



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SEPTEMBER, 1978

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS

On October 1, 1978, the annual memorial Mass of the death of Father Francis X. Seelos, C.S.S.R., will take place in St. Mary's Church, Josephine and Constance Streets, at 11:30 a.m.

The celebrant of the Mass will be Most Reverend Edward J. Harper, C.S.S.R., bishop of the Virgin Islands. Bishop Harper will also give the homily.



Most Reverend Harold Perry, S.V.D., auxiliary bishop of New Orleans, presided at the annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos in 1977.

GOD LOVES THE CHEERFUL GIVER, SMILE A WHILE!

(The Monthly Conference of Father Grangell)

Virtue for 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)

You may be wondering why such a title to a conference on mortification! A human true story is the answer to your wondering. Read it.

I know a man whose life is the personification of the saying: "Smile a while and as you smile another smiles, and then there are miles and miles of smiles and smiles, and life's worthwhile because you smile." He is happy, cheerful all the time. Because of an infection, he had a leg amputation. I went to see him. He is still smiling, still laughing. He is planning a new kind of work in his physical condition — no complaining, no asking why God is treating him in such a way! He is now the personification of the other saying: "It is easy enough to be happy when the world goes on like a song, but the man worthwhile is the man with a smile when everything goes quite wrong" — when God asks a big sacrifice of us. God loves this man, he is the cheerful giver. Cheerfulness and generosity are twin virtues, they are fundamental in the life of a holy person. Learn this prayer of St. Ignatius: "Good God, teach me to be generous, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for any reward, except to know that I am doing Your Holy Will."

Mortification! Why such a virtue — why not skip it — who likes it? Read your Bible. Christ demands it: If any man wishes to be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up the Cross and follow Me. (Matt. 16/24)

Study your Crucifix — that was for me! What for Him?

When Father Seelos became a Redemptorist he was given a little book to study: "The True Redemptorist" by St. Alphonsus. The first chapter told him what life was to be: The end of the Institute of the Most Holy Redeemer is to follow as closely as possible the footsteps and examples of Jesus Christ, whose life in this world was one of detachment and mortification, full of suffering and contempt!

The dictionary defines "Ascetic" — severe self-denial. Father Seelos is called "The Cheerful Ascetic". He practiced great virtue cheerfully.

Be conscious of some mortification daily — with a smile.

BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR ME.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Kenner, La.

"Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession in selling house and two cars."

V. M. B.

Metairie, La.

"I can never thank Father Seelos enough for the favors granted to me and my family through his prayers."

G. T.

Metairie, La.

"My son was scheduled to receive a jail sentence of five years. The judge suspended it and gave him a fine and five year probation for a serious crime."

C. G.

Houma, La.

"Twenty-eight years ago my son was among those children who received radium treatment after adenoid surgery. After recently undergoing tests he was declared free of any sign of malignancy."

W. E. C.

Marrero, La.

"My son received 1st and 2nd degree burns on his leg at work. I prayed to Father Seelos that no skin graft would be needed. My prayers were answered and he was able to return to work. Please publish."

H. M. L.

Milwaukee, Wis.

"Through prayers to Father Seelos I was granted a favorable financial decision."

E. A.

New Orleans, La.

"One year ago my husband had a serious operation and was found to have cancer. Last week his tests showed no sign of cancer. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

A. W. B.

New Orleans, La.

"Through the intercession of Father Seelos, I found some important papers that I had lost."

H. C.

Clearwater, Fla.

"Through the intercession of Father Seelos my sister is on the road to recovery after her seventh operation."

E. L.

SPECIAL NOTES

On July 25 we bade farewell to Father Elworthy. Father has been assigned by his superiors to Corpus Christi, Texas, as Rector of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. We have all enjoyed the past nine years working with Father at the Father Seelos Center and we will miss him very much. We wish him well in his new assignment. Father Grangell will continue the work at the Center and we will all be working along with him in furthering the cause of Father Seelos.

Spread devotion to Father Seelos. Be an apostle in this spiritual work. Leave his picture in the hospital when you visit your friends. Ask your relatives and friends to send us their names, addresses and zip, as new members of the Father Seelos Guild. Their only obligation will be to pray for the canonization of Father Seelos and to tell others about him. We will send them "Father Seelos & Sanctity" monthly.

September means back to school. Encourage the 8th graders, High School and College students to think about the vocation to the priesthood. God is calling them. They must not be deaf to His call. The Center is ready to help them.

Make the Father Seelos Sunday Novena at 3:40 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. The people say all the prayers — those on the right side of the Church lead the prayers — those on the left side answer. Mass is at 4 p.m. After Holy Mass the priest gives an individual blessing to each person present. Christ said of this Blessing: "They shall lay their hands upon the sick and they shall recover" (Mark 16/18). Bring your sick — pray with Faith — expect miracles.

If a great miracle should be worked and the world gets the news that Father Seelos will be canonized on a given date, how happy you will be that you helped the cause by your prayers and your gifts to meet all expenses. Never, never lose interest in Father Seelos. Some big favor may be coming your way! Tell the smallest children about Father Seelos.

For blessings for your sick with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.