



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 9

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FATHER SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS OCTOBER 3



FATHER DONALD MINISCALCO, C.S.S.R.

The annual memorial Mass for Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., will take place in St. Mary's Assumption Church (in the Irish Channel of New Orleans) on Sunday, October 3. Father Donald Miniscalco, a Redemptorist missionary stationed in Philadelphia, will be the main concelebrant and homilist at the Mass.

Father Miniscalco has taught in seminaries and universities in this country, has studied at the

Sorbonne in Paris and the Gregorian University in Rome and has given missions and retreats in America and also abroad. He lives in the rectory of St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia, the shrine of St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R. St. John Neumann was Father Seelos' first superior and pastor at St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh, 1844-1846.

MORTIFICATION

Will wonders never cease? Just when we fear that our society is going completely to pot, we are beginning to hear publicly expressed some 'strange' ideas that could turn us back from the downward slope to hell. As was noted here several months ago, not only has someone, unofficially connected with religion, voiced a possible cure for sexually transmitted diseases, i.e., abstinence, but now someone on national radio has dared to suggest that what we need to quash the wild behavior that afflicts our streets is self-control, mastery of oneself.

We have now completed the cycle. It is possible that we are on the way

back? It has to be encouraging to know that the heady days are passing when we were counselled to do as we pleased, to express ourselves without regard for tradition or even etiquette, and when freedom from restraint was the order of the day. Now we are being told that the way to conduct our lives is to take control, to be the masters of our souls.

What does self-mastery, self-control imply. The evident implication is that whatever is out of control, whatever is not mastered can, especially with help from God, be controlled and mastered. Throughout history good people have tried to be ethical, honest, truthful, to care not only for themselves but also for those around them.

Training for this posture in life calls for what the ancient Fathers of the Church and the doctors of the spiritual life called mortification. Mortification is truly a training, when we do without things that are licit, not sinful, in order that when tempted to do something immoral, we may have the inward strength to say no to the temptation. Cardinal O'Hara, who died as the archbishop of Philadelphia some years ago, as a Holy Cross priest was the spiritual prefect to the students at Notre Dame University. In a light moment he once wrote in his daily bulletin that mortification was the ability to stop after eating just one salted peanut.

St. Paul used to watch the athletes of his day punish their bodies to prepare themselves for the contests of strength and endurance to come. And only for a perishable crown of leaves! How much should we be willing to do for the crown that never fades!

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 - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, or Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center (504) 525-2495.
 - h. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
 - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS THREE 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

Manhasset, N.Y.

I have just recently learned of Father Seelos from a book, entitled: NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE by Patricia Treece, published by Doubleday - an Image Book. I have been inspired by reading this book and the author's description of the various cures attributed to Father Seelos' intercession. Since my family (myself, my husband and three adult children: one in Denver, another in Atlanta, and the third in Tampa) all seem beset by various problems, mental, neurological, and physical, I would like very much to present these problems to Father Seelos to seek and beg his intercession with God for their cures.

New Orleans, LA

For many months my husband was suffering terrific pain in the knee and barely able to walk. The doctor thought it was arthritis. After an MRI it was learned he had inflammation of the knee cap. He was unable to take anti-inflammatory drugs due to stomach ulcers. So it seemed it would be quite a long time before he would be able to work again. I suggested the memento and prayer of Father Seelos to my husband. Being a convert to Catholicism he was reluctant at first but then agreed to try it. I left the memento and prayer close at hand for him. After a week he told me he felt sure Father Seelos made his leg better. He now has very little pain and is able to sleep at night without being awakened with discomfort. My sincere thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession to God for a favor granted.

Metairie, LA

I have lived in New Orleans for almost 58 years and not until last Sunday did I have the extreme pleasure of visiting your beautiful church and shrine of Father Seelos. A very true friend of mine guided me to the shrine after we learned that my young (nine years old) grandson had been diagnosed with "Evans Syndrome." I am told that this is a very rare blood disorder and there is really no cure. He is given four, possibly ten, years to live and during that time, I am told, he will be under constant medication and in and out of the hospital. The symptoms (a rash and bruises) became evident for the first time on December 22 and he has been in the hospital three times since then. He was just released on January 15. He is an altar boy in our parish church and expressed his regret at not being able to serve last Sunday. I beg with all my heart that God in His goodness and mercy will grant Father Seelos the power and gift to make this boy and his brother and sister (they are not ill) a whole family again. May Father Seelos inspire this young boy so that he may have a strong and articulate faith and love for God.

Mail, May, 1993

Petitions: 612 Thanksgivings: 226 Other: 373 Total: 1211

Dial-a-messages: 735

Volunteer Hours: 1095

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