



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 1989



ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS for FATHER SEELOS: OCTOBER 1

These pictures of the annual memorial Mass taken last year are a vivid reminder to all our readers that the annual memorial Mass this year will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church in the Irish Channel of New Orleans (Josephine and Constance Streets) on Sunday, October 1 at 11:30 A.M. Father Matthew Kerschen, vice-provincial of the Redemptorist vice-province of New Orleans, will be the principal celebrant and homilist.



"THE TOUGH, ROUGH WAY ... OUR CROSS"

"If a man wishes to come after Me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and begin to follow in My footsteps" (Matt. 16/24).

After a long, hard day, there is nothing we may like better than to kick off our shoes, sit down in our favorite easy chair, have a cold drink, put up our feet and relax. Comfort, taking it easy can be a damaging weakness, if we permit *laissez-faire* to be our main guide in the pursuit of the Christian life.

Our Divine Redeemer cries out, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE" (John, 14/6). His way — if we claim Him as *our* way — must be the way of the cross. We cannot escape the struggle of our salvation — with the weakness of the flesh, the wiles of the devil, the attraction of the world.

A great and holy Redemptorist Brother Cajetan would repeat again and again, "It's a great life if you don't weaken."

We must be different from the crowd. "Everybody is doing it --- it must be all right." Christ's strength and example must be ours. Our first act must be the acceptance of God's will ... a 'toughie' to be sure.

Take young athletes whose eyes are on the gold medals of the Olympics. How strict their regimen of food and drink is! How they spend hours in conditioning their bodies, how they practise and practise to improve their speed, their dexterity? Think of Franz Listz, the pianist composer. He practised on the piano eight hours day in and day out. When he practised only seven hours, he could tell the difference. If he practised only six hours, the audience noticed it.

This is how St. Paul put it: "You know that while all the runners in the stadium take part in the race, the award goes to one man. In that case, run so as to win! 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. I do not run like a man who loses sight of the finish line. I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. What I do is discipline my own body and master it" (I Cor. 9/24-27).

Rough and tough our road may be with the trials and temptations we meet, we should not forget we can make it with persevering prayer and the grace of God in our own sacraments. With Mary our Mother at our side and above us to protect us, we can win the crown of eternal joy and glory.

John A. Hensgen, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

St. Martinville, LA

In 1987 I had a malignancy removed from my colon. In addition to that, four feet of my intestines were removed, plus nine nodes. I was almost seventy-four at the time. Things did not look too promising for me. I prayed to Father Seelos with all my might, before, during and after the operation. I never stopped calling on him. I have had two exams since the operation and the doctor says I am in great shape.

In 1926 I was twelve years old and went with my mother to the Mercy Convent on St. Andrew Street for my sister's religious profession. Someone took me across the street to show me Father Seelos' grave. Even then people were singing his praises. I was impressed, but I never dreamed I'd be begging him to help me sixty years later. I want to thank Father Seelos for all he did for me.

Metairie, LA

Due to the economic conditions of the area, my husband and I were forced to sell a piece of property. We came to the tomb of Father Seelos and left him a request for us to sell the property as soon as possible. Within ten days the property was sold and it is not in a heavily populated area. Father Seelos has also helped to send my husband work as he is an appraiser and opportunities for work in this field are slow.

So when people ask us who the agent was who sold our lot so quickly, we simply say, "See Father Seelos." We say thanks.

New Orleans, LA

I was rushed to the hospital with severe pains in my stomach. Tests were made. It seemed part of the colon was closed. Before they operated on me, they told me I might have a colostomy. They were sure I had cancer of the colon. I prayed to Father Seelos, plus all the other saints, I did not. It was scar tissue, plus I have Crohn's disease and an ulcer. The doctor told me I was one lucky person, because everything looked like cancer. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Mail for May, 1989:

Petitions: 564 Thanksgivings: 309 Other: 624 Total: 1497
Volunteer hours: 715 Dial-a-message: 707

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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 of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: \$45.00
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos. Price: \$7.95 plus postage. Available at the Center.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and the museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - h. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS: every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We do appreciate your letting us know you want to continue to receive the bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Please return the lower portion of this page to us.

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