



SEELOS CENTER NEWS

Volume XLVIII Number 6 June 2009

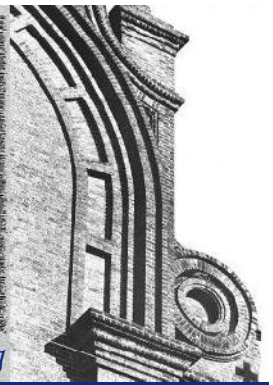
National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

In the Redemptorist Church
of Saint Mary's Assumption

2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

(504) 525-2495
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www.seelos.org

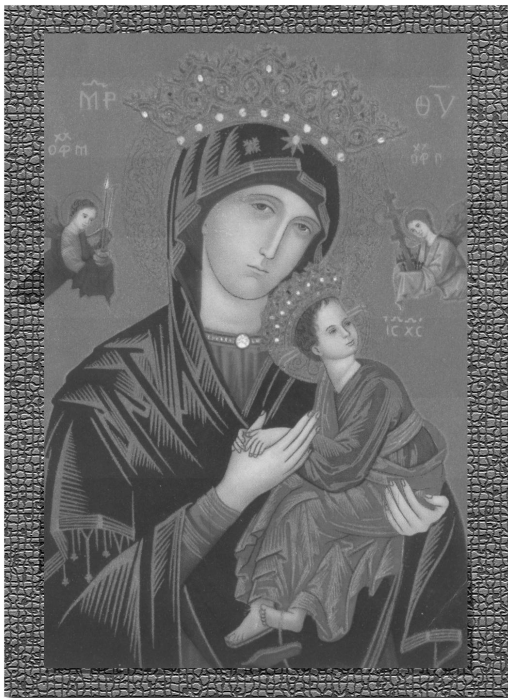


THE (OTHER) SHRINE AT NEW ORLEANS

On December 8, 1874, a new painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, from Rome was solemnly carried in procession to St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans and exposed to veneration of the faithful. By 1895, May Devotions included a giant procession in all three local Redemptorist churches of St. Alphonsus, St. Mary's Assumption & Notre Dame de Bon Secours.

On May 28, 1900, a remarkable incident occurred to a certain Mrs. Hasam, a convert & member of Redemptorist Parish. Her affliction was such that she could not sit in an ordinary chair; when not in her wheelchair, she was bedridden. Mrs. Hasam had not been able to walk for 47 years. She was wheeled from her home to the Church and walked up & down the Blessed Virgin's aisle in St. Alphonsus Church. About a year before this time, she began, with several friends, to offer up her prayers in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and had a light burning before Our Lady's altar.

The "Novena of the Nine Tuesdays" had its birth November 8, 1927 in New Orleans. Devotion of the "9 Tuesdays" became a fixed feature, in both the religious and civic life of the inhabitants. The activities of the "Tuesdays" involved the police & fire departments, which furnished protection for the numerous clientele of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The street car company provided additional cars to its regular schedule to accommodate the many worshippers. At one time, 24 services were required each Tuesday, running 1-1/2 hours apart through the entire day. They were divided between the three churches: 12 services in St. Alphonsus, 9 in St. Mary's Assumption, and 3 in Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel. At its height in popularity, average attendance each Tuesday was about 34,600.



As a result, the Mother of Perpetual Help found a home in many churches & countless hearts far from the actual Redemptorist churches. Thus came about one of the greatest spiritual awakenings in modern times, when the spirit of the ages of faith returned in honoring the Mother of God.

**FEAST DAY OF OUR MOTHER OF
PERPETUAL HELP IS JUNE 27**

DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEELOS CANONIZATION CAUSE!

It is with great delight and glory to God, that on May 19, 2009, Most Reverend Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, convoked the Opening Session of the Diocesan Inquiry into an alleged healing through the intercession of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R. The results of this investigation will be sent to the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints in Rome for their consideration. If this healing is miraculous, it may lead to the canonization of Blessed Seelos.

The Opening Session of the Diocesan Inquiry was celebrated with a special Mass in the historic Basilica of the Assumption on Cathedral Street.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is in the process of conducting depositions of key witnesses - including that of Mary Ellen Heibel of St. Mary's (Redemptorist) Church, Annapolis, who attributes her healing of metastasized esophageal cancer through Father Seelos' intercession.

Let us pray for God's continued blessings on this exciting advancement in the Seelos Cause!

(Please see next issue for coverage of this event.)



