



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SEPTEMBER 1979

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS

On October 7, 1979 the annual memorial Mass commemorating the death of Father Francis X. Seelos, C.S.S.R., will take place in St. Mary's Church, Josephine and Constance Streets at 11:30 A.M.

Bishop Stanley J. Ott will be the main con-celebrant of the Mass and will deliver the homily.



Bishop Stanley Joseph Ott, S.T.D., V.G., has been Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of New Orleans since his Episcopal Ordination on June 29, 1976. Prior to his assignment in New Orleans he was Chancellor for the Diocese of Baton Rouge where he was active in both Ecclesiastical and Civic affairs, including membership on the Baton Rouge Civic Center Commission "Centroplex" and on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan YMCA. His present duties include Vicar for Clergy and Religious of the Archdiocese, Chairman of the Ecumenical and Liturgical Commissions, and Vicar for the Family Life Apostolate. On the national scene he is a Consultor for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs Committee.

FATHER SEELOS FOLLOWED A SYSTEM FOR GREATER SANCTITY

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

The Virtue for the Month of September: MORTIFICATION

Patron: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Text: "He that hateth his life in this world, keepeth it unto life everlasting."
John 12/25

Our heartfelt, most sincere welcome to all new members of the Guild of Father Seelos, people who will pray for the canonization of Father Seelos and who will interest others in the same cause. You are wonderful souls, lovers of Jesus Christ.

Let me explain something to you as new readers of Father Seelos and Sanctity! You will read a conference in each monthly issue and it's on the "Monthly Virtue." Father Seelos became a great saint by following conscientiously the asceticism of the twelve virtues: This was the sanctity St. Alphonsus under inspiration gave the first Redemptorists as the rule of their lives. Each month had a different virtue. In it Christ was considered from a different angle. His doctrine on that virtue was studied. In the privacy of each heart, greater spiritual perfection was sought, a more perfect imitation of Christ was desired. Resolutions were made to effect this.

This is the way the entire community practices the virtue. As the community gathered for supper on the last day of any month, the lector announced the virtue for the new month. At dinner on the first day of the new month something was read about the new virtue. The morning meditation was on the virtue. Their best meditation book was the Gospels. Everybody made resolutions according to his generosity with God. Father Seelos' generosity in making and keeping good resolutions made him a saint.

Once a month the Superior of the community would call together the Religious and give them a conference on the virtue of the month. Imagine Father Seelos' talk about mortification. He would say: Don't be afraid to do a little penance every day — a little penance such as no sugar and cream in your coffee — a little thing — but little things make perfection. We are all striving after perfection and Christ says: "If any one will come after me, be my disciple, YOU, let him deny himself." Let no one know that you are doing penance. Offer to God all the crosses that come into your life — sickness, pains, aches, as so much penance.

Keep smiling or try to do so. When Father Curley wrote the life of Father Seelos, a magnificent book, which everybody should read, he entitled it "THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC" which means the "Happy Mortified Saint."

When Father Seelos lay dying he asked the Priests and Brothers around his bed to sing. They did. One of the singers was Brother Wenceslaus Neumann, the natural brother of St. John Neumann. Now Father Seelos and Brother Wenceslaus lie next to each other in the sanctuary of beautiful St. Mary's Church. In heaven they sing the praises of God and His Blessed Mother forever.

Your system could be: Read a few texts of the New Testament daily, make a resolution to do something for the love of God — then check quietly about the resolution at the end of the day.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Utica, N.Y.

"I promised Father Seelos if he would get me home safely from a terrible snow storm after attending Midnight Mass, I would write you. Through his intercession with our heavenly Father, I arrived home safely."

S.S.

Port Allen, La.

"This is in thanksgiving for special favors received through Father Seelos' prayers. My daughter got a very good job and my son and grandson's health improved."

E.LeB.

Houma, La.

"I had a bladder infection and also an ear infection. Through the intercession of Father Seelos both are healed."

O.A.

Pierre Part, La.

"My dad had bleeding hemorrhoids and we worried that he might have cancer. I prayed, asking Father Seelos' intercession and in November after surgery the doctor found everything to be alright. Also, I had three nervous breakdowns and had to go to the hospital. Through Father Seelos I got better and now am able to take care of my son and to do my own work."

J.P.G.

Gretna, La.

"In June 1978 I had two large tumors removed and part of the Thyroid removed. It was found not to be cancerous. I know it was the intercession of Father Seelos which made this surgery successful."

S.A.

Egan, La.

"I requested prayers for my husband to be transferred to a job closer to home and for a successful operation. Many thanks to Father Seelos for these favors and many more. I shall never forget him."

C.E.

New Orleans, La.

"A few weeks before Christmas I went out at night and when I returned home I was afflicted with Bell's Palsy, which pulled up the left side of my face. After prayers and receiving the blessing with the Father Seelos crucifix, through Father Seelos' intercession I was on the road to recovery. Now my face has returned to complete normalcy."

M.C.M.

Metairie, La.

"When my daughter's husband passed away suddenly, she was very despondent and lost interest in everything. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers she is much improved and working."

W.B.

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SPECIAL NOTES

We are very happy to tell you that Father Grangell is home and doing well. He has resumed writing for the paper.

People ask how do I become a member of the Guild of Father Seelos — what are the obligations of a member!! As soon as one's name is put in our files, he is a member. The obligations of the Guild are: 1) Pray for the canonization of Father Seelos. 2) Get others interested in Father Seelos. What kind of prayer should be said? Any kind of prayer should be said, just ask God to canonize Father Seelos. A beautiful prayer is on the picture card of Father Seelos.

Tell the children about Father Seelos. Bring them to St. Mary's Church and show them where he is buried, when they are men and women, Father Seelos will be canonized — St. Mary's will be one of the greatest churches in America, the international shrine of an American canonized Saint.

Children!! So many of them seem to have lost interest in God. They don't need Him. They miss Holy Mass on Sundays and rarely go to Holy Communion. Prayers will save them but most of all good example. If parents are not practical Catholics, their children will not be.

In the November 1976 FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY we ran an article "Father Seelos' every breath was a Prayer." A good man of the guild liked it so much, he had hundreds of copies made of it, to scatter them abroad. Now, we are making more copies for him to continue his zealous work.

During the past month we heard of three first class miracles, one in Porta Pora, Brazil and two in Houston. We are happy over this. If your case seems to be miraculous, ask the Doctor to send us a letter. THANKS.

DON'T FORGET THE FATHER SEELOS ANNIVERSARY MASS IN ST. MARY'S AT 11:30 OCTOBER 7 AND STAY FOR THE RECEPTION AFTER MASS. FATHER GRANGELL WANTS TO MEET EVERYBODY.

For blessings of your sick with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler. 895-6176.

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