JOHN & HOLLY CARNEY SEE RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS SAINTS AS PART OF DIVINE PLAN


At face value, the return of 46-year-old kicker John Carney to the New Orleans Saints on Sept. 28 was just another of a seemingly endless stream of NFL transactions. That day, team officials released wide receiver Adrian Arrington to make room for Carney on their 53-man roster. Period, end of story, right? Hardly. At a gala benefit for the Blessed Francis X. Seelos canonization cause at the Audubon Tea Room, Holly Carney provided a riveting testimony of miraculous proportion and a compelling explanation of her husband’s unexpected return to New Orleans.

The abridged story begins on April 20th (John’s birthday) when Holly Carney went in for exploratory surgery at a San Diego hospital. A battery of tests conducted over an 18-month period apparently had not been able to determine the extent of her “female issues,” according to John Carney. “Ninety minutes after the surgery, I woke up out of the anesthesia when they were wheeling me out of the operating room,” Holly Carney said when contacted by NewOrleans.com at the family home in San Diego. “The doctors and nurses were shocked because I wasn’t due to wake up for 2 ½ to 3 more hours. But I woke up.” Mrs. Carney said she told a surgeon and attending nurse that a priest had been with her throughout the entire 3-hour procedure, seated in a metal chair inside the operating room.

“Holly felt and swore that Blessed Seelos was in the room with her the entire surgery, speaking with her and comforting her, and that’s what he did when he was alive,” John Carney said. “There are numerous accounts of him appearing to sick and infirmed people, people during surgeries. He’s credited with many healing miracles.”

“I remember everything,” Mrs. Carney said. “I remember Blessed Seelos sitting in a metal chair in his priest’s outfit…. I was in great awe that the Lord allowed Blessed Seelos to be there and pray for me and guide the two doctors who were doing the surgery. They were astounded what they found in me.” Among the things that doctors removed was a benign tumor above Mrs. Carney’s left ovary and a massive band of muscle that had grown together in that area of her body causing her constant pain and discomfort.

“I absolutely am 100 percent confident it was a miracle, because I was under anesthesia and you can’t make things up, nor do you typically remember things under anesthesia,” Mrs. Carney said. “And I remember everything, and my doctors and nurse confirmed that. It was a huge miracle in that the Lord allowed this (Blessed Seelos), because he’s so fervent in praying for everyone, to be with me during this surgery. And the reason it registered with so many people is because I was under anesthesia.”

As Spring turned to summer and training camps opened up around the NFL, John Carney remained unemployed. He continued to work out at his home in San Diego in the hope of getting a call from a team in need of a veteran kicker. None called, but the desire to resume his stellar 22-year NFL career never waned. Around this time, an invitation arrived in the mail for the Carneys to attend a gala benefit Oct. 3 for the Blessed Seelos canonization cause at the Audubon Tea Room in New Orleans. On Sept. 24, 10 days before the event, Mrs. Carney telephoned her regrets. “My heart told me I had to go,” Mrs. Carney said. “I needed to be at the gala because the Lord wanted me to be there and tell what happened. But, I was resigned to the fact that I wouldn’t be able to go because John was out of work and I thought it would be inappropriate to leave my family at that time. So I called my friend, Joyce, at the Blessed Seelos Center.” Mrs. Carney explained her situation and the two of them prayed to Blessed Seelos over the phone. “Together, we prayed for John to get work where he would be happy,” Mrs. Carney said. “I was thinking Dallas (the site of Super Bowl XLV).” She almost seemed embarrassed by the sound of it. “Dallas.” And she laughed.

Forty-eight hours after praying to Blessed Seelos, a Saints’ area scout called Carney and asked if he’d be interested in rejoining the Black and Gold. Earlier in the day on Sept. 26th, kicker Garrett Hartley had missed a potential game-winning 29-yard field goal in overtime against the Atlanta Falcons at the Superdome. The Falcons eventually prevailed 27-24, putting Hartley’s job in jeopardy and prompting a job inquiry from the Saints.

Carney arrived in New Orleans the night of Sept. 27th, and the next day won a kickoff against veteran kicker Kris Brown. On Sept 29th, Carney signed on for a third stint with the Black and Gold (2001-06, 2009) as both a kicker on the 53-man roster and a mentor for Hartley. In his first game back with the Black and Gold, Carney converted field goal attempts of 32-, 32- and 25-yards, the latter coming with 3:55 remaining to provide the winning points in a 16-14 victory against the Carolina Panthers at the Superdome. That same night, Holly Carney provided her testimony at the Audubon Tea Room on behalf of Blessed Seelos, the late priest whose cause is being considered before the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints in Rome. “I wanted to share with everyone that God allowed this intercessor, this powerful prayer warrior, to be with me,” Mrs. Carney said. “And then the door opened for us to be there at the benefit. I think the Lord just wanted me to share my testimony because prayer is powerful and the spiritual realm is real and everything that has happened to my husband in the NFL is from God moving things around for him.”
Today, October 4th, I first learned of the life of Blessed Father Seelos. I saw a short program on EWTN about him and he seemed so alive and relevant to me. I had to look for your website, and even though I knew it was not during your hours of operation, I just had to connect with someone at your office to say how I was moved by all that I had just learned about Father Seelos. Dear Father, I am totally sure it was not a coincidence that I saw that program. Yes, I feel so lost alone, and you must hear that so frequently. And I am going through some physical problems that are serious. Yet I have requested the doctors not to take any extraordinary measures. I was born in the Church and went to a very strict and orthodox Catholic school for 12 years. I graduated from high school in 1969. At that turbulent time, the students as well as some of our Sisters and priests left the Church. Some were political, and some were very open about leaving the Church to get married. I felt cynical about all religion and went along with those friends who explored some of the Eastern religions. I think it was...  His prayer life is something that meant so much to him. I would like to learn ...  His prayer life is something that meant so much to him. I would like to learn...
DEVELOPMENT IN THE SEELOS CANONIZATION CAUSE!

