



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1987

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS: OCTOBER 4



The biggest event of the year in the movement for the canonization of Father Seelos is certainly the annual memorial Mass. This Mass is always celebrated on the first Sunday of October, whatever the date. This year it just so happens that October 4 is the actual day of his death one hundred and twenty years ago.

It will be our privilege this year to have Father Francis Gautreaux, a Redemptorist missionary in Thailand for the past thirty-five years, as the principal celebrant and homilist. The Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

Father Gautreaux is the youngest son of the late Leonce Pierre Gautreaux and Emily Blanchard of Gonzales. He has eleven brothers and sisters: Leonce George, Father Evan, C.S.S.R., Paul, Claire, Joseph, Nell Marie, Joseph Warren, Charles, all living, and Joseph Bertin, Lise, and Harvey, deceased. Father was raised in the Irish Channel, graduated from St. Alphonsus School, celebrated his first Mass in St. Alphonsus Church in 1950. It was in this same church that he received his mission cross and appointment to Thailand in 1952. This October 4 should be for him a homecoming.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

RECOLLECTION

Recollection, as a Christian virtue, is an indispensable aid to prayer and meditation. It puts us into the proper frame of mind for communicating with our Creator. It draws our minds and imaginations away from the distractions that are always around us. It helps to focus our attention on the matter at hand – the things that pertain to God.

Very few of us live alone in the desert, on the mountain top, or deep in the forest. We live surrounded by others in our home in the city or even on the farm. It really is a small world. One of the constant complaints about our modern way of life is the proliferation of noise. Our ears are literally assaulted all day long and into the night. Radios and televisions are played loudly. There is a constant hum of appliance motors in our homes, the roar of traffic on the streets, jet planes passing overhead.

It is just so easy to be distracted, as well-meaning as our intentions may be. Pictures, music, conversations surround us and are ever ready to engage us. When we want to pray, to raise our minds and hearts to God, we need the virtue of recollection.

Recollection can be defined as that virtue which gives us the strength and ease to keep us united with God, or to bring our mind back frequently to Him in spite of distractions.

Jesus gave us a beautiful example in all this although He was God and man. At the beginning of His public life He spent forty days and forty nights in the desert away from the company of His fellow human beings. In the midst of His preaching and working of miracles, always besieged by almost importunate crowds, He sought the solitude of the mountains, the silence of the night after the day's work was done. Evidently it was His wont when He was in Jerusalem to visit the Garden of Olives where He could be alone to communicate with His heavenly Father.

Father Seelos was a faithful follower of the Divine Master. During his life as an active priest in the early days of the United States, he held many positions of importance. His days had to be crowded ones. Yet he gave the impression that He walked, as it were, in the very presence of God.

Of him it was said, "The whole appearance of the man showed him to be a man apart from earthly things and filled with zeal for God's glory." Another friend of his remarked, "His face and his actions manifested a man withdrawn from earthly things."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

Thanks for making the arrangements for the blessing with the crucifix of Father Seelos. Deep within me I have a feeling the blessing bestowed on me by the priest before my open heart surgery, made my operation a complete success.

With the passing of each day I feel much stronger and have less soreness in my left leg and chest. I know all our prayers have been answered. I will continue to pray that one day he will be declared a saint. It is so nice I have kind and loving friends that care.

Mission, Texas

I made a promise to Father Seelos. My daughter has a very important and demanding job. Problems hover over her every minute of the day. I feel Father Seelos is very close to us. My daughter's problems just seem to dissolve after I turn to Father Seelos for his help.

Kenner, La.

This is in thanksgiving to St. Gerard and Father Seelos for a fine and healthy baby boy. My nine months of pregnancy were hard and I began a novena to St. Gerard. I also called upon Father Seelos for consolation. I am very happy for my son. I named him Sean Gerard after St. Gerard.

Gretna, La.

Thanks again to Father Seelos: my son was in danger of not graduating from high school this year. Everything hung on the grade of the English exam. He had to make a "B" on the exam in order to graduate. My wife and I began praying to Father Seelos, and through his intercession our prayers were answered. Our son made a "B" on his exam and graduated with his class.

Louisiana

I went on a vacation to Mississippi and lost my poodle. I prayed to Father Seelos to help me find my dog. My prayers were answered.

Mail received in June, 1987

Petitions: 408

Thanksgiving: 160

Other: 604

Total: 1172

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. All our readers are invited to attend the memorial Mass for Father Seelos on October 4 at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church, Josephine and Constance Streets, New Orleans. There will be ample parking in St. Alphonsus School yard on St. Andrew Street. St. Alphonsus Choir will sing at the Mass under the direction of Mr. Lloyd Celentano. There will be a reception in the garden of St. Mary's immediately after the Mass.
 2. The Father Seelos Museum will be open on October 4 from 9:30 to 11:00 A.M. and again after the memorial Mass.
 3. On the day of the memorial Mass the usual prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos with benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be canceled.
 4. The TV-documentary: "Seelos- A Cause to Rejoice" is still available for \$45.00 (VHS only).
 5. For blessings of the sick with the crucifix of Father Seelos (in the New Orleans areas only), please call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 6. The yearly subscription to this bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, IS \$2.00.
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