



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1993



FATHER SEELOS

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS-OCTOBER 3

The annual memorial Mass for the Servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Sunday, October 3, at 11:30 A.M. The principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass will be Father Donald Miniscalco, a Redemptorist missionary from Philadelphia. St.

Mary's Assumption Church is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. The mission cross of Father Seelos will be venerated after the Mass. Following the ceremony there will be a reception in the garden of St. Mary's.

Father Seelos died on October 4, 1867 and was buried in St. Mary's the day after. His cause was reintroduced in Rome as an historical cause in 1972. It is progressing well.

RECOLLECTION

One of the meanings of recollection is composure of the mind. If nothing else, such composure is a good preparation for prayer. If distractions keep us from feeling satisfied with our moments of prayer, the practice of recollection should help, if not to eliminate them, at least to reduce their number and intensity. This kind of recollection has some of the qualities of the laser beam. It clears the path of all obstacles and zeroes in on the object sought.

Our divine Savior Himself knew the necessity of separating Himself from the madding crowd. Before He entered upon His public life, He was led by the Spirit into the desert; there for 40 days and nights He fasted and prayed and communed with His heavenly Father. This was His immediate preparation for the grueling years He would spend in walking the hills and valleys of Judea and Galilee and preaching the good news of His kingdom and welcoming and curing all those afflicted with disease.

On the day Jesus cured Peter's mother-in-law of a fever, after sunset,

people came with all who were ill and those possessed by demons. St. Mark noted that "before long the whole town was gathered outside the door. Those whom He cured, who were variously afflicted, were many . . . Rising early the next morning, He went off to a lonely place in the desert; there He was absorbed in prayer" (Mark, 1/29-36).

There is in the depths of our being an inner core where no one else but ourselves can enter, not even the one closest and dearest to us. This inner core has been called the metaphysical solitude of man. In these depths of the soul we are truly alone, we are truly on our own, naked, as it were, before our God; this is the temple where we can encounter our Creator, where we can meet Him almost face to face, where we can speak to Him in prayer.

Unfortunately we are always human, and so being we carry with us even into the most sacred places our human baggage. Our minds are never really at rest, our imaginations feed on the scenes passing around us, our memories are constantly recalling the happy and not so happy events of the past. Is it any wonder that we have difficulty in concentrating our minds on the invisible presence of God!

While it is possible for us to recollect ourselves in the midst of the greatest confusion, prudence tells us that it would be better to retire from our usual daily haunts so we can compose our minds for the task at hand: a quiet time before the household wakes in the morning, some minutes in church before the crowd gathers, a sojourn in the woods, a formal retreat away from the noisy movement of everyday life.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. Price: \$10.00.
 - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, or Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center (504) 525-2495.
 - h. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
 - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS THREE DOLLARS PER YEAR. Please let us know you want to continue receiving this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us. Include your old address.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Jackson, MS

God bless you and all the dedicated staff and helpers at Father Seelos Center. My husband is a grateful recipient of Father Seelos' intercession. He has been disabled with emphysema for years, but last February was diagnosed with a malignant tumor. Doctors were not at all encouraging and we nearly lost David a couple of times. He spent 51 days in the hospital-24 of which were in intensive care.

We prayed so hard for Father Seelos to intercede-and called the Center for help. Mrs. Yvonne Sevin prayed with me on the phone and sent a crucifix that had been touched to Father Seelos' mission cross. The doctors were completely baffled at one point after surgery (which went very well)-when David took a turn for the worse and the medical staff could not seem to do anything to control the situation. They rushed him back to ICU and the doctors told me it did not look good-they didn't know what was happening-and they gave him maybe a 50-50 chance of pulling through. That was the point where I prayed with Mrs. Sevin. Then all of a sudden David improved. The doctor told me he didn't know why. But he continued to improve until they were able to release him to come home. I know it was Father Seelos' prayers that helped us. We are so grateful to the friend who led us to him-and so very grateful to Father Seelos-the cheerful ascetic.

What I was expecting (and turned out to be even a greater "miracle") is that after all these years (nearly 40), my husband has converted to Catholicism. He was confirmed on May 16-the same day our granddaughter made her first Communion. I know Father Seelos and the Blessed Mother had everything to do with that.

God has been so good to us. We are so grateful to Him and to Father Seelos-and to you and your wonderful staff for caring so much and sharing so much with us. We will continue to pray fervently for the Church to elevate Father Seelos to the level of sainthood and recognize that surely he is one of the most blessed of saints.

Mobile, AL

I wanted to write and tell you that I am 84 years old and now living in Mobile. I went to school there when I was a little girl. We lived on Josephine and Camp Streets. My mother had ten children and we all went to St. Mary's school. There are only three of us left. I am married 64 years. St. Mary's is a beautiful church. Say a prayer for us all.

New Orleans, LA

Thank you, Father Seelos. I don't work during summer months. I needed money to last me the summer. My mother treated me to bingo and I won \$1200. This is only a little thanks.

Mail, June, 1993

Petitions: 635 Thanksgivings: 264 Other: 433 Total: 1332
Dial-a-messages: 741
Volunteer Hours: 1069

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