



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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ANNIVERSARY MASS OF FATHER FRANCIS SEELOS

The 104th anniversary of the death of Father Francis Seelos, C.S.S.R., will be noted with a concelebrated Mass at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, October 3, at St. Alphonsus Church in New Orleans.

The principal celebrant of the Mass will be the Most Reverend Clarence J. Duhart, C.S.S.R., of Udonthani, Thailand. The preacher of the homily will be Father Bernard Krimm, C.S.S.R., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Other concelebrants of the Mass will be Father Alphonse Abadie, vice-provincial of the Redemptorists of the vice province of New Orleans, Father William Grangell, C.S.S.R., vice-postulator of the cause of Father Seelos, and Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., of Brooklyn, New York.

Bishop Duhart, a native of New Orleans, has been a missionary in Thailand since 1948, first as superior of the Redemptorists there, then as vicar apostolic, and now bishop of the diocese of Udonthani in northeastern Thailand.

Father Krimm is the assistant vice-postulator of the cause of Blessed John Neumann, C.S.S.R., and lives at St. Peter's Rectory in Philadelphia.

Father Curley is the author of the life of Father Seelos, "THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC." This year he is celebrating his fiftieth anniversary as a Redemptorist. All of the readers of this bulletin gratefully congratulate him on this occasion.

Immediately after the Mass on October 3, there will be a reception in Liguori Hall.

I hope all the readers of this bulletin in the metropolitan area of New Orleans will be able to attend this Mass and reception.



Clarence James Duhart
Bishop of Udonthani



Father Michael Curley

Tables will be set up at church in order that you may obtain picture prayer cards, doubloons and other literature about Father Seelos. We will also have copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC available at \$4.95 per copy.

Virtue for month of September
MORTIFICATION

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Text: Whoever loves his own life will lose it; whoever hates his own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. (jno. 12/25)

One day a man told Father Seelos that he was sure he would never become a Saint. The reason he gave was that he did not like penance in any shape or form. Father Seelos told him he was not alone in his dislike for penance - the whole world was with him. Nobody likes punishing himself, mortification, self-denial. Our Divine Savior Himself did not like it. He came into the world to suffer and to die, and yet when He is in the Garden of Gethsemani, to begin His passion, He becomes sad and sweats blood at the thought of all He must suffer. He asks His Father to let this chalice pass from Him.

With all of us, whether we like penance or not, it is God's will that we perform some. If we are to be followers of Christ we must suffer something. "If any man will be My disciple, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me!" This is fundamental asceticism.

Some saints mortified themselves in unbelievable ways, to mention just St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Gerard Majella, confreres of Father Seelos. Father Seelos could not possibly imitate them in their bodily penance, but he had their spirit. The Church makes penance harder today, because she has taken away all legal, penal obligations. It is harder now because we have no reminders to fast and abstain on certain days. But it is more meritorious this way. All depends on our individual wills and love of God.

Our Blessed Lady at Fatima asked for the Rosary and penance. The kind of penance she wanted was that we suffer the hundreds of annoyances and unkindnesses and criticisms and refusals, denials, privation, the little aches and pains and fatigue that come with our daily ways of living and working.

The tongue of another is a great instrument of torture for us. The uncharitable things that are said to us and against us, the false judgments people make of us, the unjust condemnations, the misinterpretations of our words, and always the sullen, silent tongue of one hurts. This is all mental penance, internal mortification. Suffer it in union with the scourging of Christ at the pillar. Say nothing, forgive, offer it up in atonement for your sins -- and unlike the man at the beginning of this article, you will become a saint.

Look at your picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Her little Boy is frightened by the Cross and the Scourge and the Crown of thorns. He runs to her for protection. When the crosses of life frighten you, run to Mary. SHE IS ALWAYS YOUR PERPETUAL HELP.

STUDY YOUR CRUCIFIX! LET IT BE YOUR MEDITATION BOOK.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"...I promised I would burn a light every month as long as God would spare my husband. He was operated on four years ago and the doctor then told my children and myself that four to five months or less he would live. I was in church three weeks after he was home, praying and crying very hard, because the time was passing very fast, when a kind lady came over to console me. She told me about Father Seelos and took out of her purse a prayer of Father Seelos and asked me to pray to him. She said that she would also pray for me...Since then we have made friends. Thanks to her it is four years now and he is doing fine. He will be 79 years old in November if God spares him till then...Please publish this, it's my promise. Thanks again to God, Father Seelos and the kind lady."

L. L. H.

Gretna, La.

"...I wrote you Monday, asking you to place my petition and pray for me that I would not have to be operated on. Thanks to dear Father Seelos my prayers were answered. I will be treated instead of having an operation for cancer. I am now praying to Father Seelos that the treatment will cure me of cancer, if it be God's will."

P. S.

St. Louis, Mo.

"...My son, who has been totally paralyzed due to a diving accident, became seriously ill. He has recently shown some improvement and it appears that a third operation will not be necessary. He has been paralyzed for almost 15 years. We feel his improvement after the second operation is due to our prayers. I think our friends have helped us also with their prayers."

F. S. K.

New Orleans, La.

"...I have an iron deficiency caused from bleeding. Xray failed to show the cause of the bleeding. My blood count has been decreasing. I have added Father Seelos name to the others I have been praying to - our Blessed Mother, Infant Jesus of Prague, Sacred Heart and other saints. Since adding Father Seelos name to my prayers, I had a test made. For the first time my blood count has increased. I am continuing to pray to Father Seelos that my blood count will continue to improve, and that my brother will return to the Church. Will you please recommend these two requests to those praying before the tomb of Father Seelos."

W. J. M.

Metairie, La.

"...I prayed to Father Seelos for a very special favor and I promised to send a donation if my favor would be granted. My prayers were heard and I received the favor. Please acknowledge this favor in your bulletin."

E. L. F.

SPECIAL NOTES

With every issue of Father Seelos and Sanctity you receive an envelope. Please look upon this envelope as an all-purpose help. Sometimes you want to write us and can't find an envelope. Sometimes, you can't remember our address. You may want to write a personal letter. Here's your envelope. You can use it to send us your petitions for the Wednesday Novena in honor of Father Seelos, or to be placed at his tomb. You may want to send a thanksgiving for a favor received. We appreciate this kind of letter very much. We send them to official Rome. You may want to send a gift toward the general Seelos fund or toward the restoration of St. Mary's Church. That's the story of the little gold monthly envelope.

Our little paper goes around the world every month. Father Seelos is known and loved universally. I wish you could see our Center. It is small and poor, but on fire with love for Father Seelos. Everybody is a volunteer worker. The people come from far and near, from city and outside the city, to do something for our heavenly friend. Those who crochet mementoes of Father Seelos are all over the U.S.A. We have a lady in New York who does this work. Some make glazed pictures. Some spread devotion to Father Seelos by distributing pictures and mementoes. Some visit the sick in hospitals with Father Seelos' Crucifix. God love and bless them all. Wish we could thank you personally in this little paper. Space prevents it.

A little Catholic boy's vision! A Catholic youth's dream! To be a priest, to stand at God's altar and change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of the Living God, to be the victim of man in daily Sacrifice!! To stand at the altar and give the living Christ in Holy Communion to all who come to the great Supper! Visions beautiful! Dreams to come true! Help a boy to become a priest.

For blessings with the mission Crucifix of Father Seelos, call 525-2495 or 895-6176. Arrangements will be made.

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Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Mrs. James Bourg, and Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.
