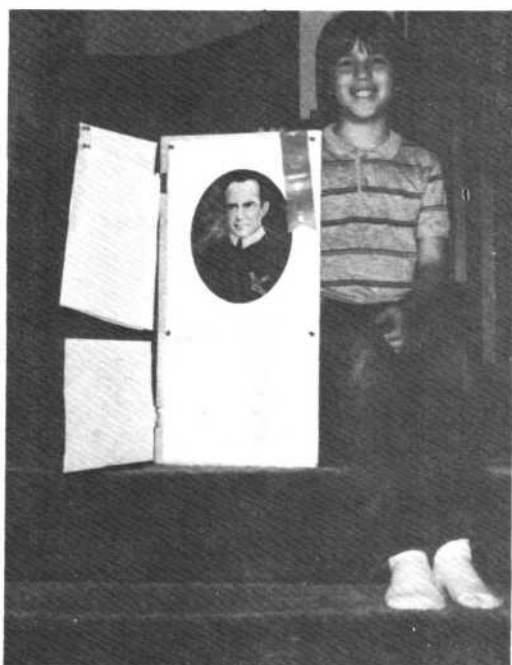




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1986



MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS

When he was attending the Mandeville middle school this last semester, young Kalen Bransford thought of this project for his school's Science Fair. He chose to highlight the work of the Redemptorists in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

The foremost of the Redemptorists who worked in the Irish Channel was Father Seelos Xavier Seelos who died there in 1867. His cause for canonization was introduced in Rome around 1900 and again in 1971.

Kalen's father, Joe Bransford, recently completed a TV documentary on the life of Father Seelos. It is called "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice."

On October 5, the first Sunday of October, the annual Mass commemorating the 119th anniversary of Father Seelos' death will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church in the Irish Channel of New Orleans on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets at 11:30 A.M. All are invited to attend this Mass.

MORTIFICATION

The virtue of mortification, despite the word's derivation from the Latin word for death, "Mors", was much practiced by all the saints. The purpose of this virtue is to control the disorderly inclinations of self-love.

St. Paul it was who recognized the effects of original sin in human nature. He wrote to the Galatians (5/16-17); "My point is that you should live in accord with the spirit, and you will not yield to the cravings of the flesh. The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; the two are directly opposed. That is why you do not do what your will intends."

In much the same vein, St. James (4/1-3) writes, "Where do the conflicts and disputes among you originate? Is it not the inner cravings that make war within your members? What you desire you do not obtain, and so you resort to murder. You envy and you cannot acquire, so you quarrel and fight."

The apostle to the Gentiles well knew the result of following the blind inclinations of our lower nature, as he informed the Ephesians (2/3): "We lived at the level of the flesh, following every whim and fancy, and so by nature deserved God's wrath like the rest."

So, St. Paul teaches, "Put to death whatever in your nature is rooted in the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and that lust which is idolatry" (Col. 3/5).

Rightfully, therefore, does he conclude, "Athletes deny themselves all sorts of things. They do this to win a crown of leaves that withers, but we a crown that is imperishable. . .What I do is discipline my own body and master it, for fear that having preached to others I myself should be rejected" (1 Cor. 9/25,27).

Jesus, St. Paul says, was like us in all things save sin. Although His body and its emotions were under the perfect control of His soul, Jesus does give us an example of mortification.

He fasted forty days and nights in the desert and afterwards He was hungry. He would often spend whole nights in prayer. He was thirsty, too, as He drew near the well of Jacob one midday. But His thirst took second place when He had the opportunity of speaking to the Samaritan woman about the condition of her soul.

Jesus suffered the discomforts of travel by foot through the rugged hill country, to sleep in the open, to be wet with perspiration, to feel the burning rays of the sun, and the chill breezes of the night.

He knew the exasperation of dealing with unruly crowds, the pulling and shoving and clamoring for His attention, of dealing with His disciples who were so often slow to understand the meaning of His teaching.

Lastly, He would experience real physical pain in the last hours of His life, and He would know what it is to be hated, betrayed, abandoned. Also, too, He would know the heartbreak of human ingratitude.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Abbeville, La.

I wrote a few days ago asking for prayers for my brother. Well those prayers were answered. My brother does not need heart surgery. Thanks.

New Orleans, La.

About a week or two ago, I wrote asking for prayers to Father Seelos. Thanks to Father Seelos my tests were negative. Thanks for other favors, too.

Napoleonville, La.

After prayer for his intercession for favors like granting recovery of illnesses, successful surgery, safety everywhere for all our loved ones, at work and on the highways, peace and harmony at home, good health and peace in the world, many thanks to Father Seelos.

New Orleans, La.

My son had a massive stroke on December 25, 1985 at 4:45 P.M. He was in a coma for eight days. He was blessed by the cross of Father Seelos. He was also blessed with the relic of Blessed Pauline Von Mallinckrodt. I feel like we received a miracle. That day he began to get better. He is doing a little better every day. He is now in a rehabilitation hospital. Thanks for your prayers.

Broussard, La.

I feel that Father Seelos has answered my prayers on numerous occasions. The most recent favor he granted me, however, was in answering my prayers for the recovery of my niece who was seriously burned in April. She is not completely healed, but is progressing wonderfully, for which I am very grateful.

Chalmette, La.

Father Seelos has answered my prayers, we wish to thank him and Our Lady and many other saints. The whitish growth on my youngest sister's voice box was not cancer.

Jefferson Parish, La.

I promised to have my letter of thanks for a favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos published. My son obtained employment after a long lay off from his job.

Mail received during May, 1986.

Petitions 434 - Thanks 168 - Other 545 - Total 1147

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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., and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The museum of Father Seelos will have its formal opening on Sunday September 7, at 2 P.M. You are invited to attend this ceremony. A reception will be held after the dedication. The usual prayers for the canonization of Father Seelos will be said at 3:30 P.M., followed by Mass at 4 P.M. celebrated for the same intentions.
2. The TV documentary, "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice" is still available at \$45.00 per copy. Let us know what type of VCR you have: VHS or Beta .
3. For blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
4. For a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, dial (504) 586-1803.
5. If you have a new address, or we have spelled your name incorrectly or the address is wrong, please inform us by filling out the form below and sending us your name and address from a previous issue.

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