



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

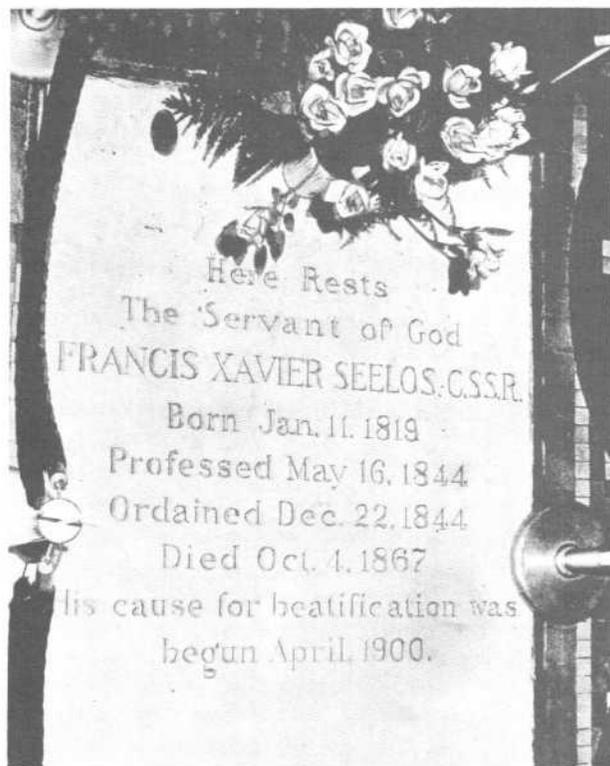
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## FATHER SEELOS' ANNIVERSARY MASS

Sunday, October 6, is the day set for the annual memorial Mass for Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. He died in New Orleans of the yellow fever on October 4, 1867. This year the Most Reverend James E. McManus, C.S.S.R., formerly the bishop of the diocese of Ponce, Puerto Rico, will be the main concelebrant and homilist at this Mass. The Mass will be celebrated at 10 A.M. in St. Alphonsus Church, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans. The public is invited to attend.

*Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.*



*Father Seelos' tomb  
in St. Alphonsus  
Church,  
New Orleans*

## FATHER SEELOS WAS A MORTIFIED MAN

by Father Grangell, C.S.S.R.

Virtue for September: Mortification

Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Text: He who hateth his life in this world, keepeth it unto eternity. Jno/12/25

Like all great saints, Father Seelos considered himself a great sinner and practiced great penance. Only God knows the penances he performed physically and mentally, even as a growing boy. The Saints hide their penances. They smile always as though they are getting all the breaks in life. They never talk about themselves as heroes or as victims. Everything, everybody is perfect as far as they are concerned.

When Father Seelos became a Redemptorist, he made this promise publicly on his Profession Day: "Burning with the desire of consecrating myself *entirely* to Thy Holy Love, I bind myself to serve Thee henceforth with all my strength by imitating the life of Thy Divine Son, which is the only way to please Thee, et. . . ." For complete imitation of Christ, the crucifix became his mirror. He wore a small crucifix close to his heart daily. It was hidden. He had a crucifix at the door of his room, he kissed it coming and going and said: "May I die for love of Thy love, Who hast been so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love."

He meditated on the words of St. Paul and preached them to the people: "We must always bear about in our body, the mortification of Jesus" (2 Cor 4/10), and "They who are Christ's have crucified their flesh" (Gal 5/24), and "I am nailed to the cross, and I live, now not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal 11/19.20).

All must perform mortification of some kind. Christ says: "Unless you do penance you shall perish," — you cannot save your soul.

The Church leaves the practice of mortification to us individually. But make one thing certain: if mortification makes you moody, sullen and smileless, skip it entirely. God loves the cheerful giver.

When you are sick, offer up all your pains and aches and operations as so much penance. In all your sufferings keep saying "My God I love you."

Preach this to all your loved ones, sick at home and in the hospital, and be an apostle of the practice of "My God, I love you."

Father Seelos loved the Blessed Mother. In her honor he performed certain mortifications on all Saturdays and the vigils of her great feasts. Try this.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

In October of 1972 I prayed to our Lord for the healing of my knee after surgery. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession, I'm back at work. Not completely well, but I can earn a living."

*E. M. R.*

Jennings, La.

"Please have this published. I say the Father Seelos prayer every day. My sister's son was very ill with cancer. There was nothing the doctors could do for him. He had been raised a Catholic, but was married a second time and couldn't be married in the church. At the very end he received communion and the last rites of the church. He was given a Catholic burial. Thank God and Father Seelos for his intercession."

*Mrs. E. T.*

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish my thanks to Father Seelos, St. Jude and St. Anthony for favors granted. I have made this promise of publication."

*Mrs. S.D.*

New Orleans, La.

"Something happened and I was in dire need of help. I stormed heaven begging the intercession of St. Jude, Sacred Heart, Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Father Seelos, and my answer came last week. How grateful I am. . . . Please continue your prayers for us and for my other favor. Father, I want you to know that I am a non-Catholic, my husband is a Catholic, but regardless of religion it's good to know prayers are answered."

*L. B. C.*

New Orleans, La.

"I am writing this letter as promised to express my thanks to Father Seelos and God for a favor granted. My husband has been laid up for eight months with poor circulation and an ulcerated toe. He went to the doctor who said he would have to amputate his foot and maybe the leg. So he went to another doctor and he said he wouldn't be in any hurry for that so he treated him. We went this month to the doctor and he said he is doing beautifully, and not to come back for six months. I am thankful to God and Father Seelos intercession for this favor. Please publish this."

*L. W.*

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to acknowledge a very special favor which I received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I was in an almost hopeless financial situation when I came across a picture of Father Seelos with a prayer for a special intention. I said the prayer and one half hour later I was informed that I would receive the money that I had tried many times before to obtain. I hope and pray that if Father Seelos has not been declared a Saint as yet, that it won't be too long. I shall continue to pray for his canonization."

*Mrs. L. L.*

## SPECIAL NOTES

Isn't it sad how many people have given up their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus! How few at Holy Mass—Holy Communion on the First Friday! and the young! You go, and make reparation for all this. Our Lord will love you.

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Please keep us informed of your correct address. Pray for the canonization of Father Seelos. Make the weekly novena on Wednesdays at 4:30 P.M. at his tomb.

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We send "Father Seelos and Sanctity" to 28,000 people, scattered all over the world. We want that number to grow to 100,000. If each of you will send us four names and addresses, we will go over the top immediately. Thanks—God love you.

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

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For literature about Father Seelos and any other matters pertaining to his cause, please call Miss Regina Beck at the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495.

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Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130, at \$4.95 per copy.

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