John & Mary Ellen Heibel, Seelos Bench
St. Mary's Church, Annapolis

message from the editor



Lincoln Logs were invented in 1916 by the son of architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Especially popular in the 1920s and again in the 1950s & 60s, these toy sets produced model log cabins. I can still recall the distinctive smell from the stained wood interlocking logs & green slats that wafted from their cylinder storage tin! As late as 1975, a million sets were selling annually; there's a resurgence in this item as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abe Lincoln's birth. Lincoln Logs demonstrate how some things with a previous momentum can return at the right times in history.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Seelos Center, the construction of the new Seelos Welcome Center, & the latest development in the canonization cause, I am reminded how some things with a past momentum can return and possibly dovetail at the right time in God's divine plan. Efforts were made immediately upon Fr. Seelos' death in 1867 to introduce his cause for sainthood. His formal cause was activated at the turn of the 19th century, then reactivated in the 1950s & 60s -- but what never seemed to lose momentum was Fr. Seelos' appeal and powerful intercession.

There is a deposit of faith upon which we form a firm foundation. By building upon the many prayers and efforts of those who preceded us in this noble cause, we form a building with Christ as the cornerstone. May Fr. Seelos continue to interlock us to Him!

Byron Miller, C.Ss.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/Innercity

Jack Pitkin: 504-524-6591
Dennis Waldron: 504-442-6336

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.



21st
Annual
Seelos
Day
in
New
Orleans



Special guests at the April 26, 2009 memorial Mass included presider & homilist, Rev. Edward Monroe, C.Ss.R. of Oconomowoc, WI (above), Msgr. Christopher Nalty of Good Shepherd parish in New Orleans (top right), & Ellen Gurtner as lector (right).

Special thanks to the organizers of the Benefit: Nick Punch, Joyce Bourgeois, Gerry Heigle, Pam Larter, Kevin & Kathy Tran, Kim Bourgeois, Marie Giorlando, Maria Pellerin, Beverly Fountain & Dara Harrell.

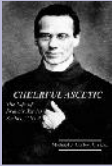
Photo Credit: Bill Coskrey



Bottom Rt:
Sarah Story &
friend enjoy
for the new Seelos
Welcome
Center;
Left: guest
bids on one of
many silent
auction items;
Elizabeth
Fitzpatrick at
the piano.



Seelos Center Devotionals



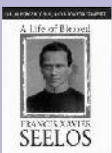
Cheerful Ascetic, 480-pg. hard-bound biography by Fr. M. Curley that captures Seelos' piety & personality; index/photos (Donation: \$30, incl. p/h)



.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).



Seelos Rosary Ring: Made in Italy, great gift for First Communion in honor of Mary for the month of May. (Donation: \$3, incl. p/h)



A Life of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, 108-page paperback biography, illustrated. (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 1st, 2nd & 3rd-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.

2009 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 support the cause of Blessed Francis Seelos in gratitude for Graces Received & Prayers Answered. \$ _____ to be used for this specific need:

- the ministry at the National Shrine of Bl. Francis Seelos.
 completion of the new Seelos Welcome Center, now under construction.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

- Visa Mastercard Discover

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Last 3 digits on signature line: ____

Signature: _____

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 \$1,000 goes directly to the 2009 renovation of a new Seelos Welcome Center. Built as a SSND Convent circa 1939, this 3-story building adjacent to the church is being converted into a visitor center to include exhibit space, orientation theater, staff offices, gift shop, archives & chapel. Completion date is mid-summer! \$1.2 million is our needed goal. Visit www.seelos.org for more info. Our gift to you in return is the Seelos documentary.

68 min. DVD
(specify format preference)

68 min. VHS



"Because it's a feast day, we watched the Fr. Seelos DVD. The whole community absolutely loved it; the witnesses were so powerful & his holiness shone through it all. It's such an uplifting, inspiring programme. That picture on the DVD box ... it's his eyes that speak of love." -- Poor Clare Colettine Nuns, Wales UK

THANK YOU!

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

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 3,700 calls a year.

Due to the U.S. Postal Service price increase this month, 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

Seelos Center News

A monthly newsletter for friends of
 BL. FRANCIS X. SEELOS

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 Very Rev. Thomas D. Picton, C.Ss.R.
 Seelos Center Executive Director / Editor:
 Rev. Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.
 Seelos Center Administrator: Joyce Bourgeois
 Vice-Postulators: Frs. John Vargas & Byron Miller
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NORTH FALMOUTH, MA

Thank you for the extraordinary treatment we received at your wonderful shrine, and for our good fortune of bumping into the tour guide and prayer session. The visit was highlighted by our experience with [Joyce Bourgeois, administrator], whose piety & sincerity were as comforting as they were impressive. The words flowed as if inspired & touched us deeply. The good news is that the last exam showed no change, which could be the first step toward defeating the cancer. Our spirits are high & you have helped us toward a positive attitude.

