



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1988

FATHER SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS OCTOBER 2



The annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos will be concelebrated in St. Mary's Church on Sunday, October 2, at 11:30 A. M. The Very Reverend John Kelly, C.S.S.R., pastor of St. Boniface's Church in Philadelphia, will be the principal concelebrant and homilist at the Mass. The parish choirs will sing under the direction of Mr. Lloyd Celentano. There will be a reception in the garden of St. Mary's immediately after the Mass. St. Mary's Church is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

Father John Kelly was born in Pittsburgh and happily shares the same birthday as Father Seelos, January 11. After ordination he was appointed to the foreign missions of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Here in the United States he has served as director of the Redemptorist minor seminary and for eleven years labored with migrant workers on the east coast. Just recently he was pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church in the south Bronx, New York.

In 1961 Father Kelly was expelled from the Dominican Republic by the dictator, Trujillo, for his leadership in the quest for human rights. Coming as he does from Pittsburgh where Father Seelos spent nine fruitful years, Father Kelly is very interested in the work of the Father Seelos Center towards his canonization.

SILENCE AND RECOLLECTION

Silence and recollection are the two virtues proposed to us for practice this month of October. In our preparation for prayer, these two virtues cannot be ignored. Since prayer is a conversation with God, we must not only speak, but we must be silent and listen at times. From time to time we must give the Lord His chance to be heard.

The prophet Samuel learned this necessity when he was a young boy serving the Lord in the temple under the tutelage of Eli, the high priest. One night as he was sleeping, Samuel thought he heard Eli call out to him, and twice he went to the old man to ask what he wanted. It was not Eli who was calling Samuel. The third time it happened, it finally dawned on Eli that it was the Lord who was calling him. So he told Samuel that the next time he heard his name called, he was to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." At last when next he heard his name called, Samuel was able to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (I Sam., 3/1-11).

We can and do forgive a young boy's inexperience with the whisperings of God's grace. And we might well ask ourselves, do we fail to hear God speaking to us, because in our prayers we, in a manner of speaking, assail Him with a gush of words, piously directed toward heaven? Or is it because the noise of the world and its distractions are so deafening that we cannot even begin to recollect ourselves?

We recall how the prophet Elijah on Mount Horeb was very distressed over his unsuccessful efforts with the Israelites and afraid for his life at the hands of Ahab. While he was resting in a cave, he was told to go outside and await the passing of the Lord. A heavy wind arose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there came an earthquake, but neither was the Lord in the earthquake. Then a fire broke out, but the Lord was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. This time it was the Lord (I Kings, 10/1-12).

It may be possible to be recollected in the midst of noise, confusion, and distractions. But how much easier it is for us to concentrate on spiritual things if we are protected from these intrusions. From time to time seek a secluded spot where you can commune with God. It may be your living room after all have gone to bed or fifteen minutes before the rest of the house is astir in the morning. It may be a church or a chapel, when few, if any others, are about. Then you will be in a good position to hear God's faintest whisper.

Jospeh Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Mobile, AL

Thanks a million for keeping me on your mailing list. You have great patience with this delinquent. I have to put the blame on forgetfulness, I just love the bulletin. It's thrilling to know how Fr. Seelos is answering prayers. I'm praying to him but have nothing to report yet. I hope he works a miracle for me. May God love and bless you and grant you your heart's desire. Keep up the good work!

Concord, N.C.

I have not yet asked that a petition be placed at the tomb of Father Seelos, and in spite of this, since coming to know about him and honor him, I have been granted a much needed increase in faith. This is just what I needed, but had failed to ask for. How good God is to reward us so richly for even pitiful efforts, to glorify Him and honor His friends, the Saints!

Iowa, LA

Two summers ago I met a retired schoolteacher, a very special person. She mentioned one afternoon that her son was out of work and one of her many grandchildren was having a lifestyle problem. She went on to say she was praying to Father Seelos and knew that she would get good results. I asked her if Father Seelos was her parish priest, and she answered, "Oh, no, Father Seelos is a very good friend of God's." I became interested and subscribed to the bulletin and for my friends.

When my oldest son announced his marriage, everyone was delighted. But my father took sick and for four days was near death. A friend of mine brought my attention to the mementos of Father Seelos. I wrote to New Orleans for some. My father's name was placed on the tomb. Two weeks later my father was able to attend his grandson's wedding. We are all grateful to God for His favors and feel that Father Seelos was instrumental in having our prayers granted.

New Orleans, LA

Our baby was born most prematurely. I was afraid he could not live. Every day I said a special prayer to Father Seelos. After many months the baby is now growing well. I am grateful that my prayers to Father Seelos were answered.

Mail, June, 1988:

Petitions: 740

Thanksgivings: 337

Other: 951

Total: 2028

Dial-a-message calls: 576.

Volunteer hours: 541.

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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. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography. Price: \$10.00
 - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary on Father Seelos (VHS only): \$45.00.
 - c. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission cross of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - f. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - g. Every Sunday morning in St. Mary's Church at 11 A. M., there is a prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
 - h. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters about the cause of Father Seelos. Available at the Center. Price, \$7.95.

2. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION in letting us know you want us to continue sending you this bulletin. If you have not done so this year, please do so now. It is important to us because of the increase in costs and mailing. The annual subscription rate is \$2.00

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