



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1996

## MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS OCTOBER 6



*This Wayside Shrine marks the site of the Rectory where Father Seelos died, October 4, 1867.*

The annual memorial Mass for the servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will be celebrated on Sunday of October 6, 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 at the Mass will be Father George Keaveney, C.S.S.R. The mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be venerated at the end of Mass. Immediately after the church ceremonies a reception will be held in the garden of St. Mary's.

Father Keaveney comes to us from Brooklyn, N.Y. where he is the provincial superior of the Baltimore province of the Redemptorists. It is the largest province of Redemptorists in the world.

Father Seelos died of yellow fever while serving as the acting pastor of St. Mary's Church on October 4, 1867. His remains rest in the sanctuary of St. Mary's. His cause for canonization is proceeding well both here in the U.S. and in Rome.

## THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Psalm 139 speaks eloquently of the presence of God: *"O Lord, you have probed me and you know me; you know when I sit and when I stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. My journeys and my rest you scrutinize, with all my ways you are familiar. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, your know the whole of it. Behind me and before, you hem me in and rest your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? From your presence where can I flee? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I sink to the nether world, you are present there. If I take the wings of the dawn, if I settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall guide me, and your right hand hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall hide me, and night shall be my light' - For you darkness itself is not dark, and night shines as the day. (Darkness and light are the same)." The Baltimore Catechism put it very succinctly, God is everywhere.*



*(Continued on next page)*

In our prayers we should not ask God to be present with us so much as to ask God to make us conscious of His presence that is always there.

It stands to reason that since we are finite human beings and capable of just so much activity, we cannot be mindful of God's presence at every moment. This is why it is so necessary to practise recollection. From time to time we pray. When we pray we direct our attention to God, and as long as we pray, we should be thinking of God. Unfortunately, being human, we are often distracted in prayer. So we try again.

Jesus was engaged often the whole day long and even into the night. From time to time He would slip away from human companionship to a hilltop where He could commune with the Father.

We, too, must from time to time, withdraw from our daily routines and devote some time to think of our Creator, our Redeemer, our Judge. This "away-time" will, of necessity, vary from person to person. Most of us will have to manufacture it. Maybe it will be before the Blessed Sacrament, before Mass or after, in a chapel where there is perpetual adoration, a retreat, a ride on a bus or a street-car, sitting in the backyard under a tree, or in the living room after the family has retired for the night or before the family stirs in the morning. I always liked the example of St. Clement Hofbauer, the apostle of Vienna in the early 1800's. In the midst of a noisy group of university students on a Saturday night, he would drape a towel over his head and compose his sermon for the following morning. Comical or heroic, no matter how we look at it, this may be the solution to the human problem of thinking of God.



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, Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, or Mrs. Teresa LaCour, 887-0214.
  - 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 FOUR 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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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Plaquemine, LA

Father Seelos has helped me once again. Eight years ago my son had a foot cancer and I prayed to Father Seelos to intercede for me. My son is 28 years old now and no sign of cancer.

I had to return to the hospital to check the results of a mammogram. The next set of x-rays were completely clear. The technician said, "It's a miracle." I said, "It sure is." I showed her my Father Seelos memento I carry with me always. Thanks, Father Seelos. Please hurry and canonize him. He is already a saint as far as I am concerned.

St. Louis, MO

Father Seelos' intercession has aided me once again. I've received so much in favors from him since I learned about him many years ago, his blessings to me and others are plentiful and ongoing. I make it my practice to distribute the prayer cards and mementos all around, wherever I can. Many people now ask me to phone the Center with their petitions, and are asking for Father Seelos' aid. All our petitions about illness have been answered. I recently asked for full recoveries for three people important to me, and all have been aided. Two are fully recovered and the third is really a special case I'd like to share with you . . . A co-worker, who is not of my faith, asked me to pray for Father Seelos' intercession for her adult daughter, who is four months pregnant and just diagnosed with cervical cancer. I telephoned immediately for a petition and we all prayed daily for her survival and the baby's. This week at the consultation with a gynecologist-oncologist, the young woman was told that she would indeed be able to give birth to this baby and then have surgery for the cancer, and she will survive it. The cancer is present, but not invasive and it was caught early enough to be monitored and managed for good outcomes. She can even conceive and deliver another child after this one, if she chooses, the doctor said. This blessing was so unexpected and overwhelming that we don't know how to contain our happiness at the news. It truly is a miracle. My co-worker is radiant. I see in my petitions to Father Seelos the bountiful mercy of God and Father Seelos' special grace for healing and helping the sick. For myself, I am so grateful to have help in my journey from fear to faith and prayer. I pray continually for his canonization and feel that I will see it someday. My irreverent teenage son recently asked, "Mom, what is it with you and Father Seelos? Do you have a direct line to his guy?" I was pleased to answer, "I certainly do."

DeSoto, TX

I am sending this letter in reference to a miracle I believe occurred through prayers and help of Father Seelos. I had been extremely ill for about 10½ months with graves disease. Two popular medical treatments left me in a status quo state. I was tired and sluggish, weak personally and professionally, plus a host of other symptoms which had just about maimed me completely. I had another treatment and my aunt sent the prayer to Father Seelos to me through my mother and I prayed fervently. Miraculously and almost instantly the huge, obvious lump in my neck went down drastically AND I now feel 100% better and am on a fast track to complete recovery. I give all of this accomplishment to God, Father Seelos and my mother and aunt. I can't offer enough thanks and praise. Also, I am currently praying to Father Seelos for a job promotion and I feel very positive about it. I offer my prayers and ask all devotees of Father Seelos to pray for me.

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Mail: June, 1996

Petitions: 681

Thanksgivings: 259

Others: 397

Total: 1337

Dial-A-Messages: 743

Volunteer Hours: 1063

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