

# SEELOS CENTER NEWS

*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

Volume XLVIII Number 1 January 2009

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



Governor  
**Bobby Jindal**

## Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Father Francis Xavier Seelos, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Redemptorist, left his Bavarian home to become a missionary in the United States of America; and
- WHEREAS,** Father Seelos came to New Orleans, Louisiana; and
- WHEREAS,** Father Seelos worked tirelessly to comfort those afflicted by the New Orleans yellow fever epidemic of 1867, until he himself was struck down by the disease and died on October 4, 1867; and
- WHEREAS,** his sacred remains rest in the national shrine at St. Mary's Assumption Church; and
- WHEREAS,** His Holiness Pope John Paul II beatified Father Seelos in Rome in the solemn Jubilee Year 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** Sydney Barthelmy, the Honorable Mayor of the City of New Orleans proclaimed May 15, 1988, as "Father Seelos Day in New Orleans."
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 5, 2008 as

**FATHER SEELOS DAY**  
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By  
The Governor

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 5<sup>th</sup> day of October  
A. D., 2008*

*Bobby Jindal*  
Governor of Louisiana

*Gregory Williams*  
Secretary of State

## GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS 'FATHER SEELOS DAY IN LOUISIANA'

The Governor of Louisiana issued a proclamation to commemorate the 141st anniversary of Blessed Francis Seelos' death in New Orleans: "I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 5, 2008 as Father Seelos Day in the State of Louisiana."

The proclamation, with the Governor's actual signature, attests that "Father Seelos worked tirelessly to comfort those afflicted by the New Orleans yellow fever epidemic of 1867, until he himself was struck down by the disease and died on October 4, 1867." It further notes that the sacred remains of this revered Redemptorist missionary "rest in the national shrine at St. Mary's Assumption Church."

Representatives from the Governor's Office indicated the present administration's infrequent declarations of executive proclamations for a state-wide honorary day, and added how the two to date were coincidentally issued the same week -- one for a former sheriff; the other, for a future saint. On October 1, 2008, Louisiana's First Lady Supriya Jindal read a proclamation from the governor before a large crowd at a memorial service and statue dedication in Metairie, LA declaring "Sheriff Harry Lee Day in honor of his service to the people of the State of Louisiana," on the one-year anniversary of his death.

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## Message from the Editor

An immediate disclaimer: this is not about Angelina Jolie. However, I was aware that another Hollywood actress had assumed quasi-residence in New Orleans and was living in my local neighborhood.

On New Year's Day last year, I was reading the newspaper at my favorite coffee shop when she entered. Despite the oversized dark glasses, I recognized her instantly and quickly stood behind her in line. She appeared taller than in the movies, and more naturally beautiful. While she avoided direct eye contact with everyone, I mustered the courage to say something ... but what?

"Happy New Year!"

She returned the sentiment.

"By the way, I really liked you in that dog movie." She graciously acknowledged my pitifully lame compliment about her "Best in Show" performance, and deflected attention to other topics, like the Sugar Bowl and the streetcars.

Unbeknownst to me, when placing her order, she instructed the cashier to charge whatever I was ordering on her credit card as well. At the beverage pickup I thanked her for her unexpected, and classy gesture.

As she drove off in her sports car, the barista mentioned, "You know who that was who just bought you a drink, don't you?"

"Yes," I replied, "but I'm here alone and none of my friends would ever believe it." When I returned to my newspaper, the coffee somehow tasted more satisfying than usual. I knew it was the start of a very good year!

The staff & I at the Seelos Shrine wish you many unexpected and grace-full encounters in 2009! May your year be a more satisfying one than usual.

*Byron Miller, C.S.R.*



## Seelos Center 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 Seelos Crucifix 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: 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

### Shreveport/Bossier City

Tom & Marjorie Rivers: 318-797-3116

### 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 at Josephine & Constance St.

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

## We invite you to participate in our new Seelos Welcome Center building project with due recognition!

Good & faithful people pushed to begin the canonization cause of Father Seelos shortly after the saintly Redemptorist died of yellow fever in 1867. By the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Official Process began.

In 1959, good & faithful people established the Seelos Center to help accelerate the Seelos Cause. By the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Father Seelos was officially beatified in Rome in 2000.

In 2009 – the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seelos Center – we look back with gratitude for their great accomplishments, & we also look forward to the completion of a new SEELOS WELCOME CENTER to expand our ministerial outreach & develop new initiatives as we work toward Bl. Seelos' canonization.

### Build for the Future & Memorialize the Past

Our commemorative wall will be a permanent symbol dedicated to enrich those who visit the Shrine's Welcome Center. It's a very special way to remember a family member, friend or co-worker with a deep devotion to Father Seelos for favors granted.

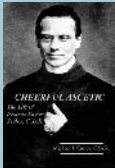
### How can You Participate?

