



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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105th ANNIVERSARY OF FATHER SEELOS' DEATH

St. Alphonsus Church on Constance Street, New Orleans, will again be the scene of an anniversary Mass for the Servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, on Sunday, October 1, of this year. Most Rev. Thomas William Murphy, C.S.S.R., will be the main concelebrant of the Mass and will also deliver the homily on the occasion. After Mass coffee and doughnuts will be served in Liguori Auditorium, next door to St. Alphonsus Church. The featured exhibit will be a new portrait of Father Seelos, painted by Mr. James Corbett, of St. Louis, Missouri, on the staff of the Liguorian magazine.

Father Seelos died on October 4, 1867, victim of a yellow fever epidemic and as a result of ministering to other victims of this disease. At the time Father Seelos was the administrator of famous St. Mary's Church, just across the street from St. Alphonsus.

Bishop Murphy is the first bishop of the diocese of Juazeiro in the state of Bahia, Brazil. He had served the Brazilian church as a missionary along the great Amazon River in northern Brazil for some 13 years. When he was appointed bishop, he was rector of the Redemptorist Seminary in Edgerton, Wisconsin. He was consecrated in the Redemptorist church in Omaha on January 2, 1963. His diocese is located in the arid northeast of Brazil and he and a handful of priests serve the poorest of the poor.

The 105th anniversary Mass for Father Seelos will be offered at 10 A.M. in St. Alphonsus Church, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.



Bishop Thomas William Murphy,
C.S.S.R.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

THE MONTHLY VIRTUE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Virtue for September: Mortification

Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

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

For all new readers of Father Seelos and Sanctity, I want to explain something. You probably wonder what we mean by the monthly virtue. The explanation is this: St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists, wants his followers to be perfect imitators of Jesus Christ. He wants them to practice always all the virtues of Our Most Holy Redeemer and to take a particular virtue each month and to specialize with it and thus to become more perfect imitators of Christ. Father Seelos being a Redemptorist, followed this system of asceticism. We want you to practice it too. Practice all the virtues always, but be a specialist with a given virtue monthly. Mortification is the virtue for September. Father Seelos used to say a good holy person is another Christ, a co-victim with Christ. Therefore, he can expect conflict, pain, loneliness, sorrow, disappointment, lack of human appreciation and worldly failure. So it was with Christ. Why can not a troubled man look into the mirror of Christ's life and expect to see its reflection in his own.

Father Seelos used to say most good people live monotonous, routine lives, the same thing every day, but if they see the Will of God in every detail, they are offering up everything as an act of mortification and are happy. Father Seelos, according to his religious rule, had to rise every morning at the same time, to be in certain places at certain times all day long. It was not easy. With the spirit of Mortification, his every movement was heroic sanctity. You live the same kind of routine life. Make it virtuous, by offering up every detail as an act of mortification. We don't have to plan mortifications, just take things as they come all day long as so many acts of the Will of God. Think it over.

After all we say about mortification, we always hear our Most Holy Redeemer saying: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and FOLLOW ME.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the only person in all history known as the MOTHER OF SORROWS. Ask her to help you to suffer patiently and willingly for the Love of God.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"Had promised to Father Seelos if he would help my grandson who had a nervous breakdown while in the services, that I would have it published. Many thanks and may God bless you . . . Please place this petition on Father Seelos tomb, asking him to please help my grandson and his wife to go back together and get along together."

C. B.

Nashville, Tenn.

"Ever since I was a child my teeth have been permanently discolored. I had really been self-conscious about it. My life dream was to have my teeth capped. However, because of the cost involved and my age, most dentists said it would be impossible to have it done right now. I was left heartsick so I started praying to Father Seelos. Within a week we found a dentist who would do the job for a reasonable price. Now, thanks to Father Seelos, I feel like a different person. I'm so grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession in my behalf."

S. B.

New Orleans, La.

"My cousin had two massive strokes and I asked Father Seelos if she were to have severe brain damage which the doctors said she would, to ask God to call her home. This prayer was answered and she died several weeks ago. My second favor was granted when my sister received the return of a \$500.00 deposit she had put on a house which was not worth the amount the owner was asking. I am a devoted client of Father Seelos and pray daily to him. Please include in your prayers at the tomb of Father Seelos my special intentions. Thanks."

M. C. I.

Raceland, La.

"I have been in the hospital for twelve weeks with a broken leg. I promised publication of the wonderful help given to me through Father Seelos intercession. I made a novena and prayed very hard to Father Seelos and I truly believe it has been through his prayers that my petition has been granted."

A. L.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to acknowledge and thank Father Seelos for his intercession for the favor granted me. For some time I experienced great difficulty in securing adequate medical assistance for the relief of a chronic physical ailment. Upon invoking Father Seelos, I was successful in contacting the doctor and secured the necessary assistance. I promised to publish the favor if granted, hence this letter."

Anonymous

(Continued on next page)

New Orleans, La.

"I was recently admitted to the hospital due to a condition that developed quite suddenly and which required an operation. I prayed to Father Seelos and asked that the operation be successful. Brother Clement visited me in the hospital and gave me a blessing with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. The operation was successful and laboratory tests revealed normal tissue with no indication of malignancy. Three weeks to the day following surgery I returned to work. Wish to acknowledge my thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

L. A. S.

SPECIAL NOTES

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call the Father Seelos Center 525-2495 or Miss Addie Buhler 895-6176.

At our annual anniversary Mass on October 1 we will have all types of literature about Father Seelos available for you. We will also have copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC for sale in front of Church at \$4.95 per copy. If you are unable to attend you may order copies of the book through the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. Orders will be given prompt attention.

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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.