



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1994

## MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS, OCTOBER 2

The annual memorial Mass for Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will be celebrated on Sunday, October 2, at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church (on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans). The principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass will be Father Pablo Straub, C.S.S.R. The mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be venerated at the end of Mass. A reception will be held in the garden of St. Mary's immediately after the ceremonies in church.



Father Pablo Straub is a Redemptorist missionary currently working in Mexico and frequently appears on Mother Angelica's TV station, EWTN, speaking in both English and Spanish. He is also engaged in establishing two apostolic religious communities, one men and one of women, to labor in Latin America.

Father Seelos was the acting pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church when he died in a yellow fever epidemic on October 4, 1867. His cause for canonization is progressing here and in Rome.

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## SILENCE

Of the five senses our Creator endowed us with, perhaps the most abused one in these hectic days of ours is the sense of hearing. It is in populated areas especially that we seem to have no rest from loud and upsetting noise. So quiet, even complete silence, can be indeed heavenly.

According to tradition, it was in the quiet hours of the night that the archangel Gabriel came to the Virgin Mary in the humble town of Nazareth to tell her that she had been chosen to be the Mother of the incarnate Word. When she answered, *"Be it done to me according to your word,"* the most stupendous event of human history took place, the Son of God became man and dwelt among us.

*(Continued on next page)*

Years ago we used to sing a hymn to the Blessed Sacrament, "Peace! Be still! Our God is dwelling, silent on His altar throne." Somehow or other we haven't heard this hymn in decades. However, the words quoted above do make a point.

Outside of the times for Mass and other church services, for the most part silence does accompany the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. From the earliest days of the Church the Blessed Sacrament has been reserved. It is our belief that Jesus is present under the sacramental veils day and night as long as the appearances of bread and wine remain. Over the centuries devout believers have worshipped Him in the holy Eucharist. This real presence is indicated in our churches by the red sanctuary lamp.

Many good souls like to make visits to the Blessed Sacrament when the church is relatively empty and when one can almost "feel" the presence. We have heard people declare this time with the Lord one of the most comforting of their lives. They kneel or sit or even stand and wait, as it were, for the Lord to speak. And often He does, in the silence of their hearts.

When the prophet Elijah was fleeing for his life toward the mount of God, Horeb, he hid in a cave to await God's word. There was an earthquake — but God did not speak. There was a cyclone — but God did not speak. There was a fire — but God did not speak. Finally, there was a very gentle whisper that came past the opening of the cave. It was then that Elijah heard the voice of the Lord. (I Kings, 19/1-13).

Jesus does speak to us in prayer. We need quiet to hear His voice. It is in just these precious moments before the Blessed Sacrament that we can often hear the call of God. Like the young Samuel in the temple, let us be prepared to say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (I Samuel, 3/1-18).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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### 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, LA

It was very heartwarming to read of Father Grangell. More should be done to perpetuate his memory.

(Ed. note: A memorial Mass is celebrated for Father Grangell in St. Mary's Church every year on the last day of December at 10:30 A.M.)

Metairie, LA

Rochelle is now three and a half years old. Sister Bridge prayed over her. The message to her mother was: "*Persevere.*" Her mother says, "*Rochelle is a happy child, she rides her bicycle and plays with her dolls. She loves to pray for babies, but is not too interested in grown-ups.*" Her mother says Rochelle had no discomfort from her recent chemo treatment the week before last. The tumor is still there. Rochelle loves the tape of the October Mass. She loves seeing herself on TV. Her mother thanks all for their prayers. She is thrilled to know that the Center is getting much response for her daughter.

Hessmer, LA

I am writing to inform you of a favor granted through prayers to Father Seelos. My twelve-year old daughter was hanging around the wrong crowd. I prayed to Father Seelos and now she is doing great in school, has friends who are just great for her and is closer to me now. She is interested in doing things with her brothers and sisters and the rest of her family. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Morgan City, LA

It seems like years since I first received the bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. I discarded most of them after just a glance, not ever having had any knowledge of him and wondering how my name got on the mailing list. Little by little I began to read the bulletin, mostly the letters written in from Louisiana and wondered why so many people knew about Father Seelos and I didn't. I especially enjoyed the May bulletin and the stories about Rochelle and the great letter from Eunice, LA. Today I received the June issue and the article written by Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R. My eyes continued down the page to "*Special Notes*" — which I had never read before. I was amazed at all the Father Seelos "stuff" — and going down to the end of the page (about subscriptions) wondering who in the world has been paying mine for all this time. I've never written to the Center or requested continuing the bulletin. Yet it has kept coming for ever so long. You have a loyal supporter of Father Seelos out there somewhere and they must think a lot of me also. Today I'm taking out my own subscription. My friend should know now that they finally got through to me concerning Father Seelos. I thank you and them for not giving up on me at the Center.

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Mail, June, 1994

Petitions: 537

Thanksgivings: 255

Others: 475

Total: 1267

Dial-A-Messages: 704

Volunteer Hours: 1026

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