



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF FATHER SEELOS' DEATH

Sunday, October 2, 1977, the 110th anniversary of the death of Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will be commemorated. A solemn Mass will be offered in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Josephine and Constance Streets, New Orleans, where his body is buried.

Most Rev. Harold R. Perry, S.V.D., D.D., auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of New Orleans, will be the principal concelebrant of the Mass. Rev. George Corbett, C.S.S.R., of Glenview, Illinois, will deliver the homily.

All are invited to attend this Mass in memory of Father Seelos, who died in New Orleans during the yellow fever epidemic of 1867.



Part of the large crowd that attended last year's Mass.

THE CRUCIFIX MUST BE YOUR MEDITATION BOOK

(Father Grangell's monthly conference)

Virtue for the month of September: Mortification

Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Text: He who hates his life in this world, keeps it until life everlasting.

— John 12/25

The afternoon St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R., died on Vine Street in Philadelphia, they found a belt of pointed wires imbedded in his waist. That chain is called the cilicium. Wearing it was part of the Saint's hidden, unknown life of penance. The godless, pleasure-loving world probably laughed at this when they read it in the paper. Maybe some foolish, uneducated, badly informed Catholics called it: "old stuff," which the modern Church has done away with. People just cannot understand the meaning of pain. The suffering Christ on a Cross has been a mystery from the beginning of Christianity. St. Paul wrote to his converts in Corinth: We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the gentiles foolishness. (1 Corinthians: 1/23).

The world is God's creation. Why is there pain in it? It's God's punishment of sin. There is no other explanation for it, no other explanation of the crucifix. And Christ taught: If any man wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take upon himself the cross and follow Me (Matt. 16/24). How can the "modern" church do away with penance? We must accept the pains and aches and sickness of life as so much penance for sin. We must add to the crosses God sends us, a few acts of personal mortification every day — denying ourselves many little things at table — some butter and condiments, some sweets, a smoke, some recreation and amusements — and the number goes on.

You hide these. They are known only to God.

Penance, acts of mortification, do not make you sad, silent, eccentric. If they do, skip them. God loves a cheerful giver.

Never complain! That's pitying yourself. You lost all merit.

Father Seelos used to take the crucifix in his hand and say as St. Paul did: With Christ I am nailed to the cross and I Live, now not I, but Christ liveth in me. (Galatians 11/19, 20).

Offer up an act of mortification for the conversion of sinners. Don't forget the Spiritual Banks of the May conference.

Keep your crucifix close to you, and often whisper to the Blessed Mother:
OBTAIN FOR ME A PERFECT LOVE FOR JESUS CRUCIFIED.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for employment which I knew would be difficult to obtain as I had been away from the business world for 15 years. My prayer was answered and I am very happy in my new job. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

D. L.

Gretna, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for two favors. My friend had her breast removed which was found to be not cancerous. Another friend was taken to the hospital and had a rapid recovery. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

T. A.

Vacherie, La.

"My son had a very successful eye implant. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

M. F. G.

Lafayette, La.

"Through repeated tests there was an indication of polyp of the colon which called for surgery, also a possibility of malignancy. I prayed to Father Seelos as I had done for years, was admitted to the hospital and colonoscoped three times. To the amazement of the surgeon there was no malignancy or need for surgery, not even a polyp. I am most grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession in my behalf."

L. D. D.

Torrington, Conn.

"My two daughters who are nurses brought my attention to the story of a 17 year old boy who had met with a serious automobile accident over a year ago and had not spoken or made any movement since the accident. I sent a cloth memento to be placed on the boy and prayed to Father Seelos for his recovery. Sometime after, he was able to move his arms and legs and finally spoke a few words. I was so thrilled I have been telling all with whom I come in contact about Father Seelos. Thanks for his prayers."

A. M. L.

New Orleans, La.

"My daughter developed a case of epiglottitis and was scheduled for surgery for a tracheaotomy. When brought to surgery she was breathing on her own and did not have to have surgery. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

A. S. B.

SPECIAL NOTES

I was privileged to be among the group of twelve persons from New Orleans who joined the Blessed Neumann Pilgrimage from Philadelphia to Rome for the canonization of St. John Neumann. It was a great experience and to me quite a thrill to attend Mass celebrated by Pope Paul VI. We remembered the intentions of all our readers at this Mass. We came home with the feeling that soon we would make this trip again — this time for a further step in the cause of Father Seelos.

Josie Becker

Some good people who cannot make the 4:15 p.m. Father Seelos Wednesday Novena, meet in St. Mary's Church every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. and make the novena. Join them.

Every petition sent to the Center is put on the tomb of Father Seelos in St. Mary's Church. Let us know of favors received.

For blessings with Father Seelos' Mission Crucifix call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

For new readers: The members of the Guild practice the asceticism that made Father Seelos a saint. It is called "The monthly Virtue." The Virtue is announced at the head of the conference. This month, September, it's Mortification. One of the twelve apostles is the monthly patron. The text is the Word from our Lord. This month He tells us if we hate ourselves because we have committed sin, and if we perform some penance (mortification) for personal sin, we will be happy in life everlasting.

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