite imitation, but also offer inspiration, and in recent years, it has been phenomenal to learn how Blessed Francis Seelos has engendered himself to so many. Children have been named after him, candidates for Confirmation have taken on his name, novices have selected his name at profession of vows -- even a few vessels at sea are christened in his honor!

Cardinal John J. Wright wrote that "the saint comes and lives the very life of Christ, as it were, before the eyes of those who share the saint's circumstances, work, manner and condition of life." He added that a great gift and function of the saints is that because of them, "the living likeness" of Christ never quite disappears from the earth. "The saint represents the life of Christ so that each of us, seeing both something of Christ & something of ourselves in the saint" discover how Christ would have lived if He were here to share our walk in life.

As more and more people relate Father Seelos' alluring personality and spirituality to their own circumstances, work, manner and condition of life, may they come to rest in the curve of Father Seelos' warm smile, for in him, our eyes continually behold the gentleness of Christ our Redeemer.

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

**Father Seelos,  
help us rest in the curve  
of your warm smile!**

**F**ather Seelos was a tireless sacramental priest. For instance, he was ordained only a few years when he performed 76 marriages and 167 baptisms in 1847; a year later, 74 marriages and 203 baptisms. This original certificate with Father Seelos' signature belongs to the Richard Carver family of New Iberia, LA; it indicates that their ancestor, Julia Santzenberger received her First Communion in May 1867 in New Orleans.

(Photo: Susan Atchley)

At Last ... Fr. Seelos in his own hand!

*Sincerely,  
Seelos*



Now Available!

*The Redemptorist Provincial requested that Father Seelos curtail his enthusiasm for letter writing. Fortunately for us, this request came just one year before Seelos' death in 1867. He leaves behind a collection of 201 extant letters that reflects his spirituality & sanctity, and a compendium that represents the life and the times.*

*Carl Hoegerl, CSSR, editor*

*Hardbound, 4-Color Bookjacket,  
512 Pages*

**Limited-Time  
Introductory Cost:  
Only \$35  
(\$29.50 + \$5.50 p/h)**

## 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: 985-502-7325

Mary Jo Stewart: 985-502-9033

### St. Bernard/Arabi

Patricia Noote: 504-756-4163

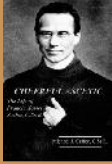
☞ **Veneration of Bl. Seelos' Mission Crucifix** in St. Mary's Assumption Church (Josephine & Constance streets).

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



*In englanden in de st. Maria-Koninkheit  
C. H. P.*

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



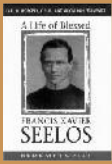
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-page hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality. Index/photos. (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.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: \$12 - 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).



**2008 Annual Appeal - Statement of Intent**

Yes, I am able to support the Seelos Shrine and Canonization Cause through my prayers.

Yes, Father Byron, I want to help support the National Shrine of Blessed Francis X. Seelos with a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for this specific need:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  Mastercard  Discover

Exp. Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Last 3 digits on signature line: \_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

Please cut & return to:  
National Shrine of  
Bl. Francis X. Seelos  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

**Special \$20 offering to enroll fathers, living or deceased, in Perpetual Mass League only during the month of June in honor of Father's Day!**

**Special \$12 offering to enroll fathers, living or deceased, in One-Year Mass League**

A gift of \$125 will continue to allow our hospital blessers to distribute complimentary rosaries, Seelos pamphlets, & other spiritual items to the sick & bedridden.

A gift of \$50 will help defray the monthly operational costs for the Seelos Daily Dial-A-Message, which averages 3,000 calls a year.

A gift of \$12 will help defray the cost of printing & mailing this newsletter for one year.

Please consider the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos for your employer matching gift program. Fed. Tax ID #72-0576253

Your gifts are tax deductible.

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

**Seelos Center News**  
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 ♦ 2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-5004  
504-525-2495/2499 ♦ FAX 504-581-9181

www.seelos.org  
Seelos Center News (USPS 4472) published monthly by the Redemptorists / National Shrine of Bl. F.X. Seelos  
Subscription is \$12 per year.

A gift of \$1,000 will go directly to the renovation of the new Seelos Welcome Center. Our gift to you in return is the documentary on the life of Fr. Seelos.



68 min. DVD

68 min. VHS

(Please specify format preference)



A gift of \$500 will directly support the ministry at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos. Our gift to you in return is an auto-graphed book on Seelos' edifying encounter with yellow fever.



