



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1989

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS — OCTOBER 1



The annual memorial Mass for the Servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Sunday, October 1, at 11:30 A.M. Very Reverend Matthew J. Kerschen, C.S.S.R., will be the principal concelebrant and homilist at the Mass honoring the death of Father Seelos on October 4, 1867.

Father Kerschen, a native of Wichita, Kansas, for the past eight years has been the superior of the Redemptorists of the vice-province of New Orleans which embraces the states of the central south portion of our country.

The combined choirs of St. Alphonsus and St. Joseph parishes will sing under the direction of Mr. Lloyd Celentano. Blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be given after the ceremonies are over. A reception will be held in the garden of St. Mary's immediately after the Mass. Off-street parking will be available in the St. Alphonsus schoolyard.

St. Mary's Assumption Church is in the Irish Channel on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets.

## **"SLOW ME DOWN, LORD"**

The late beloved Cardinal of Boston, Richard Cushing, emphasized the need for us to slow down in the frenzied race called life: "Time Out" — "Stop" — "Slow Down and Live" — "Tune In" — "Let's Listen" — "Be Quiet" — "Turn Off the Clatter of Rock and Roll" — "Pause and Be Silent" so that I may enjoy my daily living, keep my mind sane, protect it from the loud vibes of jazz and the throbbing beat of the "jungle" around me.

Should we not recognize the necessity of good health, of good sense, the smart way, when we understand that too much speed is dangerous? This is the reason we have speed limits, even though at times we wonder who observes them. Too rich a diet can fatten us, and overweight, we can be the target of many ills. Even in a game, is it not wise to call a time-out, and learn the ploys and changes in our game plan that will help us to win the contest?

Can we not pray to the God of wisdom and truth to teach us the art of daily rests; five minutes here, one minute there — the art of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to say hello to an enemy, to pat a dog on the head, or read a line or two from a good book (why not the Book of books?).

Every day we engage in conversation as a part of daily life. We communicate with those with whom we live, work, recreate. In these exchanges we have to learn not only to speak what is on our mind, but we must listen, so that others can give their views to us. Even our prayers should not be a torrent of words gushing out of our mouths, but we should pause for a moment here and there to listen to the whisperings of God's grace in our hearts.

The prophet Samuel gave us a prayer for just such moments, "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening" (1 Sam. 3/9). Each day we can repeat a similar prayer to the triune God. "Speak and let me hear Your words of direction and decision." "Speak and give me strength to follow Your way." "Speak and let me tune in with a few refreshing pauses this day." "Speak, Lord, You are the Truth and the Life." At the end of life's journey let us hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter the joy of Your Lord." (Matt. 25/21).

Would that the fable of the hare and the tortoise remind us that the race of life is not always to the swift — that there is another way of leading our life: "Slow me down, Lord."

John A. Hensgen, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Arcadia, MO

Last summer I fell and suffered a compound fracture of the metatarsal bone in my right foot. The doctor feared a bone transplant might be necessary. After five months of cast and repeated X-Rays, the last X-Ray showed complete healing. I credit Father Seelos with the cure.

New Orleans, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos for a favor granted. Also thanks to the Father Seelos Center for the daily spiritual message. Many times it has helped me make it through depression or sickness. I will continue to pray to Father Seelos for good health.

Seattle, WA

This is a letter of gratitude. I recently had a miscarriage and I was very depressed. Now I am proud to say that I have a baby boy, delivered by C-section. I must say thanks for all the countless ways the Lord has blessed my husband and me and provided for our little family. He has seen us through some really tough times.

Houston, TX

I thank the Lord and my dear Father Seelos. I was unemployed and could not seem to find a good job in my field. So I prayed to Father Seelos for a very special job. I now have a wonderful job. I am working with kind people, there is no stress to contend with. There are many good things happening to me on this job. I pray every day for Father Seelos to become a saint. I believe he will someday soon.

Louisiana

In June 1988 we put our home up for sale. My mother-in-law gave me a prayer-card of Father Seelos. It was the best thing she ever gave me. I started praying to Father Seelos. In about three months our house was sold. Many of my other petitions to Father Seelos have been answered. I thank God for the intercession of Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

My nephew by marriage was raised a Christian, but as he grew up did not affiliate himself with any church. He was married to my niece for forty years out of the Church. When he became sick he showed no interest in religion or God. I prayed that he would come back to God. He is terminally ill with cancer. He asked to be baptized and married before the Church. He is very sick, but now at peace. Thanks to prayers to Father Seelos.

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Mail for June, 1989:

Petitions: 681

Thanksgivings: 220

Other: 646

Total: 1547

Volunteer hours: 715

Dial-a-message: 676

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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. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

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## SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
  - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography. Price: \$10.00
  - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: \$45.00
  - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos. Price: \$7.95 plus postage. Available at the Center.
  - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
  - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
  - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and the museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
  - h. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS: every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We do appreciate your letting us know you want to continue to receive the bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Please return the lower portion of this page to us.

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