



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS

On Sunday, October 7, the annual memorial Mass in petition for the beatification of Father Seelos will be celebrated at St. Alphonsus Church, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans. Most Reverend Philip M. Hannan, Archbishop of the archdiocese of New Orleans, will be the principal concelebrant of the Mass and will give the homily. The time of the Mass is 10 A.M.

As the readers of this bulletin know, Father Seelos actually died on October 4, 1867, 106 years ago. The memorial Mass is celebrated on the Sunday of October nearest to that date. His death was mourned by thousands in the city of New Orleans. In the intervening years thousands have invoked his intercession in their trials. It is interesting to note that ten thousand people in the city of New Orleans alone receive copies of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY.

Father Seelos lived but one year of his life in New Orleans and that, his last. But his memory still lives in the hearts of its people.

"THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC," the definitive biography of Father Seelos, was written by Father Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R., of Brooklyn, N.Y. We all owe a great deal to Father Curley for his untiring work in amassing the details of Seelos' life. Father Curley died on December 2, 1972. His book is still in print and sells for \$4.95. It will be on sale after the Mass.

An American newspaper written in German, the *Katholische Volkszeitung* of Baltimore, eulogized Father Seelos:

Love, piety spoke out from his features, and his sermons and exhortations in the confessional compelled obedience through his kindness and charity. He was in fact a man who through the goodness of his heart, through his genuine sympathy for all the oppressed, his simplicity and affability, won the hearts of all.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., please write to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. This is a book about the life of Father Seelos.

FATHER SEELOS PRACTICED THE HARD VIRTUE

by FATHER GRANGELL

The Virtue for September is MORTIFICATION

The Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle

The Text: Jno. 12/25 — He who is an enemy to his own life in this world will keep it, so as to live eternally.

The virtue of mortification is the most unpopular of all the virtues. It asks us to deny ourselves something for the love of God. It's penance for sin! It's necessary, however, to practice other virtues. You can't be pure unless you know how to mortify yourself. Obedience requires mortification — for instance, to go to Holy Mass Sunday after Sunday. Go through the whole list of monthly virtues in the Ascetical System of St. Alphonsus and you can't find one of them which can be practiced without mortification.

Mortification is essential in the spiritual life. Christ said, "If anyone wishes to be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me." He taught there were two roads leading to eternity, the broad road of sin, indulgence, selfishness, pride and independence, and the narrow road of virtue, holiness, self-denial, humility. He said many were on the broad road and few on the narrow road. (St. Matt. 7/13-14) We ask ourselves: On which road am I?

Father Seelos was a mortified man. His model and exemplar was St. Alphonsus Liguori, the Founder of the Redemptorists. St. Alphonsus was one of the great penitential Saints of history. Father Seelos hid his penance and mortification. All Saints do! Good people do so today. There are many hidden Saints.

The spirit of the world today is Pleasure, Fun, Recreation, Amusement. Everyone has a T.V. Hours every day are spent before it in recreation. Every family has an automobile. Not all cars go to Mass on Sundays, yet they are on the road for recreation. A few years ago we abstained from meat on Fridays and did penance in Lent because it was a mortal sin if we did not. Now, the Church tells us to do these things for the love of God and to practice the Virtue of Mortification and we refuse.

Father Seelos, as a Redemptorist Religious, had to observe a regular order of the day — to get up at a given time and make a half hour Community Meditation in the Chapel — to say some community prayers before dinner — to make an evening Community Meditation in the Chapel. He was faithful to this order of daily community prayer, whether he felt like it or not. He denied his feelings and never missed an Exercise unless some parochial call got priority. Self-discipline, self-denial are fundamental virtues in striving after Perfection.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US.

FATHER SEELOS, HELP US TO BE HOLY.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, La.

"Thanks for the special blessing you administered to my husband, while a hospital patient. On the eighth day of my novena there was a definite improvement in his condition. He began to respond to the medication in the treatment for leukemia. I wish I was in a position to help you."

F. M. D.

Metairie, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for help for my son and his family. I promised publication if they received help through Father Seelos' intercession."

F. D.

New Orleans, La.

"We are grateful to the Infant Jesus of Prague and to Father Seelos for his intercession for the recovery of a neighbor's only child, who was seriously injured in an accident. This note fulfills my promise of publication of this favor granted in Father Seelos and Sanctity."

Anonymous

Freeburg, Ill.

"Thanks for the prayers you have offered for me. They are priceless. I just gave my last cloth memento to a man who has been very sick and he is beginning to recover."

F. W.

Bassfield, Ms.

"I want to give thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession during my illness. I went to the hospital for a hip replacement operation last May. I went home in June and have been using a walker for months. Thanks so much to the lady who brought the mission crucifix of Father Seelos to me while I was in the hospital. Thanks also to the Blessed Mother, the Holy Ghost and many Saints for my recovery. I am able to walk without walker or cane. Thanks for your prayers."

R. C.

Los Angeles, Calif.

"Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession, it was not necessary for me to have an operation and I am well and happy. I have one nephew very sick with nervousness. Please pray for him. Thank you very much for your prayers for me."

G. S.

Galveston, Texas

"Several months ago I requested and received from you a cloth memento and prayer cards. Thank you very much. A friend of mine who has three small children and already suffered from one skin disease, was told she had a malignant mole and needed extensive surgery. Today she is back at work — part time job — she made a quick recovery and is doing fine. On the day of surgery we pinned the cloth memento to her gown. While in surgery the family said the prayers and rosary every hour for eight hours. Thanks again to Father Seelos."

J. G.

SPECIAL NOTES

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

For literature about Father Seelos and all other matters concerning Father Seelos cause, please call Mrs. Agnes Bourg, 525-2495, at the Father Seelos Center.

School opens in September! Parents and Grandparents and Godparents must be teachers of religion at home. Above all, teach the children to love the Blessed Sacrament, to make visits to the Tabernacle, to receive Holy Communion often, never to miss the First Friday and always go to Sunday Mass. Lead the way.

It's the glory, the joy and the boast of a Catholic family to have a son, a brother, an uncle to be a Priest of God. Pray for a vocation in your home. Encourage the boys and young men.

Scatter devotion to Father Seelos among your relatives and friends. Tell your parishioners about him. Write to the Seelos Center and we will send you material for distribution.

Thanks for your gifts to the Center. They help to pay our stationery, printing and mailing bills. God love you.

Let us know of all favors received through Father Seelos. We regret that we cannot publish all favors in our paper. It is too small.

Come to the 4:30 P.M. concelebrated Mass on Wednesdays in St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans and make the novena after Mass.

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Mrs. James Bourg and Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.