



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1990

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS: OCTOBER 7

FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, C.S.S.R.



The annual memorial Mass for Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., candidate for sainthood, will be concelebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church on Sunday, October 7 at 11:30 A.M. Most Reverend Francis B. Schulte, D.D., the archbishop of New Orleans, will be the principal concelebrant and homilist at the Mass. This Mass will mark the 123rd anniversary of Father Seelos' death from yellow fever on October 4, 1867. His remains lie buried in the sanctuary of St. Mary's.

St. Mary's is located on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. Parking will be available on the playground of St. Alphonsus School on St. Andrew Street. A reception will be held in the church garden immediately after the Mass. The museum of Father Seelos will be open before and after the Mass. Blessing with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be given after the ceremonies are completed.

SILENCE AND RECOLLECTION

Centuries ago a prophet cried out in Israel that all the land was desolate because there was no one who pondered in his heart. What would he say if he were alive today with five billion inhabiting the earth and the air waves literally charged with the sounds, so-called, of civilization!

Solitude was no stranger to Jesus. In whatever manner His human nature was joined to His divine nature in the second Person of the Trinity, Jesus was human and world and the people in it had to have an effect on Him.

When He began His public ministry, Jesus withdrew into the desert, and fasting, spent forty days and nights under the sun and the stars in communion with His heavenly Father. Later on in those years, after He had multiplied a few loaves and fishes into enough food to feed five thousand people, Jesus, knowing that the multitude would come to make Him king, fled into the mountains alone to pray.

Those of us who read the travel section in the Sunday morning newspaper are familiar with the come-on in the ads for vacation resorts, "Get away from it all." More and more Catholics are heeding this advice, not so much for pleasure trips, but to make a retreat. Getting away from it all to make a retreat, however long it may be, a day, a week, a week-end, is a splendid way to shuck the pressures of modern living. In the solitude of a retreat, one can open one's soul to the whisperings of the Spirit. Retreat houses are usually found in surroundings conducive to introspection and prayer.

As we write of retreat houses, it is interesting to note that the American Redemptorists with three provinces and two vice-provinces staff and administer twelve retreat houses in varying places and settings: on the Hudson River at Esopus, N.Y., on the Atlantic sea shore at West End, N.J., on the tidewaters of Hampton, Virginia, in the hills of western New York at Canandaigua, on Crooked Lake at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, in suburbs of Chicago at Rolling Meadows and Glenview, on the plains of central Kansas at Wichita, in the vast, open country of the panhandle of Texas at Amarillo, on the bayous at Lacombe, Louisiana, in the desert mountains of Cortaro, Arizona, and on Puget Sound at Federal Way, state of Washington.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New York, N.Y.

I wrote to the Center a couple of months ago and I asked for prayers to be said before the tomb for my daughter who was born with congenital glaucoma. I asked that prayers be said that she would not need any surgery this last January. My prayers were answered. The baby did not need surgery this last January. This is the fifth time I have written and asked for prayers to be said at the tomb of Father Seelos that my daughter would not need surgery. So far this is the fifth surgery that my daughter has not needed. Thanks again for the miracle.

Picayune, MS

Last January I had surgery for colon cancer. While I was in the hospital I was blessed with Father Seelos' cross. I was also given a memento and prayer card for his canonization. I have been praying to Father Seelos during the year. Recently I went in for a check-up — a follow-up on the surgery — and everything is fine. I am so grateful to Father Seelos and will continue to pray to him and for his elevation to sainthood.

Nederland, TX

I would like to thank Father Seelos for a life granted. I asked in prayer to Father Seelos if Jesus would heal my grandson who was dying with high fever and convulsions. As soon as I arrived at the hospital I put a memento of Father Seelos on my grandson's back. When the child began to scream and cry, I took pity and held him close to my heart and gave him to God. Do you know he fell asleep in my arms? There were witnesses. They said he surely loved his grandma. But I knew that Jesus through the prayers of Father Seelos had laid His sacred hands on my grandson.

New Orleans, LA

For over 20 years I have sought the intercession of Father Seelos with God for favors both large and small. He has never forsaken me and has helped my family and me through many difficult times. I promised to write this letter of thanks after my daughter's recent bout with a vicious viral infection. I feared that it was recurrence of a kidney problem she had two years ago. Thanks to almighty God — thanks, Father Seelos, for your prayers.

Mail, June 1990

Petitions: 591 Thanksgivings: 310 Other: 381 Total: 1282

Dial-a-message: 701

Volunteer hours: 664

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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 of Father Seelos. 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: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. "The Sanctified Body," by Patricia Treece, a study of the physical phenomena that accompany people who are close to God. Price: \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage.
 - e. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call The Father Seelos Center at 525-2495.
 - h. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - i. 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 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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