

## PATRON OF OPTIMISTS

Fr. Michael Heher recounts how a woman parishioner at the daily morning Mass prays collectively "for vocations, the homeless, and an end to abortion," as though she believed them to be equally hopeless causes. Yet, in rings a new year... and hope springs eternal!



No doubt, had Optimist International existed in Father Seelos' day, he gladly would have been a card-carrying member! Over 3,000 Optimist Clubs in more than 35 nations conduct positive service projects in local communities aimed at improving the lives of children. Fr. Seelos -- the ever "Cheerful Ascetic" -- would have resonated with the Optimist Creed that urges members "to wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile; to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others; to be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble."

What better time than beginning a new year to adopt such a worthwhile credo!

Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

*If you would fill your flagons  
To toast the New Year's birth,  
We know the sweetest vintage  
That bubbles on the earth.*

*A redder wine than Cana's,  
Where water, flaming, flushed,  
As if a million rubies  
Were thrown within, and crushed.*

*A dregless draught, and dearer  
Than pearls without a taint,  
Or relic softly stolen  
From the body of a saint.*

*It wins us timeless treasures,  
To live and linger yet  
When all the stars are cinders  
And when the sun is jet.*

*And when this toast is taken,  
Unlike the ruder wine,  
It lifts a man from lusting  
And makes him half divine.*

*But where to find the wonder --  
The drink beyond surpass?  
Behold! a priest is lifting  
A Cup at Holy Mass.*

-- Thomas H. Cosgrove, C.Ss.R.,  
January 1943



## Seelos Center Services

☞ **Pilgrimages** to St. Mary's Assumption Church, Seelos Shrine & Museum. Call Center: 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:

### 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  
Dennis Waldron: 504-442-6336

### Westbank

Elaine Freeman: 504-341-2213  
Rosary Stoltman: 504-393-9423

### Baton Rouge

Gloria Bacque: 225-753-3800  
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

Gasper Corpora: 225-294-5938

### Prairieville/Gonzales

M/M Claude Bourgeois 225-673-6688

### 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.

## Seelos Center News

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

Denver Provincial Superior:  
Very Rev. Thomas D. Pictou, 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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