



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1987

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM

September 7, 1986 saw the long-awaited inauguration of the Father Seelos museum – an old walkway directly behind the sacristies of St. Mary's that was enclosed in glass. Over three hundred people braved the early afternoon of a muggy New Orleans summer to witness the event. In the midst of an almost cloudless summer we dared to pray for a cloudy day without rain and our prayers were heard.

Since that day hundreds of people have come from all parts of North America, and even Europe, Asia, and Australia, to visit the display of the memorabilia of Father Seelos.



Wherever Father paused for some months or even a year or two, he always left an indelible impression. New Orleans is definitely no exception. He just "may be the most admired and beloved figure of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans," one of the outstanding personages of this historic city.

This modest museum was built to enshrine that memory.

Lilly Neumayer-Aschenbrenner, great great-niece of Father Seelos, from Fussen, Bavaria, unveiled the commemorative plaque on September 7, 1986.

THE ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS FOR FATHER SEELOS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON OCTOBER 4 AT 11:30 A.M. IN ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, JOSEPHINE AND CONSTANCE STREETS IN THE IRISH CHANNEL OF NEW ORLEANS.

CHRISTIAN MORTIFICATION

Jesus is gentle and most merciful with nothing less than an infinite love for us and an infinite understanding of our weakness. Yet He insists that those who would love Him and become His followers must renounce themselves and all that is not of God: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke, 9/23).

Jesus advised His followers to take the narrow way, to do violence to their inclinations, to love their enemies, to return good for evil. He sent His apostles as sheep among wolves, commanding them to allow themselves to be ill-treated rather than make any resistance.

The teaching of Jesus with regard to the necessity of mortification is stern. Far from being an evil thing to be avoided, it is a precious good to be welcomed.

Do we have this spirit of mortification? Perhaps it is sadly lacking in our lives. Scarcely ever do we deny our thoughts, our will or our inclinations. When the Holy Spirit asks a sacrifice of us, we argue, hesitate and end by preferring our own desire to the divine pleasure.

We all have an instinctive fear of mortification. We try to persuade ourselves that it is not necessary. Even when we religiously avoid all excess in the matter of sensuality, we are still inclined to what we may call "the cult of ease." The cult of ease consists in seeking in all circumstances what is most agreeable to ourselves. It can manifest itself in small things as well as in big things. A man can seek his own satisfaction in food and drink, looking always for the things he likes. He can want the temperature to be just right, not too hot, not too cold. He can seek comfort in his clothing, comfort in his home, without stepping outside the law in a serious way. The cult of ease can be tyrannical.

Jesus was blameless and yet He embraced the cross. We have sinned. How can we settle down to an unmortified life?

George Corbett, C.S.S.R.

"While we live we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. Death is at work in us, but life in you" (2Cor., 4/11-12).

SPECIAL LETTERS

Baker, La.

On October 17, I pulled a muscle in my back and developed severe headaches because of muscle contractions. To complicate matters further, I developed an inner ear problem which caused dizziness. I was very unstable on my feet. For two weeks I was treated by doctors and was then hospitalized. I got no relief.

I prayed to Father Seelos to intercede for me so that the doctors would know how to treat my illness. They operated on my ear to relieve the pressure and then prescribed medicine. This relieved the dizzy spells. I have returned to work after being off for more than three weeks. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers in my behalf.

Thibodaux, La.

Over a period of years I have prayed to Father Seelos to intercede for me in every need. Fifty years ago when I was only two, I feel his prayers kept me alive. I contracted German measles and then came down with a double mastoid infection. I still have the scars to prove that. I ran a fever of 107 degrees. The doctor said it should have caused brain damage. Today my teachers would say that there never was brain damage. In high school I was a member of the National Honor Society and voted by my classmates "most likely to succeed."

Back in those days my doctor did not have penicillin and this did complicate matters. My mother said yesterday that in that sickness I was cold as death. A dress was made for my funeral. "Everything was bought but the coffin."

Colorado Springs, Colo.

Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers, we have a healthy baby girl who received the name of Katherine Seelos.

Vacherie, La.

I had written to the Center asking prayers for my son who had a heart condition. I am so pleased today to be able to write that the heart procedure was done and he is doing very well. I am thanking Father Seelos and the Center for the great prayers. I know the blessing with the crucifix of Father Seelos did offer great help to his recovery.

New Orleans, La.

Thanks to prayers for the intercession of Father Seelos, my sons' tests were negative.

Mail received during May, 1987

Petitions 326 - Thanksgivings 146 - Other 586 - Total 1058

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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; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. Father Francis Gautreaux, a Redemptorist missionary in Thailand for the last thirty-five years, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos on October 4 at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. Father Gautreaux was raised in the Irish Channel, attended St. Alphonsus School, and celebrated his first solemn Mass in St. Alphonsus Church in 1950. In Thailand he preaches parish missions throughout the country.
2. Every Sunday morning there is a special prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos in St. Mary's Church. It consists of exposition and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, a short meditation on the life of Christ, and time for private prayer. After benediction there is private veneration of the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. The service is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
3. The Father Seelos Museum is open on Saturdays after the 3:30 P.M. vigil Mass and on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00. At other times it is open by appointment. We welcome pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church and the tomb of Father Seelos. Call (504) 525-2495 weekdays from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.
4. For blessings of your sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
5. The form below is for your convenience when you are changing addresses or correcting names or addresses. Along with the change, please send us your name and address from a previous issue.

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