



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1975

## MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS

The annual memorial Mass for the Servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will take place in New Orleans on Sunday, October 5, 1975, in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Josephine and Constance Streets. The time of Mass will be 11:30 in the morning. Very Reverend Albert Babin, C.S.S.R., the superior of the Redemptorists in the mid-south, will be the principal concelebrant of the Mass and will give the homily. Father Seelos was the acting pastor of St. Mary's Church when he died on October 4, 1867. Last month St. Mary's was opened again for services after being closed for ten years due to the ravages of Hurricane Betsy in 1965. Everyone is invited to attend the memorial Mass.



*Interior of St. Mary's.*

## FATHER SEELOS WAS A MORTIFIED MAN

*by Father Grangell*

Virtue for September — Mortification.

Patron — St. Matthew, Apostle.

Text — He that hateth his life in this world, keepeth it unto life eternal.

(John 12/25)

One day a man told Father Seelos that he had doubts about his sanctity, his holiness. He said he never performed any kind of penance, he never suffered a mortification or denied himself. Father Seelos asked him how his health was. He answered it was very bad, that he had pains and aches all over his body, that he took medicine and pills daily and visited the doctor often. Father Seelos told him if he could see all his pains and aches as the Will of God and offer them as penance for his sins and the sins of the world, and the conversion of sinners, he was a great saint. Forget about self-imposed penances and mortifications. By all means pray for health and strength and relief from pain as the sick did in the time of Christ. Our Lord, Himself, prayed in the Garden of Gethsemanie to have the terrible Chalice of His Passion taken from Him, but added: Heavenly Father not My Will but Thine be done.

Preach this asceticism to all the sick you know. Don't spend your time in a sick bed looking at the bare ceiling. Look beyond it and say: "My God I Love You, give me patience and resignation to Thy Will."

If you are young — teen-agers to sixty — you must practice mortification. You have no choice about this, because Christ says: If any man will follow Me, let him deny himself. Again, unless you do penance, you shall perish. Deny your senses — your eyes (thank God you can see), your taste, some sweets. Give up a smoke, a drink, a show, suffer an inconvenience, deny yourself a comfort. Sacrifice some morning sleep and go to Holy Mass and Holy Communion. Be patient with the sick and the old. Spend some time with them. Suffer the humiliation of being criticized and unjustly suspected, unjustly accused and condemned. Figure out ways and means of practicing acts of mortification. Have certain days for small penances, Friday in honor of the Passion and Death of Our Most Holy Redeemer and Saturdays in Honor of His Blessed Mother.

FATHER SEELOS! PRAY FOR US THAT WE BECOME GREAT SAINTS.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"While driving through St. John Parish a child dashed out of a driveway into the side of my car and was injured. While in court the jurors tried to prove that I was guilty in view of the fact that the police officer testified that I was not speeding or driving carelessly. The jury deliberated seven hours and finally I was proven not guilty. I could never have made it without God's help and the prayers of Father Seelos. Many thanks."

V. S.

Metairie, La.

"My son-in-law had a severe case of arthritis. His feet were very swollen and he could not walk and suffered tortures. I said the Father Seelos prayer for two days. My daughter told me that it was the quickest recovery she had ever witnessed. The swelling had gone down and he was walking and feeling fine. A second favor. My brother had a skin eruption on his hand and had gone to several doctors without success. Again I asked the prayers of Father Seelos and sometime later I was told his hand was cured. I had also lost a ring in the mail, after two months I had received no reply from the company whether or not the ring had been received. Again I called on Father Seelos and St. Anthony. The ring had been addressed wrong, however, it finally reached its destination."

F. F.

Church Point, La.

"A young girl I know was very ill and even threatened to kill herself. I gave her mother a prayer to Father Seelos and a cloth memento to give to the girl and asked that they pray for her. A week later I found the girl much improved. Another favor, my sister who lives in Oregon has been hospitalized with leukemia. Through the intercession of Fr. Seelos, she is now home and feeling much better."

R. S.

Amite, La.

"A favor was granted to me through Father Seelos' intercession, for which I am very grateful. My husband passed away and I was praying very hard to receive his Social Security benefits. My prayer was answered, thanks to the intercession of Father Seelos. Please publish my letter."

T. D.

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish this letter. Thanks to the Sacred Heart and our Blessed Mother and Father Seelos. I have been praying so hard and long for peace and health in my family. An awful thing happened that nearly destroyed us all. We prayed very hard and I received Holy Communion for two weeks and God in His Mercy and through the intercession of Father Seelos answered my prayers."

M. E.

## SPECIAL NOTES

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO YOU TO THE 108th ANNIVERSARY MASS OF FATHER SEELOS' DEATH. COME AND BRING YOUR SICK. AFTER MASS WE WILL VENERATE FATHER SEELOS' CRUCIFIX.

TIME: Sunday, October 5 — 11:30 A.M.

PLACE: St. Mary's Assumption Church

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Many thanks for all the new names and addresses for "Father Seelos and Sanctity." Print the name. Many of them are returned because of wrong addresses. We try to keep our files up-to-date. The Post Office charges for all returned mail.

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September is school time. Study fundamental religion with the children. Teach them the Acts of Faith, Hope and Love of God and Apostles Creed. We say the Nicene Creed at Mass. Explain the ten commandments to them. Above all, see that they go to Sunday Mass. Use the little prayer: My God, I Love You ceaselessly. Put the letters M G I L Y at the head of your letters and all writings.

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

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You personally organize groups and come to the tomb of Father Seelos on any day of the week or Sunday. Let us know of all favors received in detail.

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Father Seelos' body will be brought back to St. Mary's at a later date to be announced.

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