



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1991

ANNUAL MEMORIAL MASS – OCTOBER 6

The annual memorial Mass for Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will be celebrated on Sunday, October 6 in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A.M. St. Mary's Church is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. The Provincial of the St. Louis province of the Redemptorists, Father James Shea, will be the principal concelebrant and the homilist at the Mass.

Father Seelos is a candidate for sainthood. His cause is being pursued in Rome. He was born in Bavaria, came to America to join the Redemptorists in 1843. He was ordained the next year and in 1866 came to New Orleans to minister to the German congregation of St. Mary's. On October 4 of the following year he died in a yellow fever epidemic. He is revered as a very holy man. His tomb has been visited by people from all over the United States and indeed the world.



"AT THE TOMB OF FATHER SEELOS"

MORTIFICATION

To be mortified today generally means that someone is embarrassed, discomfited, ashamed, as in the saying often heard, "I was mortified to death." In Christian circles mortification means a disciplining of oneself even in matters that are morally indifferent. However, mortification itself will never be overly popular because of the images it evokes, of hurt, discomfort and even consternation in those who live with a low threshold of pain.

To be disciples of Christ, we know that we have first of all to deny ourselves and then begin to walk in His footsteps (Matt., 16/24). It was St. Paul who told the Romans, "Those who live according to the flesh are intent on the things of the flesh, those who live according to the spirit, on those of the spirit. The tendency of the flesh is toward death but that of the spirit toward life and peace" (Romans, 8/5-6).

We look upon the Astrodome of Houston and the Superdome of New Orleans as eighth wonders of the world, as I am sure, so did the Romans of 19 centuries ago when they saw the magnificent Coliseum in action. St. Paul was most probably not alive when it was functioning for "the games." He was

nonetheless very familiar with the athletes who would perform in the contests held there.

He was able to admonish the Corinthians: "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, for fear that after having preached to others I should myself be rejected" (I Cor., 9/24-27).

Every four years we are treated to the spectacle of the Olympic games, where athletes from all corners of the world gather to compete in games and exercises of skill and strength and speed. How proud they all are! We admire their triumphs and almost envy the dedication and undeniably hard work they bring to their craft, the endless practice and self-denial, the giving up of their free time, their own relaxation and pleasure. And they do all this just to be privileged to "go for the gold."

Because we disciples of Christ have the prize of eternal life with God as our goal, what is it not worth to give up some of the innocent pleasures of life in order to make ourselves strong in the battle for the welfare of our immortal souls!

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. Gerry 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 A.M. PARISH MASS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH 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 to receive this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

New Iberia, LA

Recently a relative was diagnosed with a sickness that was terminal. I prayed to Father Seelos that he have an opportunity to make his peace with God. He had been baptized a Catholic but had not received the other sacraments. I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession. My relative had the privilege of receiving the anointing of the sick before his death. This helped the family cope with his passing.

Gretna, LA

I thank my Lord Jesus, my dearest Blessed Mother and Father Seelos for a true miracle in my life. Three years ago I had cancer surgery. The cancer had metastasized to my bones. I became crippled and could not walk without the aid of a walker. I was given six months to live. When Father Steffes came to the hospital and blessed me with the crucifix of Father Seelos, I knew that one day I would be all right. With 18 months of chemotherapy, a lot of love from my wonderful family and a lot of prayers, particularly to Father Seelos, I am now in remission.

Mobile, AL

Some time ago a friend of mine was in a bus wreck in Salt Lake City, Utah. He sustained head and jaw injuries and was in intensive care for some time. He showed some good signs early on, directly after my family began a novena to Father Seelos. At that time the prognosis was mixed. By most estimates, however, the young man has experienced a much greater than expected recovery. Just a month and a half after the accident he had reached mental capacities not expected of him before five months had elapsed.

My friend is from Africa and is a student at Santa Clara University in California. You can imagine, with all the places I've mentioned that it's hard to tell exactly what medical victories can be claimed because there is so much distance between us! However, I know that he has done much better than expected and that a mysterious donor appeared to pay for his father to visit him in the U.S. I know this is the work of God and the result of prayer. I know many prayers are being said at the tomb of Father Seelos at my request. Please continue your prayers for his recovery and his conversion. Thank God for all His blessings.

Mail, May, 1991

Petitions: 653 Thanksgivings: 252 Other: 398 Total: 1303

Dial-a-messages: 735

Volunteer Hours: 1191

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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 Slack, Executive Assistants.