Persons, special events, and/or anniversaries may be acknowledged or memorialized. Honor the life work of someone special. Remember your loved ones and respect their values. Show your children & grandchildren your family names as part of a lasting tribute. This unique opportunity to help "lay a foundation" adds longevity to your gift when it is preserved for posterity!

### How will the Shrine Benefit from Your Offering?

Your gift will be used specifically for the construction of the new Seelos Welcome Center. This project will allow us to hand on to the next generation what we have received from our ancestors and what we build with our sacrifices. (See next page for details)

## Seelos Center Devotionals



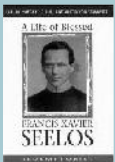
**Cheerful Ascetic**, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



**.999 Fine Silver Seelos Medal** Round, 3/4" dia., with loop; brushed image with polished reverse & edge. Marked with .999 FS on reverse top. (Donation: \$58 - 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: \$13, incl. p/h)



**A Life of Blessed Francis X. Seelos**, 108-page paperback biography. (Donation: \$12 - includes p/h)



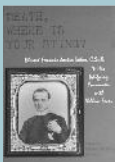
**Seelos Medals:** Made of nickel silver, round 3/4" dia. with loop, antique finish, finely crafted in the U.S. (Donation: \$3 each or 2/\$5 + \$1 p/h)



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



**Seelos, Tireless Intercessor**, a 68-min. documentary on Seelos' miraculous life; seen on EWTN. (Donation: \$25 DVD / \$10 VHS - incl. p/h)



**Death, Where Is Your Sting?**, tender account of Seelos' final weeks of life as told by witnesses of his death to yellow fever. Seldom revealed details transport us to the bedside of a true martyr. Hardcover, 175 pp., photos. (Donation: \$24 - incl. p/h)



**Sincerely, Seelos**, the 201 collected letters of Fr. Seelos. Hardbound, 512 pgs., illustr. (Donation: \$35 - incl. p/h)

☞ **A Seelos Vigil Candle** will burn near his sacred resting place in Seelos Shrine, New Orleans, for an offering of \$4.

☞ **Seelos 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>-Class Relics/ Seelos Pamphlets & Prayer Cards** in English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Call Seelos Center, 504-525-2495 or 2499.

Please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.



## A Saint Among Us: Carol's Story

It's a pretty safe bet that Fr. Seelos had to roll up his sleeves when Carol came calling. Las Vegas would have booked her as a "long shot." Carol caught a lucky break in 1999 with an early detection of breast cancer. After extensive chemo, she seemed okay. Two years later a jubilant friend gave Carol a simple hug and broke two of her ribs. That's not normal and the suspicion was her cancer had returned and spread to her bones. A mammogram revealed an ominous spot in the location of the original cancer. She was told the probability of a malignancy was very high. She tried to prepare herself. She prayed [to Seelos] as she waited for the biopsy results. Much to her doctors' amazement and Carol's relief, no sign of cancer was found. End of Act I.

Two years went by before Act II opened. This would be the main act, as if the first wasn't bad enough. She was diagnosed with sarcoidosis, a devastating and potentially fatal disease that drastically impairs the immune system and can appear in almost any organ in the body. The cause is unknown and the cure is nonexistent. Carol's liver was rapidly deteriorating and taking her kidney with it. [She was] placed on a double transplant list. She waited and she prayed.

... She went into renal failure and was, as she puts it, "walking dead," when she received her second Seelos blessing. She has little memory of that event and Roger, her husband, raced her directly to the hospital where she lapsed into a coma. Family members were summoned and frantically prayed for her life and she was anointed. After a week on death's doorstep she awoke. Incredibly, less than a week later she received a double-organ transplant and went home.

She describes herself today as a "perfectly healthy person," and is quick to point out that without the intercession of Fr. Seelos she'd be dead. "Every conscious moment during this entire ordeal I had a Seelos relic in my hand" she said. But it was one of those unconscious moments that is forever etched in Carol's memory. In the center of a beautiful vision stood her beloved mother. Just behind her mother stood a bespectacled, handsome young man with a "saintly" smile. Francis Xavier Seelos. Critics would say that "vision" was all in Carol's mind. Of course it was, because first it was in her heart and then filled her soul. That is where all healing begins.

[Written by editor Joe Benton, in *The Star* (Vol. 15, #3, Fall 2008), the newsletter of Stella Maris Catholic Church, Sullivan's Island, SC - founded in 1845.]

