



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS ANNIVERSARY MASS

When Father Seelos died October 4, 1867, he was but 48 years old. The night of his wake the people filled St. Mary's Church, praying for him. The next day for his funeral every seat in church was taken. Not one of those present is alive today.

Yet this year on Sunday, October 3, the church will again be filled with people who revere Father Seelos' memory four generations after his death. 28,000 people in all 50 states of the Union and in 20 foreign countries will receive this bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. Proof enough that great men never really die in the memory of men.

The concelebrated Mass commemorating the 104th anniversary of Father Seelos' death will begin at 10:00 A.M. in St. Alphonsus Church, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans. Bishop Clarence Duhart, C.S.S.R., of Udonthani, Thailand, will be the principal celebrant. Father Alphonse Abadie, vice-provincial of the Redemptorists of New Orleans, Father William Grangell, Vice Postulator of the cause of Father Seelos, and Father Michael Curley, author of *The Cheerful Ascetic*, the biography of Father Seelos, will also be concelebrants.

Father Bernard Krimm, C.S.S.R., of Philadelphia, will give the homily at the Mass. Father Krimm is the assistant vice-postulator of the cause of Blessed John Neumann, C.S.S.R., who was a contemporary of Father Seelos.



Father Bernard Krimm

There will be a table in front of St. Alphonsus Church where you may obtain literature, cloth mementoes, etc. of Father Seelos. *THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC* will also be available at \$4.95 per copy.

VIRTUE FOR OCTOBER -- SILENCE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Patron: St. Simon, the Apostle

Text: And having dismissed the multitudes, he went into a mountain alone to pray. Matt. 14/23

A man who was studying the system of the Monthly Virtue with Father Seelos told him he considered silence a big void, a vacuum, an emptiness. He asked for an explanation of it as a virtue. Father Seelos answered that his idea of the vacuum was intriguing. Silence as a virtue is when one creates a mental vacuum, empties himself of the world and fills it with heaven and God. Silence in itself means nothing - but to be silent so as to speak with God is the virtue. Recollection and silence is the virtue. To be silent so as to think of God is recollection. Some people by nature are silent, they like to be alone, they don't care to talk. They are not practicing the virtue of silence.

On the walls of the corridors in Father Seelos' religious house was the word "silence". The idea was to remind the religious to keep his thoughts on God. Father Seelos made one day of retreat every month and an annual retreat of ten consecutive days to be alone with God and to check on his religious life.

The world today does not like silence. It wants noise. You hear the sound of TV - radio constantly. There is music all over the big office buildings and stores. It's to soothe the nerves and to keep people distracted. Some people are afraid of silence. Their consciences would scream at them and tear them to pieces. Hence, the music and perpetual noise.

Accustom yourself to visit our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Just sit there in silence and in a few moments you will be in dialogue with Christ. You can't remain silent in the presence of God in church or anywhere.

Holy silence does not make one sad, morose, melancholy. Just the opposite, it makes one "A CHEERFUL ASCETIC." Father Seelos was always happy. As a matter of fact, his confreres sang at his death bed.

There is another kind of silence we call external. It has reference to the way we use our tongue. St. James in his epistle (1/26) tells us 'if anyone think himself to be religious, not bridle his tongue, this man's religion is vain.' In Chapter 3rd, he tells us the tongue is a fire, a world on iniquity. So much harm can be done with it. Resolve in the month of Silence that you will watch your tongue and your pen! Be king always.

BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR US!

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"My son has been seriously ill for fifteen months. The doctors said that his inability to walk or talk is due to brain damage. He has been blessed several times lately with the crucifix of Father Seelos. There has been some improvement in his condition during this time. Will those who read this please join with me in praying to Father Seelos that my son may have a complete recovery?"

Mrs. H. M.

New Orleans, La.

"I promised Father Seelos a thank you note for favor received. My husband has a brain contusion. He was brought to the hospital with a 50-50 chance and on the critical list...I prayed to God, asking His mercy..I prayed to Father Seelos for help. I placed Father Seelos cloth memento on him and he began to move.....I also had an infected foot. I placed the cloth memento on it and the infection cleared. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession for me in my first time I asked his help."

Mrs. F. F.

Robertsdale, Ala.

"First of all let me say thanks again for the blessings I have received. Now, I know Father Seelos as my close friend, and I will always be so grateful for the one who told me about him...I have sent several petitions to Father Seelos Center and they have all been answered. This is my third letter and of course I always have requests. It's so wonderful to know there are people, Saints of God, who love and care. I never knew there was a Father Seelos, until this past January. From then on my life has been different...Please pray for my mother, who has had such a battle with cancer. Her right arm is swollen badly with fluid. She is 67. My Daddy has had extremely high blood pressure. It has caused heart attacks. He is just home from the hospital. Please ask Father Seelos to intercede for them that their health will be restored..."

F. L. W.

New Iberia, La.

"I am writing to say that a good lady gave me the special prayer to Father Seelos. My husband had been out of work for almost five months. I started saying the prayer five times a day starting with Monday and on Thursday my husband had a call to go to work. He is a dragline operator and work had been slow..."

Mrs. R. J. S.

New Orleans, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for improvement in the health of my 85 year old father and myself. Please keep praying for us."

Mrs. G. D.

SPECIAL NOTES

During the past month one of our very faithful volunteers, Mrs. A. C. Soulant, died in her sleep. She has been responsible for much of the work done on the cloth mementoes which are distributed to the sick. We of the Seelos Center extend our sincere sympathy to her family. Won't you too remember her in your prayers?

To make Father Seelos better known, talk about him. Tell the sick and those in any kind of trouble or worry to pray to him. The Seelos Center will send you all the pictures, cloth mementoes and literature you need. Just write for them.

Thanks for your gifts toward the restoration of St. Mary's Church. We are far from the \$200,000.00 we need, but every little bit helps. God bless you.

Pray to Father Seelos that many boys and young men will follow him in his Redemptorist vocation.

Don't forget -- October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Say a rosary for the canonization of Father Seelos.

For blessings with the crucifix of Father Seelos for the sick in your family and your friends, please call 525-2495 or 895-6176.

If you are unable to attend the anniversary Mass for Father Seelos in St. Alphonsus Church, why not attend in your own parish church and include in your intentions the petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos. Also pray for the cause of Father Seelos.

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