

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1985

THE MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS



All our readers are invited to attend, at least in spirit, the annual memorial Mass of Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. This Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, October 6, at 11:30 A.M., in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Josephine and Constance Streets, New Orleans.

The Archbishop of New Orleans, Most Reverend Philip M. Hannan will be the principal celebrant of the concelebrated Mass. Father Norman Muckerman, C.S.S.R., editor of THE LIGUORIAN magazine, will give the homily.

The St. Alphonsus choir, under the direction of Lloyd Celentano, will lead the singing. There will be an

opportunity to venerate the mission crucifix of Father Seelos after the Mass.

Secure parking will be available in the playground of St. Alphonsus school on St. Andrew Street between Magazine and Constance Sts. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the parish hall immediately after Mass.



IN MEMORIAM:



JOSIE BECKER

(Continued on last page)

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Virtue of the Month: RECOLLECTION

To be recollected means to be in control of the faculties of one's soul and body. In the Christian sense it means to be conscious of God and one's relationship with Him. Recollection means to walk in the presence of God. Its goal is to promote our union with God, our Father.

It is distractions and dissipation that keep us from centering our attention on God. The habit of recollection is the rational containment of our natural exuberance; it is the calm possession of our being in the midst of the squalls of daily life.

It goes without saying that Jesus, being God and man, was always in control of His being. Even so He would withdraw Himself from time to time from the crowd or His own disciples and go off to a deserted place where He could nourish His spirit in close communion with the Father.

For the short life he lived, Father Seelos led an extremely busy life. He was a superior for a good part of his religious life. He was pastor of souls in three or four parishes. He preached parish missions in many cities of this country. At all times he heard confessions. People flocked to him for advice, for consolation, for help. With all this motion and commotion, and despite his compassion and interest in the troubles of people who confided in him, Father Seelos managed to convey the impression that his inmost thoughts were never far from God.

Oliver Goldsmith several centuries ago wrote a classic poem called "The Deserted Village." In it among other people he describes the village preacher, truly a recollected man of God.

"A man he was to all the passing country dear, . . .
"More bent to raise the wretched than to rise. . .
"His house was known to all the vagrant train. . .
"He chid their wanderings, but relieved their pain. . .
"Careless their merits or their faults to scan,
His pity gave ere charity began. . .
"At church with much and unaffected grace,
His looks adorned the venerable place. . .
"And fools who came to scoff, remained to pray. . .
"The service past, around the pious man
With steady zeal, each honest rustic ran;
E'en children followed, with endearing wile,
And plucked his gown, to share the good man's smile;
His ready smile a parent's warmth expressed;
Their welfare pleased him, and their cares distressed;
To them his heart, his love, his griefs were given
But all his serious thoughts had rest in heaven.
As some tall cliff that lifts its awful form,
Swells, from the vale, and midway leaves the storm,
Though rounds its breast the rolling clouds are spread,
Eternal sunshine settles on its head."

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Gretna, La.

My granddaughter, age 2, had been having infection in her urine for several weeks. Various medications were given her by the doctor, but nothing seemed to help. The doctor then feared that there might be problem with the kidney and ordered an ultra sound to be done. We prayed to Father Seelos and thanks to his intercession that result was negative.

From Kenner, La.

My father was an alcoholic for as long as I lived at home. I moved out after I finished college. I prayed for many years for dad to stop drinking. When I heard of Father Seelos I added him to my prayers. Dad stopped drinking about 11 years ago and became a loving, gentle man. My family's lives were changed when my prayers were answered. My father died two weeks ago. Thanks to Father Seelos for letting us have my gentle and loving dad for a while.

From Galveston, Texas

I prayed to Father Seelos for his help during my recent illness. I was seriously ill and I prayed fervently to him for help. In a few days I began to improve. I am now on my way to recovery, thanks to Father Seelos.

From Gretna, La.

This has to be one of the most wonderful and beautiful letters. God has given me the strength to say THANKS in capital letters to Father Seelos for answering my prayers. Tuesday April 2nd was my fourth time in the operating room for the bleeding of the bladder. Twice they found tumors. This time they found no tumors. The Doctor just carterized around the wall of the bladder which stopped the bleeding which had been going on for the past 6 weeks. Thanks to Father Seelos.

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In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

JOSIE BECKER – IN MEMORIAM

On June 20 of this year Josie Becker closed her eyes on this earth. Since May, 1962 Josie Becker had been connected with this bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. For these 24 years Josie had prepared it for the printer each month and had written articles for its pages. She cried when she informed us that she would not be able to prepare the September bulletin. It seemed then she was letting go.

For the past two years Josie had suffered from cancer, and had taken chemotherapy and radium treatments. We all had prayed fervently to Father Seelos for a miracle. No cure came, but a miracle did occur. Josie accepted her illness with complete resignation and with faith and courage shouldered her cross. Often Josie cried with discouragement, but then she added "I don't want to fly in God's face. I really want God's will to be done."

In her life Josie had many interests and loves, her faith, her family, the Catholic Daughters of America, the cause of Father Seelos, and St. Mary's Church. She was pleased to know that a member of her family knew Father Seelos in the one year he ministered in St. Mary's, 1866-1867. Josie was a member of the church choir all her life.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's Church on June 22. The church was filled with relatives and friends. We ask all of you to remember her good soul in your Masses and prayers. We shall miss her.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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

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