



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1999



## FATHER SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS OCTOBER 3, 1999

The annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Sunday, October 3 at 11:30 A.M. The church is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. The mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be venerated after Mass. After the ceremonies there will be a reception in the garden of St. Mary's.

*St. Mary's at a previous Memorial Mass. By coincidence, Fr. Monroe Perrier was the celebrant. Fr. Perrier is the new director of the Father Seelos Center.*

## CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR 2000

The Center has commissioned the printing of a commemorative calendar. It will feature Father Seelos and the churches he served during his priestly life in America and the people who have reported cures through his intercession.

Because of the constraints of time, it will be a limited edition of 1000. We ask our readers to reserve their calendar by writing to us as soon as possible. The price per calendar is \$10.00.

## “TRY IT – YOU’LL LIKE IT!”

In the Redemptorist tradition, a tradition in which the saintly Father Seelos was steeped, and which he fervently lived, the month of September was devoted to the consideration and practice of the virtue of mortification. Now there's a word that is seldom heard in today's world! Its meaning? Well, there are two Latin words involved here – MORS (death) and FACERE (to make). So literally, it means “to put to death” – not the total person, but those feelings, yearnings, addictions, selfishness that gets us into trouble morally and spiritually. Simply put, mortification means saying a big “NO” to self!

Wise men, saints and reformed sinners of every generation have tried to teach human society that saying “NO” to self is not all bad. In fact, when done in a Christian way and with a Christian motive, it is really very good! It can be downright beneficial to your physical, moral and spiritual well-being! On the other hand when the SELF gets

*(Continued on next page)*

out of control, disaster usually follows. The human person becomes an unruly, selfish creature heading for almost certain misery, a kind of lonely, joyless and loveless existence.

It is an obvious and proven fact that saying NO to such things as the use of drugs and tobacco, overeating and excessive use of alcohol is positively good for your physical health. The same is true for your spiritual and moral well-being – saying NO to such things as temptations to serious sin, the occasion of sin, and the ugly, unholy kind of self-love that shuts out God and others from your caring and generosity. Saying NO to self quite often enables us to say YES to God and the needs of others.

As always, the wisest of teachers, Jesus Son of God, shows us the way. He had much to say on this matter of self-denial. There's another word for mortification – self-denial! Jesus uttered words of infinite wisdom when He taught: "If anyone wishes to be My disciple, he must deny himself even daily, take up his cross and walk in My footsteps." Is this "good news"? The best! You know why? Because self-denial is a necessary part of loving, and, since it is true and genuine love that brings the greatest joy into our human hearts and lives, Jesus wisely teaches us that we cannot love without striving to be unselfish, caring as much and even more for others than ourselves, being willing to sacrifice ourselves, in love, for the good and joy of others.

If you listen carefully to Jesus, He will tell you that sacrifice is a love-word! "Greater love than this no one has to lay down one's life for his friend." He will never ask us to go as far as He did in loving us unto death, but He knows and He teaches that dying to self in little ways will make us better lovers with happier hearts. Father Seelos knew this well and he practiced it heroically. He would tell us: "TRY IT – YOU'LL LIKE IT!"

Albert Babin, C.S.S.R.

---

### SPECIAL NOTES

- The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
  - "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. Price \$10.00.
  - "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
  - "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.
  - Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: 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, Marie Callahan, 525-1775, or Elaine Freeman, 341-2213.
  - A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
  - Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center (504) 525-2495.
  - Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
  - Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
- 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

Pittsburgh, PA

God has worked for my mother, through the intercession of Father Seelos. My mother had a car accident back home (Ethiopia) fifteen years ago, and ever since, she's wounded in her right foot which doesn't cure and gets infected all the time. She came to the United States for medical reasons. She's been in and out of the hospital.

About six years ago my mother was in the hospital because her foot again got infected. At this time when I was coming back from my work, I was reading a small pamphlet of Father Seelos and asked him to help my mother. In the evening my brother called from the hospital and told me that my mother's foot was going to be amputated (because of recurring infection). He signed the papers and made all the arrangements. I was saddened and disappointed by the news and in my heart I asked Father Seelos why he didn't help me. Later that evening I got a telephone call from the hospital to tell me that my mother's doctor wanted to see me early the next day in her room. I did as I was told. Since my mother doesn't speak English, the doctor told me to translate directly what he said and the response from my mother. He asked her whether she wanted her foot amputated or not. My mother said "no." At this time the doctor said he would pass the operation but assured her the next time she comes in with the infection that he'd do the operation. After that there was mention of amputation.

Although the wound and the pain is still there, thanks to Father Seelos, she has her foot. I don't know what will happen next. Please pray for my mother for her cure from constant pain. She's to take pain killer two tablets a day. Sometimes even with the two tablets, the pain doesn't subside. We are Catholics and my mother prays the rosary all the time. She's a holy woman.

New Orleans, LA

My aunt's recovery was really a miracle. She was admitted to Mercy Hospital with bleeding. She was diagnosed with cancer, she fell, dislocated her shoulder and cut her hand. They could not operate until her heart condition was controlled. They did operate, but then she couldn't eat. I was convinced she was dying. Father anointed her. He and the Sisters prayed for her. She is now back at St. Margaret's Daughters Home and doing very well. I found Father Seelos' booklet in back of the chapel. I brought it to her room in the hospital and prayed to him for her and to Mary.

Metairie, LA

Six months ago I asked Father Seelos to help me through a very difficult time of my life. I am a young woman of 27 years who was diagnosed with severe dysplasia and early cervical cancer. Because of the size of my lesion, two physicians agreed this was extreme for my age. I underwent surgery and my family and I prayed to Father Seelos to let this be over. The other day, six months later, I had my first post-surgery check-up. My doctor informed my family and myself there was a 50% chance it may still be abnormal. However, I feel fortunate my results were normal. I truly believe my success can be attributed to the prayers and favors that were answered by Father Seelos. I believe my mom has "a special connection up there." I will continue to pray that he can be declared a saint of the Church. For he has touched my life and so many others. Thanks be to God.

---

Mail: May, 1999

Petitions: 870

Thanksgivings: 337

Others: 299

Total: 1506

Dial-A-Messages: 737

Volunteer Hours: 1059

**FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)**

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by

The Father Seeelos Center  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

9/99

**Periodical postage paid at New Orleans, LA.**

**Postmaster:** send address changes to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY  
2030 Constance St., New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seeelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 523-3734. Internet: [www.seeelos.org](http://www.seeelos.org). Email: [DEworthy@aol.com](mailto:DEworthy@aol.com). Subscription is \$4.00 per year.

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 Approval:

Rev. Albert Babin, C.S.S.R. and Rev. John Vargas, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators, Rev. Monroe Parier, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director Emeritus, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.