



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1976

Once again that time of the year has come round when we commemorate the day of death of Father Francis Seelos. He died October 4, 1867. This year there will be a memorial Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Sunday, October 3, at 11:30 A.M. Most Rev. Clarence J. Duhart, C.S.S.R. retired bishop of Udonthani, Thailand, will lead the concelebrants in the memorial Mass and also give the homily for the occasion.

St. Mary's Assumption Church is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



Part of the large crowd that attended the memorial Mass last year in St. Mary's Church.

THE CRUCIFIX: THE MIRROR OF FATHER SEELOS

by *Father Grangell*

Virtue for the month of September: Mortification

Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle

Text: He who hates his life in this world, keeps it unto life everlasting.

(John 12/25)

St. Alphonsus Liguori founded his Redemptorist Congregation on the ascetical system of the twelve monthly virtues. He chose as the theme text for Mortification the one given above. To understand it better, read St. Luke (9/23): "If any man will come after me — be my disciple, my follower, my imitator — let him deny himself." Then read the following verses: 24-25-26.

On the day Father Seelos was invested in the beautiful simple Redemptorist habit, he received a small crucifix which he was to carry daily to his heart. He embraced it saying: "May I die for the love of Thy love, who hast been so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love!" That was to be the keynote to his new life. Christ died for him, he will die for Christ.

He will not be a martyr of blood; he will live a mortified life! He will suffer all inconveniences without a murmur. He will deny himself comforts, be resigned to God's will in every physical pain and say "no" to his appetite for food and drink in many little unseen mortifications at table and between meals. He will never complain if something were missing. His health was poor. He never talked about it. He wanted no sympathy. He hid all his penances and mental sufferings, and was always the "CHEERFUL ASCETIC" as his biographer called him. THIS COULD BE YOUR LIFE!!

The Crucifix was his mirror. He saw himself in it as a willing, prayerful, silent sufferer.

He learned to be patient from his crucifix. The dictionary defines PATIENT: possessing quiet endurance under distress and annoyance, being tolerant, tender and undiscouraged. This is a good asceticism, if all for the love of God! You live and work with people whose temperaments, characters, dispositions are as different as finger-prints. Don't get angry because of their peculiarities, disturbing hobbies. Offer them to God as so many daily acts of mortification.

Be patient with the sick and the old. Maybe you say they are a cross! Well, take up your cross and follow Christ. (Luke 9/23)

Speak to your crucifix as Father Seelos did: "May I die" etc. etc.

MARY, MOTHER OF SORROWS, PRAY FOR ME TO BE HOLY.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for favor granted. My husband was burned in an accident and the doctor said he would need skin grafts. I prayed asking Father Seelos intercession that he would not need the skin grafts and my prayers were answered."

E. B.

Many thanks to Father Seelos for favors received through his intercession: New Orleans: T. O'D.; C. W.; I. S.; E. T.; E. O.; R. R.; L. W.; M. R. Baton Rouge: M. G.; M. T. Marksville: A. L. V. Thibodaux: H. L.; C. L. Napoleonville: F. G.; O. A. Scott, La.: M. F. Schriever: W. J. B. Vacherie: M. L. B. Metairie: A. M. R.

Metairie, La.

"I had a breast operation and it was benign. I am forever thankful to Father Seelos for his prayers for that and other wonderful favors I have received."

J. C.

Baton Rouge, La.

"Some weeks ago I wrote asking for prayers for improvement in health and financial assistance. During that time I had to be taken to the hospital. The doctor discovered I had diabetes in addition to other complications caused from medicine I have been taking for the past 25 years. The doctor seems to have the diabetes under control and has decreased other medication. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession I am now able to do some of my art work I was unable to do for over a year."

E. J. S.

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish. My grandchild was always complaining and had to be taken to the doctor three or four times. We were all worried about her and I prayed to Father Seelos. Whatever was the trouble, she seems to be OK now. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

L. L. E.

New Orleans, La.

"My daughter had surgery. She bled so much and had such pain we thought it was cancer. We prayed asking Father Seelos' intercession that the operation would be a success. She is doing very well. Thanks to Father Seelos. Please publish."

E. M.

SPECIAL NOTES

Thanks and congratulations to all you wonderful people who sent us so many names for the GUILD OF FATHER SEELOS. The winner of the contest as of July 15, when we go to press, is:

Miss Vivian C. Follain of Metairie, La.

with 116 names. Next month we will give you more names of workers and their returns.

WELCOME to all the new friends of Father Seelos. The mere fact that your name is in our files, you are a member of the GUILD. Your obligations are:

1. Pray for the canonization of Father Seelos. Any prayer.
2. Practice the asceticism of the 12 monthly virtues. We will send you a reminder each month when a short meditation on the virtue of the current month in FATHER SEELOS & SANCTITY!
3. Pray to Father Seelos for favors for yourself and for others — even miracles!! Inform us when you receive a favor. Tell us about it in detail, not just "Thanks for a favor received." What was it?
4. Spread devotion to Father Seelos. Send us new names and addresses.
5. THE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS — You are remembered in all our Holy daily Masses. The Masses said on Wednesdays at 4:30 P.M. after our 4:15 weekly Father Seelos novena and on Sundays at 4:00 P.M. in beautiful St. Mary's Church are for you.

Your ceaseless prayer: MY GOD I LOVE YOU!! (MGILY).

September means School! Make your home a Catholic School. Teach the children the basic fundamental Catholic prayers.

Our hearty thanks to MR. & MRS. CLETUS STACK and their son, JOHN, for the thorough cleaning and painting of the Father Seelos Center!

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

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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.