# TESTIMONIALS



## SLIDELL, LA

My son was given a year or so to live because of leukemia, diabetes, nephrophy, etc., and he was exposed to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam as a Marine. He could hardly walk or barely get in & out of bed without help lifting his legs. He needed 24-hour care, regular blood transfusions and was on oxygen. I brought him to the Seelos Center in January where he was blessed with the Seelos Cross and the very next day he was able to get out of bed on his own; since that day, he has improved at least 98%. Everyone is shocked & happy to see his health improvement. Special thanks to Joyce Bourgeois for the beautiful prayer she said. Call it what you want, but to my family & me, this was a miracle. It was not the first time: in 1966, my father was going to lose his leg and a Redemptorist priest came to the hospital and blessed him with the Seelos Cross and he did not lose his leg.

## ANNAPOLIS, MD

About 5 months ago, I had a serious fall. I broke a vertebrae and have been in a rigid and uncomfortable neck brace ever since. Until yesterday! I was not healing properly and on the monthly visits to the doctor (prior to yesterday), the lack of progress was very discouraging. My daughter & her husband took an anniversary trip to New Orleans a week ago & I insisted they visit the Fr. Seelos Shrine, as he has been my "favorite" since he was beatified and I have really been "bugging" him for help. My daughter not only visited the Shrine but brought me back a 1<sup>st</sup> class relic of Fr. Seelos. So the evening before my appointment, I touched the relic to my neck. The next day I got a very positive report from the doctor. In addition to evidence of "healing," he took off the rigid brace in favor of a "soft" one with a lot more latitude in wearing same. The good report I

got on this visit I attribute to Fr. Seelos' intervention. And I want to publicly express my appreciation. Technically, it might not have been a "miracle," but as far as I'm concerned, it was.

## MORGAN CITY, LA

I was diagnosed with lung cancer in March 2007. At M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, I learned that I had spots on my brain and possibly bone and a lymph node as well. A friend gave me relics of Bl. Seelos and I began praying daily, almost constantly to him with my petition for a healing. In late March I had successful brain surgery for the one tumor, so Fr. Seelos was there for me. At my follow-up in May, a spot was discovered that was missed in the scan from March because it was so tiny. I decided to give my brain issues to Bl. Seelos at that point and in June went forward with a stereotactic procedure. All my anxiety & fears were totally removed from me at the point of my releasing to Fr. Seelos, and 6 months later, a scan shows my brain free & clear of any new or unseen tumors. Now, my most recent visit shows the lung tumor shrinking, the suspicious bone (spots) healing and the lymph node is much smaller. What a gift from God! I feel strongly that Bl. Seelos played a role in what has happened to give me good health & this gift.

*On May 12, 2008 the U. S. Postal Service increased prices for mailings as it did in May 2007. In addition, paper/envelope costs have increased dramatically in recent months. The Seelos Center is committed to offering a monthly newsletter, but these factors beyond our control have necessitated some changes beginning with the mailing of this issue. Thank you for your understanding in the matter. Your consideration of a \$12 donation to help defray the annual costs of printing & mailing this newsletter is greatly appreciated.*

## ATHENS, GA

My wife, Jean, suffered a massive stroke on February 15. She was in the intensive care unit for a week before they decided that nothing could be done for her medically since the damage to her brain was so extensive. We opted for home hospice care. Upon arriving home, Jean insisted on holding the first class relic of Bl. Seelos, which we had obtained several years ago. She held this relic constantly until her peaceful death on March 11. She said that the relic removed the pain. The nurses could not believe how little pain medication she was taking. Jean just showed them the relic and told them that this was her pain medication. Jean died very peacefully about 20 minutes after receiving the viaticum and while I was reciting the rosary.

## ODESSA, TX

My precious mother, whom I share with 15 other siblings, has had an 18-year battle with melanoma. On August 15, 2007, my mother submitted to her 19th & most severe surgery. My friend had told me about Bl. Seelos and had even sent my mother a relic. Every day, I pray to him & our Blessed Virgin on behalf of my mother's health. I pray that the cancer does not metastasize into her lymph nodes or bones. After the 10-hour surgery, removing about 1/3 of her face & grafting skin from elsewhere (she had already lost her nose), she not only recovered, but left the hospital in 7 days. She was able to attend the wedding of her youngest son in September. On April 22, 2008, my mother's surgeon at Roswell Cancer Hospital (Buffalo, NY) examined her (and he freely admits that she has defied the odds), and announced that he saw no surface signs of her melanoma! My mother then confided to me that she rubs her entire face every evening with the Bl. Seelos relic.

Dear Father Byron: In my own way, I want to support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for:

- the ministry & maintenance at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
- the Seelos Scholarship Fund to support Redemptorist Seminarians.
- item(s) designated below:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- my Mass Intention(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

*All contributions to the Seelos Shrine are income tax deductible.*

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please delete multiple mailings to this address.

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 address change request.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP