

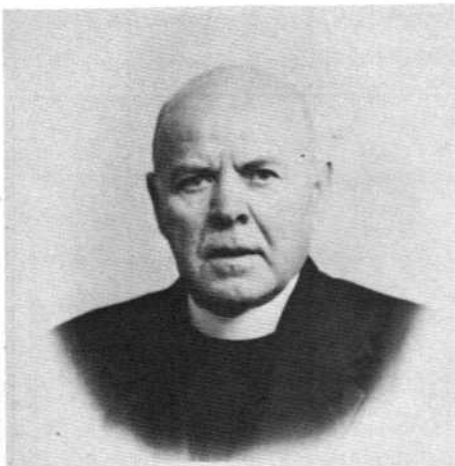


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1984

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS OCTOBER 7



Our annual memorial Mass will be on Sunday, October 7, at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church, Josephine and Constance Streets.

The main concelebrant of the Mass and homilist will be Father Francis Litz, C.S.S.R. who was the Vice Postulator for the cause of Saint John Neumann, who was canonized in 1977.

Father Litz is 85 years young and is very interested in the cause of Father Seelos. He will tell us something of the procedure in promoting a cause for canonization, etc. I am sure we will all benefit by his being with us. Father Litz is intensely interested in Redemptorist happenings. He has studied thoroughly the Second Vatican Council and kept abreast of current Catholic theological teaching and wisely blended the events of today with the lessons of yesterday. He is an inspiration to his confreres.

We welcome Father Litz to New Orleans and hope all of you who are able to be with us for the memorial Mass will come to Liguori Auditorium to meet and greet him after the Mass.

Josie M. Becker

TOTAL GIVING OF SELF
(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for August: MORTIFICATION

Patron Saint: St. Matthew, the Apostle

Text: He that hate his life in this world, keepeth it unto life everlasting. (John 12/25)

September, in the Redemptorist System of Asceticism, is the month of mortification. Imagine Father Seelos kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament with his conference in a Community act, known as the Particular Examination of Conscience. This exercise is at noon. The question for the P.X. in September is: How do I mortify myself, deny myself for the love of God and to save souls?

When Pope Benedict XIV approved the Redemptorist Rule, he said he would canonize the man who kept it in its entirety before that man died.

Father Seelos wished to be a true Redemptorist, so he tried to keep the Rule in its entirety. He did not have to plan a life of mortification or penance or self-denial. All these things were in the regular order of his religious day. The vow of obedience demanded something of him every moment of the day. He had no choice of rising in the morning. The community bell was the voice of God, calling him to another day of work, and no matter how he felt, he was up and doing immediately. He began the day with the prayer: MY GOD, I LOVE YOU! YOUR HOLY WILL BE DONE!

His vow of Poverty demanded that he be satisfied with what the Community gave him at table and in the material appointments of his small bedroom. Ascetical writers call the room of a religious "a cell." It is devoid of all luxuries and superfluities and every comfort. Father Seelos never complained or found fault!!! If he had, he would not be a candidate for canonization today.

Father Seelos prayed as St. John of the Cross prayed: LORD, ALL I ASK IS TO SUFFER AND TO BE DESPISED FOR YOU.

When the children of Fatima asked the Blessed Mother what kind of penance would save the world, she told them: 'Let all, each in his state of life, accept all the crosses God sends into their lives. See God's will in everything.'

Do not let others know you are suffering — keep smiling.

Be Cheerful Ascetics! Selfish people are always complaining, gloomy and sad.

Nero, the Roman Emperor, marvelled at the early Christians going to death — singing.

Christ invites you to follow Him: IF ANY MAN WILL COME AFTER ME, LET HIM TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME.

DEAR BLESSED MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP, BE WITH ME ALWAYS.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Rayne, La.

"In 1983 I developed a heart problem. I have a 100% blockage and a 60% blockage. The doctor gave me medicine and told me to come back in 60 days. If not better he said he would have to perform surgery. I prayed the Father Seelos prayer asking that the medicine would help me. When I went back for a checkup my heart condition had improved. I know Father Seelos' prayers helped."

From New Orleans, La.

"My husband misplaced or lost a case of jewelry. We thought it had been stolen. I started praying to Father Seelos and exactly two years later we located it. We had left it in the bank where he had gone to put important papers and the case was left in the safe deposit box. Thanks to Father Seelos for his help."

From Lafayette, La.

"I have been praying to Father Seelos since my son was born. He had a three months stay in the hospital due to eye surgery to save his sight. My whole family started to pray to Father Seelos and our prayers were answered. He will have to wear glasses but he can see. Thanks to Father Seelos and St. Lucy."

From Chicago, Ill.

"Last week was the first time I had heard of Father Seelos. I prayed for his intercession on a court case that I could see no solution for. It worked out well and I thank Father Seelos for his intercession."

From Thibodaux, La.

"My mother who is 75 years old, learned that she had to have a malignant tumor removed. I prayed to Father Seelos that the surgery would be successful and that her recuperation would be speedy. The doctor was able to remove the tumor and since it was not attached to an organ, that was all that it was necessary to remove. It has been six weeks since surgery and she is doing everything she did before."

From New Orleans, La.

"I was feeding my son's cows in Madisonville and when I got back to Covington I realized my ring wasn't on my hand. We rushed back and sifted the hay and found the ring. Thanks for the answer to my prayers and to Father Seelos for his help."

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

SPECIAL NOTES

Please continue your prayers for Father Grangell. He is still in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin and is receiving the 'tender loving care' he is so deserving of.

After our memorial Mass you will be able to renew your acquaintance with Father Joseph Elworthy. We know you will be glad to see him again and to tell him personally how glad you are to have him back with us.

Our children have or will shortly return to school for the 1984-85 school year. We ask that you pray for God to bless them in their work so that they will be successful in their future life.

Again we call your attention to our mailing list. If you are receiving more than one copy of our paper or should you change your address, etc. please contact us, as we would like to have our files in perfect order. This goal seems impossible to reach. Thanks

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

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In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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