FAIRFIELD, PA

To me, Bl. Seelos is a wonder-worker, healing all forms of illness. In April, I was diagnosed with a tumor on my spleen; if cancerous, the whole spleen was to be removed. Due to other medical problems, a functioning spleen was very much needed. I prayed with a 1st class relic of Bl. Seelos, and my surgeon told me post-op that there was no cancer and I could still have a working spleen. I send a big thank you hug to our faithful Bl. Seelos & pray for his sanctification in this coming year of the priest.

RIVER RIDGE, LA

My father introduced me to Fr. Seelos over 35 years ago. Fr. Seelos has never failed me yet. When I was pregnant, I asked his intercession that I would have a healthy baby, and ever since I have felt that he is my daughter's special protector these last 34 years. Recently, she found a lump in

TESTIMONIALS

her breast & I prayed to Fr. Seelos that it would not be cancerous. It wasn't! Thank you again, Fr. Seelos!

MANAHAWKIN, NJ

I would like to express my gratitude to our Bl. Seelos. I was rushed to the hospital with heart failure & placed on life support in the critical care unit. My dear friends prayed the Bl. Seelos prayer. Not long after they left, all the life support was removed. Now, six months later, I've had good results from many tests, and no need for a pacemaker.

AMHERST, NY

Our fourth child, who was due on October 4, 2008 (date of Seelos' death), was born on Sept. 29 & named Xavier. He was named after Fr. Seelos and we are sure of his intercession in helping our Xavier arrive safely.

CONROE, TX

After my annual mammogram, I had to return for more X-rays. The right breast area was not clear. I got very nervous, especially since my mother had breast cancer. I prayed each day to Bl. Seelos to intercede for me to our Lord & Blessed Mother for a good report. On Good Friday, the nurse called to tell me that the mammogram was normal!

METAIRIE, LA

Six weeks ago I was declared cancer-free by my doctor. I attribute that good news to all the prayers offered on my behalf, especially the anointing and Fr. Seelos blessing that was bestowed on me.

MILFORD, MA

In December 2008, my sister was stricken with encephalitis of the brain. She had high fever & continuous seizures for over a week; then she was unconscious for 6 weeks and placed on a feeding tube. In late Feb., she regained consciousness and doctors said she would have no memory or recognition. Earlier I had seen a program on Fr. Seelos on EWTN. My granddaughter lives in New Orleans, so I asked her to visit the shrine & light a candle and enter my sister's name in the prayer book. We all have been praying for Fr. Seelos' intercession. Now my sister knows everyone and remembers a lot. We consider her a miracle just to be alive.

FOLSOM, LA

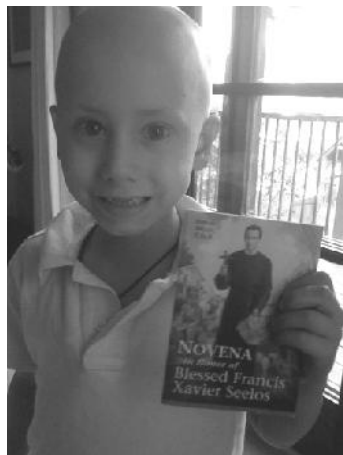
Our friend has been suffering with prostate cancer for over a year. He was about to start radiation treatments when the doctor felt the cancer may have spread to other parts of his body. We then visited the Seelos Center. What a beautiful church & museum. Our friend was blessed and prayed over. Two days later, he got good news. His cancer had not spread. He still has many treatments left, but with Fr. Seelos' intercession and prayer, he will recover.

REST IN PEACE

JOSEPH SPEDALE, SR.

(1928 - 2009)

Seelos Development Board Member 2000 - 2002

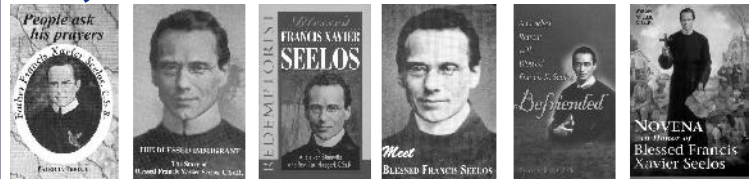


People from California, Texas, Illinois, Indiana & Louisiana are united in a novena to Bl. Seelos for 5-year-old Pablo to be healed of all cancer.



Mason provides brickwork to the new Seelos Welcome Center as the project nears completion in mid-summer! See details in future issues!

ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FR. SEELOS



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