



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1983

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS OCTOBER 2



On Sunday, October 2, at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church, we will have our Annual Memorial Mass honoring Father Seelos. Father Seelos died on October 4, 1867.

The main concelebrant of the Mass will be Father Matthew Kerschen, C.S.S.R. Father Kerschen has been serving since 1967 when he was appointed Pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Houston, Texas. Since that time he has held pastorates in Corpus Christi, Texas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In 1981 he was elected to his present office of Vice Provincial Superior of the Redemptorist Fathers of the Vice Province of New Orleans. Previous to his southern assignment Father Kerschen had taught in the Redemptorist Minor Seminary in St. Louis and served in several midwest Redemptorist parishes. He is a native of Wichita, Kansas.

We look forward to seeing you at the Mass and to meeting you afterward in Liguori Auditorium for our usual coffee and doughnuts.

Please all of you use this special day to pray that the cause of Father Seelos will advance rapidly and he will soon be declared a saint of the church.

God love you.

Josie M. Becker.

MORTIFICATION (Never Complain) *(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)*

Virtue for the month of September: MORTIFICATION

Patron Saint: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Text: If any one wishes to follow Me, let him deny himself.

The afternoon St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R. died on Vine Street in Philadelphia, they found a belt of pointed wires imbedded in his waist. This chain is called the cilicium. Wearing it was part of the Saint's hidden, unknown life of penance. The godless, pleasure-loving world probably laughed at this when they read it in the paper. Maybe some foolish uneducated, badly informed Catholics called it: "old stuff," which the modern Church has done away with. People just cannot understand the meaning of pain. The suffering Christ on a Cross has been a mystery from the beginning of Christianity. St. Paul wrote to his converts in Corinth: We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Gentiles foolishness. (1 Corinthians: 1/23.)

The world is God's creation. Why is there pain in it? It's God's punishment of sin. There is no other explanation for it, no other explanation of the crucifix. And Christ taught: If any man wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take upon himself the cross and follow Me. (Matt. 16/24) How can the "modern" church do away with penance? We must accept the pains and aches and sickness of life as so much penance for sin. We must add to the crosses God sends us, a few acts of personal mortification every day -- denying ourselves many little things at table -- some butter and condiments, some sweets, a smoke, some recreation and amusements -- and the number goes on.

You hide these. They are known only to God.

Penance, acts of mortification, do not make you sad, silent, eccentric. If they do, skip them. God loves a cheerful giver.

Never complain! That's pitying yourself. You lose all merit.

Father Seelos used to take the crucifix in his hand and say as St. Paul did: With Christ I am nailed to the cross and I live, now not I, but Christ liveth in me. (Galatians 11/19/20).

Offer up an act of mortification for the conversion of sinners. Don't forget the SPIRITUAL BANKS of the May conference.

Keep your crucifix close to you and often whisper to the Blessed Mother:
OBTAIN FOR ME A PERFECT LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From New Orleans, La.

"I wish to acknowledge a favor granted me while in the hospital. I had complications which had me in very severe pain. I prayed and asked Father Seelos to help me. I promised to write and acknowledge my favor if granted and to spread devotion. After the fourth day I started to feel much better."

From Cherry Hill, N. J.

"Through the intercession of Father Seelos I have been granted many favors."

From Lafayette, La.

"I was a problem drinker. I could see no hope for improvement in my future. I tried over the years to stop drinking and did not succeed. I began praying every day to Father Seelos specifically for this. A month or so later one event lead to another which gave me the strength to quit totally. I owe it to Father Seelos. I still pray to him for healing and strength. My friend, Father Seelos."

From Moreauville, La.

"Please publish thanksgiving for great improvement of three health problems."

From Metairie, La.

"My son had numbness on the right side of his face and could not blink his right eye. The doctor said he had Bell's Palsy. I gave him the cloth memento and prayer to Father Seelos and told him to keep it on him at all times. I also prayed to Father Seelos saying his prayer over and over. I know that through his intercession my son's face and eye are back to normal. My sincere thanks to Father Seelos."

"I have been praying for this job opportunity for four months. My mother sent me Father Seelos' letter so I started including him in my prayers. I heard two hours ago that the job is mine. I want to make public thanksgiving and am grateful for Father Seelos' intercession."

From Biloxi, Miss.

"While praying to Father Seelos I promised to write and publicly acknowledge that my prayers were answered. My oldest son is doing well in school and has recently been accepted to our Medical Center to further his education. I will continue to pray to Father Seelos."

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
FATHER SEELOS CENTER (USPS 488-660)
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130

SPECIAL NOTES

Father Seelos died in 1867 and the people of New Orleans all felt that a saint had died. His tomb in St. Mary's Assumption Church became a place of pilgrimage by people all over the United States. In 1968 SEELOS AND SANCITY appeared. Today it is read by 48,000 people everywhere.

Read this: If today every reader became a real devotee of Father Seelos and in this anniversary month put just two new members on our mailing list we would have one million readers. That would help his cause of canonization. Rome would sit up and take notice!! This is a challenge.

Every month at least 20 copies of Father Seelos and Sanctity are returned to the Center by the Post Office, Stamped "Moved, left no address". "Died", etc. For each copy we must pay 25 cents. We want to save this situation with your help. If you know of anyone who has moved or who has died, whom you know were on our mailing list and will inform us of this, we will be able to greatly reduce the cost of mail returned to us.

Thanks for using the gold envelope we sent you every month.

We have a perpetual novena in honor of Father Seelos every Sunday in St. Mary's Church at 3:30 - a personal, individual priestly blessing with the veneration of the crucifix of Father Seelos, followed by Holy Mass at 4 o'clock.

Don't forget to get the new members you are going to get for the Guild of Father Seelos and thus boost our membership to a million plus.

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

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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