



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1984

FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, C.S.S.R



Again we remind you of the annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos, on Sunday, October 7, at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church. We look forward to again seeing many of you at the Mass and at the get-together in Liguori Auditorium.

We know Father Litz will have an inspirational message for us at the Mass.

We have to pray and pray and pray that the cause advances. We likewise ask you to pray for the workers of the Center, several of whom are ill at this time.

Josie M. Becker

O my God, I truly BELIEVE You are present with me. I ADORE Your limitless Perfection. I THANK You for the graces and gifts You gave to Father Seelos. If it is Your holy will, please let him be DECLARED A SAINT of the Church so that others may know and imitate his holy life. Through his prayers please give me THIS FAVOR.

SILENCE AND RECOLLECTION — OCTOBER

Virtue: Silence and Recollection

Patron: St. Simon, Apostle

Text: And having dismissed the crowds, He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray. (Matt. 14/33)

In Father Seelos' time and for long after, the Redemptorists followed pretty much of a monastic rule of life, even though in America they were very often engaged in the parochial ministry. For example, three times a day, morning, afternoon and evening, they made meditations for a half-hour. Silence was observed in the afternoon for three hours in memory of the passion and death of the Savior. From the lights-out signal to the rising bell very early in the morning, the 'great silence' was to be observed.

Prayers in common to be said just before the midday meal and night prayers in the evening, the divine office to be said, spiritual reading made, the rosary recited – all combined to keep the religious close to home and the chapel.

Naturally, in busy parishes the age-old accommodation of the practical with the ideal was constantly being made. In a parish the needs of the faithful did not always correspond to the programmed life of a monastery.

The rigor of the rule did not keep Father Seelos from his appointed rounds of daily Mass and confessions, of sermons and instructions to the children in school, to prospective converts and young brides and grooms, of counseling the perplexed, visiting and consoling the sick and burying the dead.

His manner was far from severe – indeed, exactly the opposite – people flocked to him and he gladly received them all. Although his spirit may have often soared to heaven, the body, heart and mind were always available to those whose feet were only too fastened to the moorings of earth.

Perhaps we can follow the spirit of Father Seelos by using the infrequent moments of quiet in the midst of the constant noise of modern electronic life to raise our minds and hearts to God, to whisper a brief message of love and praise. And there are some precious moments of silence during Mass, at the penitential rite, after the reading, before and after Holy Communion. We should seize these opportunities to make our prayers personal and individual.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Cherry Hill, N.J.

"Recently my husband underwent surgery which should have required only five days hospitalization. All went well with the surgery, but complications developed which may have required additional surgery. I prayed to Father Seelos that this condition would clear up on its own and am happy to say that it did. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

From Baton Rouge, La.

"We prayed that our daughter would have a normal, healthy baby. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers, she now has a perfect baby."

From New Orleans, La.

"Facing possible heart surgery my husband and I asked Father Seelos to intercede for him. We feel that thru his intercession my husband will not need surgery. He will be treated with medication. We will continue to pray to Father Seelos."

From Lafayette, La.

"In December 1982 I wrote you of a great favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos.

Last week an accountant representative was looking over the accounts that I maintain and she found that her total did not correspond with mine. I was nervous and uncomfortable. I prayed constantly the Father Seelos prayer and after two hours the mistake was found, which was not mine, but an oversight on the part of the accountant."

From Chalmette, La.

"About three months ago I fell and broke a bone in my foot. Six weeks later when the cast was removed the bone still had not healed and naturally I was worried. I began to pray to Father Seelos and shortly after my foot began to hurt less and less and when I returned to the doctor he said it had healed."

From Lafayette, La.

I prayed to Father Seelos to help me gain employment and through his intercession my prayers were answered."

From Houston, Texas

"My sister was ill with a bad case of congestion. We were concerned about her as she had had open heart surgery and many other illnesses. We prayed very hard and feel through the intercession of Father Seelos she is well on the way to being well again."

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SPECIAL NOTES

When attending the Father Seelos Memorial Mass on October 7 or if you are unable to attend, in your prayers at home, please remember Father Grangell. I feel sure he will be with us in spirit and know if he could he would ask for your prayers. MGILY

During the month of June a section of the Causeway which connects the north and south shores of Lake Pontchartrain, was knocked out by a barge being pushed by a tug. My reason for telling you this is that the tug was named "Seelos". The owner had devotion to Father Seelos and about two years ago; had the tug blessed by Father Grangell. This happened about six o'clock in the morning and there were no cars crossing the bridge at that time, no lives were lost. We feel Father Seelos must have been watching over this boat which was named for him. In previous incidents of this type there were quite a few who lost their lives.

October is the month of the Rosary. Remember to say your rosary often during October (and always) every day if possible.

We ask your prayers for the mother of Father Matthew Kerschen, who is Vice-Provincial of the Southern Vice Province of the Redemptorists and also for Sister M. Cordelia, S.S.N.D., sister of Father Joseph Elworthy, both of whom have passed away during the month of July. We of the Father Seelos Center extend our sincere sympathy to Father Kerschen and also to Father Elworthy. Even though we have our loved ones for a number of years, it never seems long enough.

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

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