FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER, 1988

FATHER SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS OCTOBER 2

The annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A. M. on Sunday, October 2. St. Mary's Church is located on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

Very Reverend John Kelly, C.SS.R., pastor of St. Boniface's Church in Philadelphia, will be the main concelebrant and homilist at the Mass. Born in Pittsburgh, Father Kelly was a long-time missionary in Puerto Rico, and just recently was the pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church in the Bronx, New York.

Father Seelos died on October 4, 1867, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. His statue watches over the garden of St. Mary's, looking towards the area where Father Seelos breathed his last.

MORTIFICATION: THE CURE FOR EXCESSIVE SELF-LOVE

At first blush it might seem that the very idea of self-love is likely to be frowned upon by spiritual writers, until we realize that Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. The love that we have for ourselves is the measure of the love we should have for others.

Because we are the creatures of God's loving hand, it stands to reason that we should have a deep respect for ourselves. Each one of us has a natural diginity: God loves us, we are worthy of His creation, His redemption. No human being can diminish our standing before God.

However, there is such a vice called excessive self-love. We witness self-love in the pampered child, the spoiled brat. Heaven help us when this child grows up.

To keep self-love from deteriorating, we have the virtue of mortification. A French spiritual writer has described this virtue: "Mortification consists not in the death of our evil inclinations or in the peace which follows it, but in the energetic and valiant struggle waged against these inclinations in order to extirpate them."

In a more simple fashion we can say that the purpose of mortification is to train ourselves to say no to lawful pleasures, so that when we are tempted to do something unlawful, we may have the strength to decline the invitation to sin.

Our five senses, sight, hearing, taste, smell, feeling are blind faculties. They reach out to their proper object without making any moral judgments. Besides, our imagination can dream up just about anything. There is no censor in its equipment. Much the same situation prevails with our memory. The memory can evoke anything from the past, good, bad or indifferent.

These senses and faculties of ours need, then, a curb, a rein, to keep us in line with our principles of morality. We do not, after all, have to hear all the news, we do not have to see all the programs on TV, we do not have to eat everything in sight all at one time. We can put a halt to useless day-dreaming, we can keep from dwelling exesssively in the past.

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R.

The book, NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE, The Healing Power of the Saints, by Patricia Treece, of Calabasas, CA, is available at the Father Seelos Center in limited quantity for $7.95 plus postage. There are two chapters in this book concerning Father Seelos, and two on St. John Neumann, C.SS.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Roads, LA

Last year my sister had a tumor on her left kidney, so the doctors thought. The tumor encased the kidney, spleen and adrenal gland. The cancer was in the adrenal gland, a very rare type of cancer. Only about 150 people a year have this kind of cancer in the United States.

My sister started on chemotherapy in September of last year and finished in May of this year. During those eight months she was very sick and had to have blood at least four times.

I think for a long time she had lost her faith in God, but we kept on talking to her and praying for her. Last week she had three more units of blood and a catscan to see if she needed more treatments. The test came back negative, no sign of cancer at all, no tumors!

Thank God and Father Seelos for a favor granted.

Ligouri, MO

I am writing to tell you of a beautiful favor I received from Father Seelos. A few weeks ago I had an infection in the big toe of my right foot. I went to see our doctor and he said it was an ingrown toenail and that I should go to a surgeon and have it removed. I decided to pray to Father Seelos and keep my foot in very warm water for four or five days. Also I touched the toe with a memento of Father Seelos. I went to the surgeon and he said everything was fine. Thanks to God.

Chalmette, LA

My son had a liver transplant on Nov. 24, 1987. He was completely paralyzed. On Dec. 6 I asked you to bless my son. Afterwards you prayed for him at the tomb of Father Seelos. The next morning when we visited him in ICU, he was more alert and he called his brother's name. The male nurse had him sitting up in bed and was cutting his hair. On Dec. 15 you blessed him again with the cross and from that day we could see a marked improvement. He has been home three weeks now. He is able to walk with a walker. His speech has returned. Now his outlook on life is great.

SPECIAL NOTE: We are sincerely grateful to all of you who have responded to our plea for cooperation.

Mail received in May, 1988:
Petitions: 637 Thanksgivings: 279 Other: 878 Total: 1794
Dial-a-message calls: 632.
Volunteer hours: 559.

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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.SS.R., Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.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. 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.

2. WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION!

   Because of the rising costs in the production and mailing of this bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, it is imperative that we hear from you. The sole purpose of this publication has been and will be to acquaint the public with the life and virtues of Father Seelos and to encourage people to pray for his canonization. So, please let us know, as soon as possible, that it is your wish to continue receiving this bulletin. The subscription price per year is a modest $2.00.

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