It was with great delight & 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 Bl. Francis Seelos. Episcopal Delegate, Rev. Gilbert Seitz, J.C.L. of the Baltimore Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal and his Inquiry Panel Officials exercised the greatest diligence and commitment in gathering all of the proofs and documentation. Then, on September 21, 2010, Fathers John Vargas & Byron Miller, Redemptorist Vice Postulators, convened in Baltimore to inspect the Acts, and determined the Inquiry to be comprehensive and thorough, with no further proofs to submit or witnesses to propose. The results of this investigation have now been sent to the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints in Rome, thus completing the Diocesan Inquiry phase of the canonization process.

At some point in the near future, the case will undergo proper scrutiny by Vatican authorities. Let us intensify our prayers that this case will be accepted as the miracle to canonize Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos!

PIZZHURGH PRIEST RECEIVES HIGHEST SEELOS HONOR

In the sixty-six years that Father John Kelly, C.Ss.R. has been a Redemptorist, he has had numerous parish assignments in the U.S. & Puerto Rico, and has conducted countless parish missions. Wherever the ministry brought him, Father Kelly consistently introduced the inviting spirituality and canonization cause of Blessed Francis Seelos.

On October 3, 2010, at a gala banquet in New Orleans, Father Kelly was inducted into “The Order of Seelos Witness” — the highest honor accorded by the National Seelos Shrine. This recognition is given to those who exemplify the principles & values brought forth by Blessed Seelos; only a handful of recipients have been so named, including the great-great grandniece of Blessed Seelos from Fussen, Germany.

In his tender acceptance speech, Father Kelly acknowledged the effects of Seelos’ powerful intercession throughout his own life, notably in the remarkable healing that occurred after a stroke paralyzed the left side of his body earlier this year.
LAPLACE, LA
My daughter-in-law in Alabama was diagnosed with a mass on her kidney. She and her parents belong to the Baptist faith. I brought a Seelos first class relic with me; I told her about him & asked if I could pray with her for powerful intercession to our Lord. She agreed. She wore the 3rd class relic during the procedure and there was no malignancy. She was very touched by this and I began to notice that she continued to pray to Bl. Seelos. Shortly after this experience, her father was rushed to the hospital for gall bladder complications. On the day of the surgery, she told her mother that she prayed with her father through Bl. Seelos' intercession. The doctors commented that they could not have asked for the surgery to go any better.

HOUSTON, TX
Sophie was hospitalized with a mild infection. Within two days, her worsened condition required her to be transferred to MICU and placed on a ventilator. Then came three episodes of cardiac arrest. Her physicians prepared us for the worst. I placed a relic of Bl. Father Seelos on her chest and prayed. Her condition began to stabilize and finally, after five weeks, she is home and recovering. We both feel that Father Seelos intervened with our Lord.

LEONVILLE, LA
My family & I visited the Shrine for the April healing Mass to be prayed over when my unborn child was diagnosed with a cleft lip & palate. We were concerned that there could have been other complications. I am writing to inform you that my daughter was born in August with a complete cleft lip & palate, which is the only abnormality. At least three surgeries are required to fix this, the first when she weighs at least ten pounds. We would like to thank you for your time during our visit. I also want to thank God for my wonderful husband, because without his support & confidence, I would not have made it this far.

MT. SINAI, NY
I first learned about Fr. Seelos when looking through the relics that my mother had after her death. My niece was in an accident; I called my sister to let her know that I would bring our mother’s relic of Fr. Seelos with me when I visited them in Delaware, and she told me that when her ex-husband converted to Catholicism, he chose Fr. Seelos as his patron and picked the name Francis as his Confirmation name. Now, early this morning on October 5 [Feast of Bl. Seelos], my niece started showing signs of responding to stimulus. The signs were small, but tremendous in impact!

PONCHATOULA, LA
My sister gave me one of her kidneys in 1990. It lasted 15 years, by the grace of God. When it failed due to a recurrent disease, her husband gave me one of his. I suffered from a bladder infection, then rejection, then a BK virus attacked my transplant. Two incisional hernias from the surgeries were not healing, resulting in a month-long hospital stay. How I got through it all can only be attributed to the presence of God with me & the intercession of Bl. Seelos. Today, 1-1/2 years after the transplant, I am stable. No more dialysis; I have learned to live with the diabetes. My kidney function is compromised due to the BK virus, but I haven’t lost the transplant. Praise the Lord & thank you Bl. Seelos for your intercessory prayers!

SAN ANTONIO, TX
Thank you for sharing your precious relics. Bl. Seelos has certainly interceded for me, & I am not in need of surgery! My bleeding has ceased and the mass found in my uterus is negative for cancer recurrence!