



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1998

## MEMORIAL MASS — OCTOBER 4

On Sunday, October 4, the 131st annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A.M. St. Mary's is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. The principal celebrant of the Mass will be the postulator general of the Redemptorists, Father Antonio Marazzo. Coming from Rome, he will be accompanied by Father John Vargas, C.S.S.R.

The mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be venerated. A reception will be held in the garden of St. Mary's immediately after the Mass.



## PAULINE ABADIE R.I.P.

On June 5 one of the early mainstays of the Father Seelos Volunteers, Pauline Abadie, was laid to rest after a long illness. From 1960 to 1995 Pauline was always lending her hand to the work of the Center. In good health she was a one-person telephone committee. Her family has lived in the parish for over a hundred years. Please pray for her eternal rest.

## “LITTLE LESS THAN THE ANGELS”

King David wrote in one of his psalms:

“When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars which you set in place —  
What is man that you should be mindful of him,  
or the son of man that you should care for him?  
You have made him little less than the angels,  
and crowned him with glory and honor”

(Psalms 9:4-6)

Angels are pure spirits. They do God's bidding and, by definition, are His messengers. They are the heavenly hosts who, along with the saints, form the choirs of heaven and give eternal praise and glory to the Creator.

We human creatures, made a little less than the angels, are a union of a material body and a spiritual soul. In a sense, we have a presence in two worlds. In the

*(Continued on next page)*

past there were those who thought we were nothing but matter and others who thought we were all spirit. We are a union of both, matter and spirit, a single reality.

In endowing us with a soul, with intelligence and free will, God has made us the crown of His visible creation. Through us the elements of the material world raise their voice in free praise of God (Vatican II, *The Church Today*).

Because our body is created by God mediately through our parents, we are not permitted to despise it. It is honorable and God will raise it up to life on the last day. In the Incarnation Jesus took upon Himself our human nature, body and soul, like to us in all things save sin.

Wounded as we are as a result of original sin, we feel a rebellion in both body and soul. St. Paul wrote of the war he experienced between his spiritual intuitions and the uprisings of the flesh, the world, and the devil. He exclaimed, "I do the things I should not; I do not do the things that I should."

From time immemorial holy people have kept strict watch over the impulses of fallen human nature. Without a doubt, there have been some who have overdone this virtue called mortification. I wager there have not been too many of them. Most of us have to confess that we do not do enough.

The opportunities for reining in our at times unruly tendencies are almost limitless. The irritations of daily life provide us with many occasions, for example, the summer heat, the winter cold, the odor of burning leaves in autumn, the stops and starts of an early spring.

Driving a car furnishes one with glorious moments for virtue, what with drivers who go too fast or too slow, Road rage they call it. It is a disease. The cure is courtesy and the golden rule.

Noise pollution gives us all more opportunities. Talkative people with twice-told tales, senseless gossip, idle conversations — putting up with such can make saints of us.

This is just a beginning. Let our imagination do the rest.

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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423, Jim Howard, 277-7949 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
  - 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Evanston, IL

16 years ago I was diagnosed with terminal cancer that threatened my life and capacity to mother my infant son, Angelo. With the grace of God and the help of Father Seelos, I survived. During my long illness, a friend of my mom introduced me to Father Seelos and I asked him to intercede on my behalf for good health and the opportunity to raise my son. I was granted both wishes and continue to pray for the canonization of Father Seelos.

Today I write to once again acknowledge the wonderful answers I received to my prayers, to again acknowledge Father Seelos and pledge continued prayer for his canonization. In addition, I ask for your prayers to keep my family in the best of health and to return my boy, my only son. I am very worried that he has been gone since February, but more frightening, I have no word from him for over three weeks. I can hardly bear the pain and worry that this is causing me, my husband, and my parents. In fact, the whole family is concerned and worried about Angelo. We love him and ask that your prayers be offered on behalf of Angelo's safe journey home and for the canonization of Father Seelos.

I beg dear God and Father Seelos to hear my humble prayer for I am a humble servant. I have tried to live my life by example, but I have also failed because I am but a mere human. I possess many human frailties, but my love is pure. You know this and so does my son. I will never give up or allow my anger to turn to hate. May the Lord keep me in the palm of His hands and Father Seelos, grant me this wish in His name. Amen.

Destrehan, LA

I have been waiting to write this letter for a long time now to acknowledge that a favor I prayed for has been granted. I was having an especially difficult time at my job working for an incredibly uncaring boss during a very difficult time in my life. It was hard for me to concentrate on the heavy workload and deal with my personal issues also. In addition, the workload got heavier with no promise of hiring extra personnel to help out and I was beginning to take work home. This became difficult for both me and my family. I became depressed and with no where else to turn, I began praying to Father Seelos for help. I asked Father Seelos to help me find a new job that I would be comfortable in and, above all, a job with a great boss who was understanding and caring. I started sending out resumes and within a few short months I found exactly what I wanted. Better yet, my personal issues have greatly improved. I am convinced that Father Seelos is there and listening to us each and every day. I will continue to pray to Father Seelos.

New Roads, LA

I feel that without the intercession of Father Seelos, I would not have made it through it all.

The untimely death of a brother found me, prior to his passing, taking the cross of Father Seelos to the hospital and even though he could not communicate with us verbally, placing the cross upon him and praying for him.

I found peace during our prayer to Father Seelos and his suffering very untimely. Father Seelos kept me believing and gave me strength to progress mentally and spiritually.

Vacherie, LA

Through the intercession of Father Seelos and St. Dymphna I asked for help to endure and to be relieved through a very emotional and disturbing situation. Father Seelos is always a good comforter. I promised to publish this thanksgiving.

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Mail: May, 1998

Petitions: 654

Thanksgivings: 243

Others: 384

Total: 1291

Dial-A-Messages: 759

Volunteer Hours: 1045

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