



## FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1990

### ARCHBISHOP SCHULTE COMES TO ST. MARY'S

The Most Reverend Francis B. Schulte, the spiritual leader of the archdiocese of New Orleans, will be the principal concelebrant and homilist at the annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos on Sunday, October 7. The Mass will begin at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

This Mass commemorates the 123rd anniversary of Father Francis Xavier Seelos' death from yellow fever on October 4, 1867. At the time of his death Father Seelos was the acting pastor of St. Mary's Church. His earthly remains lie in the sanctuary of the church he served. Visitors from all over the world have come to see his tomb and museum. The museum is open after the Saturday evening Mass at 3:00 P.M. and between the 8:30 and 11:30 Sunday parochial Masses.

Archbishop Schulte is originally from Philadelphia and, of course, is familiar with St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R., the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, the first male citizen of the U.S.A. to be declared a saint, and a close friend and fellow-worker of Father Seelos.



**ARCHBISHOP SCHULTE IS GREETED BY A WEE MEMBER OF HIS ARCHDIOCESE ON HIS FIRST EASTER IN NEW ORLEANS.**

## MORTIFYING THE TONGUE

If one word can capture the first days and years of a young child on earth, it may just be, *wonder*. When one reflects on the immense task that is accomplished in those early years, it is truly remarkable. The child must grasp the meaning of the world around it and understand its relationship to it. The miracle is that it does do that, imperfectly, yes, but still measurably.

It is interesting to watch a child with a perpetual question on its face, much like an Israelite in the desert asking of manna, what is it? When an infant is not asleep, its eyes wander from object to object, it responds to sounds and tries to imitate them. It wants to touch everything within its reach and then put it all in its mouth.

The external world comes to us through the channels of our five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch. The senses all respond to their proper objects. There is no censor; there is no judgment about right or wrong. Because of these senses and the sensations they arouse within us, a spiritual internal war goes on. St. Paul spoke of this war in his letter to the Galatians, 5/16: "My point is that you should live in accord with the spirit and you will not yield to the cravings of the flesh. The flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; the two are directly opposed. This is why you do not what your will intends." St. James offers his own testimony: "... the tug and lure of his own passion tempt every man" (1/14). And again: "Is it not your inner cravings that make war within your members?" (4/1)

The virtue of mortification helps us to regulate our emotions with reason enlightened by grace. We all understand that we have to avoid what is evil. Mortification helps us to practice control even in innocent things.

Take, for example, the tongue. It functions not only as the organ of taste but is also the instrument of speech. The tongue can bless the Lord; upon it can rest the Body and Blood of Jesus in the holy Eucharist. As it can bless, so also can it curse. One can sin against every commandment by speech. St. James likened the tongue to the rudder of a ship; though relatively small, it can govern the direction of a large ocean liner. He also likened the tongue to a spark of fire; though small it can put a whole forest in flames (Jas., 3, 1-12).

As followers of Christ, it behooves us to control our speech: to forego the idle word, the angry word, the gossipy word, the malicious word, the lying word, the shameless word, the blasphemous word. Speak kindly to and of others, and, as the Savior recommended, bless those who anger you, who lie about you, who persecute you.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Palestine, TX

I want to thank you again for such a great friend and confidante that I have found in Father Seelos. He listens to all my problems and helps me find a solution. Everything in my life has been so much better since I found Father Seelos. Every time I pray to Father Seelos, which is daily, I feel closer and closer to him.

New Orleans, LA

My granddaughter was told that she had a very serious eye disease and eventually she would lose her eyesight. We prayed to Father Seelos and the Blessed Mother to cast out this disease and all impurities from her eyes. We received good news from the doctor. Our prayers were answered. Thanks to the good God.

New Orleans, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos for a miracle. I had a test taken of my colon. A spot was found. On the second test, I heard the doctor say it was as if the spot was removed by a miracle. I am praying that if it be God's will, Father Seelos will soon be declared a saint of the Church.

Metairie, LA

I would like to report a very special favor granted by the Lord through the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos. Could you put this letter in your special section? My husband had a very serious heart attack. The doctor did not give us much hope for recovery. I called the Center and Father Steffes was kind enough to come to the hospital to bless him with the crucifix of Father Seelos. After 13 days of C.C.U. and 31 days in the hospital he came home and is doing well. Thank you, Lord.

Gretna, LA

Two months ago my daughter, 18, was admitted to the hospital with several ruptured discs in her back. The doctors wanted to do surgery immediately, but since there was a 25% chance that she would be in worse shape afterwards, we refused. I gave her the Father Seelos prayer card, and she began to invoke his intercessory prayers. So far we have been able to keep her from having to re-enter the hospital, out of surgery, and in school, where she is a senior. I do believe that Father Seelos' prayers have done this for us. Although my daughter still suffers with her back, nonetheless I trust that our continued belief in Father Seelos will be rewarded with a complete healing from God. I want to thank Father Seelos and ask God that he be declared a saint of the Church.

Mail, May, 1990:

Petitions: 717. Thanksgivings: 346. Other: 562. Total: 1625

Dial-a-messages: 769.

Volunteer hours: 758.

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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; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

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## 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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