



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS MEMORIAL MASS, OCTOBER 6

The 129th memorial Mass of the death of the Servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seeelos, C.S.S.R. will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church on the first Sunday of October, October 6, at 11:30 A.M. St. Mary's Assumption Church is on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. Father Seeelos died on October 4, 1867. His cause for canonization is nearing the completion of the first step in the process.



FATHER ALBERT BABIN, THE NEW VICE-POSTULATOR

Father Anthony Marazzo, C.S.S.R., the postulator-general in Rome, has named Father Albert Babin the vice-postulator of the cause of Father Seeelos here in the United States. Father Babin is an active missionary and lives in the St. John Neumann residence in Biloxi, Mississippi. A native of New Orleans, Father

Babin was formerly the vice-provincial of the Redemptorists in the south and also pastor of St. Alphonsus parish in New Orleans.

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE 'WORLD'

From time immemorial many a Christian has looked upon his or her surroundings as inimical to the pursuit of the Lord's call to eternal life. This attitude is not without foundation in the teaching of Jesus Christ Himself. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, *"Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode; thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths or rust corrode nor thieves break in and steal."* Matthew 6:19-20. Further on, Jesus adds, *Stop worrying, then, over questions like, 'What are we to eat, or what are we to drink, or what are we to wear?' The unbelievers are always running after these things. Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first His kingship over you, His way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides."* Matthew 6:31-34.

Continuing these thoughts, Jesus warns, *"Enter through the narrow gate. The gate that leads to damnation is wide, the road is clear, and many choose to travel it. But how narrow is the gate that leads to life, how rough the road, and how few there are who find it."* Mat. 7:13-14.

We cannot overlook the advice given to the rich young man who asked Jesus what he should do to gain eternal life. The Lord told him to keep the commandments. These, he replied, I have kept since I was a boy. Then Jesus looked on him with love and told him, *There is one thing more you must do. Go and sell what you have and give to the poor; you will then have treasures in heaven. After that, come and follow Me."* Mark 10:17-22.

(Continued on next page)

In the early Church St. Anthony of Egypt took these words so literally that he gave away his earthly goods, fled from society and lived in the desert as a hermit. This, in a sense, was the beginning of religious life. Even today the desire to flee the temptations of the world is still operative in many souls and for some a compelling reason to devote one's life to God in the cloister.

Not all of us, in fact, the great majority of us do not abandon the world, nor can we, especially in this day and age when the world has increasingly become, in what are well-known words, "a global village."

There are, in reality, two worlds, the one that God created in all its pristine glory. The other is what we created human beings have done with it. The II Vatican Council, in its Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*), says, "a monumental struggle against the powers of darkness pervades the whole history of man. The battle was joined from the very origins of the world and will continue to the last day, as the Lord has attested. Caught in this conflict, man is obligated to wrestle constantly if he is to cling to what is good. Nor can he achieve his own integrity without valiant efforts and the help of God's grace."

In the space that remains to us, perhaps we can sum up the teaching of Christ and His Church on our relation to the world around us. In any conflict between the Christian teachings and the siren song of the world, we must opt for the Christian doctrine. As we live on God's good earth, we must strive to keep it as God gave it to us. By our faith in God's word and our fidelity in following His teachings, we must be "a *light to the world*," illuminating it with God-given principles. We must be willing even to be counter-culture, to stand up and be counted on the side of Christ. Such a stand will never be popular but very consoling in the moments that count. Years ago we used to hear it said that the Catholic religion was a difficult one to live in and to live up to, but one that was most comforting to die in.



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, Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, or Mrs. Teresa LaCour, 887-0214.
 - 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 FOUR 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

Metairie, LA

In January '94 our dear friend's daughter and son-in-law (in another state) went through a real life nightmare. Their baby daughter (about four months of age) was found ill or unconscious in her baby bed. They called 911 and went to the hospital with the baby. To their dismay the powers-that-be tried to accuse them of neglect. (They are a very devoted couple to their children).

At first there was not much hope for the baby. I hurriedly mailed a Father Seelos holy card and memento to them. They put these on the baby's bed in the hospital. The parents were told "retardation" and "blindness."

Our friends, the grandparents, had to go to them, of course. The state talked about charging the father as he had picked up the baby at the nursery a few hours before the baby was found ill. The mother lost her job at the school as the state put the baby in the grandmother's custody. The state made the grandmother rent her own apartment in that city and take care of the baby.

There was a lot of turmoil in the family. We prayed constantly to Father Seelos to ask Jesus to heal the baby and her family.

Well, lo and behold, the baby is fine today. She may have some problem with her sight in one eye but the doctor says she is fine otherwise. I feel that this is a miracle. We had strength with Father Seelos' daily intercession that brought the miracle about.

An aunt who is a nun had to get the administration from her order's hospital to contact the baby's hospital to stop harassing the parents for neglect. (They are very devoted parents).

All possible charges were dropped. The mother's job was restored to her. They have moved to another neighborhood and are a happy family again.

Thibodaux, LA

I am writing in thanksgiving for favors granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. First, through his intercession my brother and I successfully completed another semester in college. Second, I have been applying for a summer internship in my major since September of 1995. I had applied and interviewed with about 14 companies and was rejected by every one of them. I had even applied to one company in particular twice and did not receive an offer. This company then called me to interview a third time. This took place about three weeks ago. I then began to pray to Father Seelos since I knew that my mom had prayed for his intercession during my schooling. I prayed to Father Seelos several times before and after the interview. The interview was no different than any of the others and I said practically the exact same things about my qualifications, except this time I received an offer. I will be working in a summer internship in my major in Germany. Thank you, Father Seelos, for your intercession. I now ask Father Seelos for protection while I am working there.

Metairie, LA

I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession. I went to a dentist and he could never solve or see why a capped tooth was hitting my tongue constantly. After removing the cap "47" times, I asked Father Seelos to help guide me to someone who could help.

On finding a new dentist, the miracle did not come right away or over night, but I could see Father Seelos was guiding him to help me. He saw me many times a week, never charging me and trying to solve a problem he could not 'see' either.

The new dentist said I might have to have an operation on my tongue. I immediately asked Father Seelos again to help but this time I told him time was running out. Within 48 hours everything was gone.

I will always pray to Father Seelos and always spread the word about him wherever I go.

Mail: May, 1996

Petitions: 687

Thanksgivings: 228

Others: 480

Total: 1395

Dial-A-Messages: 741

Volunteer Hours: 1065

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