### Seelos Welcome Center Levels of Recognition

HALO HELPERS (\$250 - \$499)

SEELOS SHRINE ENTHUSIASTS (\$500 - \$999)

SEELOS SHRINE SUPPORTERS (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

SEELOS SHRINE SUSTAINERS (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

*(Helpers, Enthusiasts, Supporters, Sustainers are acknowledged in print.)*

"SERVANT OF GOD" PATRONS (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

"VENERABLE" SPONSORS (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

"BLESSED" BENEFACTORS (\$20,000 - \$34,999)

"SAINTLY" PHILANTHROPISTS (\$35,000 + UP)

*(Patrons, Sponsors, Benefactors, Philanthropists are acknowledged in print and engraved on the commemorative wall of the Seelos Welcome Center.)*

Payments can be made cumulatively or in full through December 2009!

**ASTORIA, NY**

I had spinal stenosis. For two months I applied Fr. Seelos' relic to the spine. I can now walk without pain.

**MADISONVILLE, LA**

This letter is long overdue. I was raised in the Irish Channel and we always prayed to Fr. Seelos. He was the one to pray to when all the odds were against you. My family came through heart surgery when there were only two doctors in the entire state trained in that field. They survived cancer before we knew the meaning of "Oncology." My faith in God, the Blessed Mother, and Fr. Seelos still continues to turn my seemingly endless list of petitions into "requests granted," even when they're "against all odds." My thanks for prayers answered.

**AKRON, OH**

My purpose in sending this letter is to acknowledge the favor granted through the intercession of Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos. I have a spur on the cervical vertebrae that causes pain in the neck & shoulder, with numbness in my left hand. A good friend suggested that I ask Bl. Seelos to intercede to achieve better control of this condition. I believe that he inspired my husband to find an additional supplement (Celadrin) that has freed me from pain and numbness. Please add my healing to the long list of favors granted through Bl. Seelos' intercession.

**BATON ROUGE, LA**

Just a note to say what Bl. Seelos has done for me. I had a very painful back surgery last July, but I passed the Seelos relic over my back and legs for my healing. He came

**TESTIMONIALS**

to my aid. I'm now pain free and can walk again. He's something else! I thank God & Fr. Seelos for my blessing.



**PITTSBURGH, PA**

A Redemptorist priest named Fr. [John] Kelly helps with Masses at our parish. Although I heard Father speak of Bl. Seelos before, I never prayed to him. I'm so glad that I did this time. The father of my daughter-in-law was diagnosed with lung cancer in May 2008. He was told his chances were 30% for getting better. He proceeded to get treatment 5 days a week for several weeks. I said the Fr. Seelos prayer every day for him; when I prayed, I asked only that the results of his scan would be good. He's now cancer-free at this time, with no signs of cancer in his lung or lymph nodes! I began to cry & thank God & Bl. Seelos for what I call a "miracle."

**BELLMORE, NY**

Praise God Almighty for the wonders He has wrought through Bl. Seelos. Our grandson, born in 2007, needed immediate intestine surgery. He had a spot on his bowel, a poor pancreas and cystic fibrosis. My friend brought us a relic of Bl. Seelos, which we placed on the baby's port in his chest. He was in the hospital for 5 months. He is now

13 months old. We call him our miracle baby, our baby Kendall Seelos!

**MARRERO, LA**

I am writing to let you know how my prayers were answered through Fr. Seelos' novena. My granddaughter had toxemia during the last weeks of her pregnancy. We hoped that she could make it to her 38<sup>th</sup> week, and with prayers to Fr. Seelos, she did. Then a miracle was performed at the C-section breech birth. Despite complications, both mother & daughter are well.

**ABBEVILLE, LA**

My husband & I just recently had our second child. He had a rough start at life and we thought at one point that we would lose him. Lots of people in my community and even people that we did not know contacted us to tell us about Bl. Seelos. We received a first class relic from a lady in Lafayette to put in his ICU bed on his fifth day. Since that day, he slowly began getting better even though he was still critical. I made a promise to Bl. Seelos everyday on my way to the hospital that if he helped our little boy pull through, that I would take my family to visit his shrine. Our little angel came home 16 days after his birth & now I am keeping my promise. Bl. Seelos will be in our lives & our prayers everyday because I believe he saved our son!

**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  
Assistant Administrator: Nick Punch

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

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:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

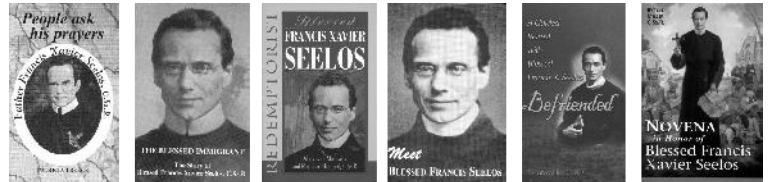
- my Mass Intention(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

**ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FR. SEELOS**



**ALL SIX ITEMS FOR ONLY \$13 (INCLUDES P/H)**

- 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 or e-mail to [bmiller@seelos.org](mailto:bmiller@seelos.org) Allow a minimum of 30 days to process your address change request.

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