

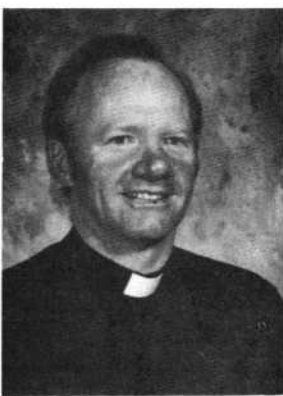


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1991

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS - OCTOBER 6



The annual memorial Mass for Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., once the acting pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Church, will be celebrated in that church on October 6. The time of the Mass is 11:30 A.M.. The Provincial of the Redemptorists of the St. Louis Province, Father James Shea, will be the principal concelebrant and homilist at the Mass. After the ceremony there will be veneration of the mission crucifix once worn by Father Seelos. There will also be a reception in the garden of St. Mary's immediately after the Mass.

FATHER JAMES SHEA, C.S.S.R.

Father Shea, a native of Wisconsin, is the superior of all the Redemptorists in the midwest, the southern states from Alabama to New Mexico, and the Redemptorists in the vice-province of Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil, and in the vice-province of Bangkok, Thailand. He was ordained in 1965 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and has served as pastor of parishes in Kirkwood, Missouri and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

Jesus spent forty days and nights in prayer and fasting in the desert at the onset of His public life. He invited His disciples to come apart with Him in a desert place to rest awhile. When they found their world too distracting, the Christians of the early centuries, like St. Anthony of Egypt, fled to the desert to be alone with their God.

Around the turn of the century Charles de Foucauld, a baptized Catholic who as a young man fell away from the faith, on his return to the practice of his youth, went off to the Sahara desert. There alone before the Blessed Sacrament he sought to attract his desert neighbors to the faith. He was killed by bandits but his efforts brought others to take his place.

St. John Vianney has been named the patron saint of parish priests. Rightly so, because well over a hundred and fifty years ago he made the humble village of Ars a remarkable center of Christlike activity. He spent unbelievable hours on end in the confessional. He had been slow to learn in the seminary, but his sermons, simple and direct, spoke eloquently to the hearts of his hearers. People came from all over France and beyond to listen to him preach and then wait patiently in long lines to make their confessions to him.

In spite of the evident success of his ministry in Ars, his soul was so tried that on three occasions he fled his parish hoping to come to rest in the desert. Somehow or other he was always brought back to the place of his many trials and also his triumphs.

Speech is a gift of God to us rational creatures to enable us to communicate with one another. This faculty can be abused by many sins: blasphemy, curses, anger, impurity, lies, slander, detraction. On the other hand, we have the saying the kindly word unspoken is a sin. Wisely does Ecclesiastes in the old testament advise us that "there is a time for everything . . . a time to speak and a time to be silent" (Eccl. 3, 1a & 7b).

St. Teresa of Avila viewed solitude (engendered by silence) as being so necessary for all who wish to lead a serious prayer life. In these days of increased decibels of sound, it is difficult to find a place of quiet. We cannot all flee to the desert. Look for a moment of peace in the early morning hours or later in the evening, before or after Mass in a quiet church. Place yourself in God's presence and let the waves of silence wash over your mind and heart.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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 persons 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: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Jerry Heigle, 482-4404.
 - 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. The 11:30 PARISH MASS EACH SUNDAY IS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER. Veneration of the mission crucifix of Father Seelos after the Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. Please let us know you want to continue receiving this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us. Include your old address.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Pittsburgh, PA

I wrote to you about a month ago and requested you to remember the intentions of a good friend of mine. She is recovering from a stroke and had been trying to sell her home for at least a year. She and her husband moved into a senior citizen apartment last December, because of her poor health. Her husband appeared to be in good health but died suddenly last March.

I told her to pray to Father Seelos for help in selling her house. Many people were interested but could not pass for a mortgage loan. When I was going through the same ordeal Father John Kelly advised me to pray to Father Seelos. My prayer was answered before I could sign with a real estate agent. The buyer hearing my home was for sale came to see me. It was miraculous. I told the buyer that since I was saving on an agent's commission, I would lower the selling price.

My friend requested you to remember her intentions. It appears that Father Seelos has heard all our prayers. She received good news a few days ago. The people interested in buying her home were approved for their mortgage loan and the closing is to be in mid-October. She and all of us are grateful to Father Seelos.

Marrero, LA

For two and a half years I was troubled with a problem. I must admit, I didn't ask for help. Then, before all hope was lost, I prayed to Father Seelos. My prayer was answered so wonderfully that I feel now that I must thank him, even though it's just a small token of appreciation. I was desperate, feeling I had nothing to lose, but yet everything to lose. Father Seelos came through for me and I can truly say, he saved my life. I will always remember this favor granted to me and will now spread the word about Father Seelos.

Burbank, CA

For many years now my prayers to Father Seelos have been answered. Last June my oldest granddaughter (nearly six at the time) had a strange muscular disorder which disabled her. Three months later (after many prayers, a Sacred Heart novena and requests for prayers from Father Seelos Center) she suddenly snapped out of whatever it was and she is perfectly normal now. Thanks so much.

Metairie, LA

My husband was very ill with a serious colon problem. I prayed to Father Seelos and he seems to be so much better. Thanks to all of you, the office staff, for making Father Seelos so well known.

Sandy, UTAH

I prayed to Father Seelos to have a lawsuit I had filed to be settled out of court. My prayers were answered a month after I started saying the prayer for Father Seelos to be declared a saint.

Mail, June, 1991

Petitions: 571 Thanksgivings: 309 Other: 364 Total: 1244

Dial-a-messages: 761

Volunteer Hours: 1039

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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.