



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 10

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ANNIVERSARY MASS, OCTOBER 5

Father Seelos' anniversary will be celebrated at 11:30 A.M. on Sunday, October 5. The place is St. Mary's Assumption Church on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. Father Joseph Greenwell, C.S.S.R., formerly an associate pastor of St. Alphonsus parish and now of Immaculate Heart parish in Crowley, Louisiana, will be the principal celebrant and homilist of the Mass.

There will be blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. A reception will be held in the garden of St. Mary's (pictured above) after the ceremonies.

The newly restored museum of Father Seelos will be open for viewing before and after the Mass.

"BESIDE THE TEMPLE THERE"

One of the glories of the ancient world was the temple built by King Solomon, the son of King David. David had wanted to build it himself, but God did not permit it. For the Jews the temple was the symbol of God's presence with His chosen people and His protection over them.

In the Gospel according to St. Luke, we hear of the angel of the Lord appearing to the priest, Zechariah, in the temple to tell him that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a child even in their old age. This child was to be called John. He would be "a voice crying in the wilderness" and would point to Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Jesus insisted upon being baptized by John.

Not too many months later after the appearance of the angel to Zechariah, Joseph and Mary brought the Infant Jesus 40 days after His birth to be presented to God

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according to the law. There He was recognized as the Savior by holy old Simeon and the prophetess, Anna. Twelve years later Mary and Joseph would find the Child in the temple amid the teachers listening and asking them questions.

As often as He was in the Holy City during the years of His public life, Jesus could be found in the precincts of the temple. He drove the money-changers out of it because they had made a marketing-place out of it rather than into a house of prayer. It was in this sacred place that He admonished the cripple He had just cured at the pool of Bethesda to go and sin no more lest worse things happen to him. The day Jesus died on the cross the curtain in the sanctuary was torn from top to bottom. After the ascension of Jesus, Peter and John, in the temple at the hour of prayer, met a cripple who begged for an alms. Instead Peter took the man by the hand and commanded him to walk in the name of Jesus.

Saul, later to become St. Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles, was a devout Jew and for him the temple was the focus of his religious life. When converted from being a persecutor of the early Christians and baptized a follower of Christ, Paul found it easy to write to his converts in Corinth, "Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple" (I Cor. 3:16-17).

Jesus taught us, "Whenever you pray, go to your room. Close the door and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees what no man sees, will repay you" (Matthew 6:8). By this admonition, I do not think Jesus was forbidding prayer in public or with others. He did both Himself. I think His counsel was to tell us that when praying we should divest ourselves of all distractions, our daily cares, the temptations, the agenda of our life. How wonderful it would be if in the inner room of our mind, we could carry on a conversation with the Father!

God has created us and given us an intelligence and free will. There is in the inner core of our being a room, as it were, the inner sanctum, the sancta sanctorum. Could we call it a temple? It is in this room where we realize that we are individuals, different from all others in the universe, where we see the buck stop and we alone are responsible for our actions, and stand naked, as it were, before God, rid for once of all the accumulated baggage of our years in life. It is here we should be able to breathe the purest prayer to Him.

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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
 - 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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Santa Barbara, CA

I promised Father Seelos to tell you and the world about his intercession for my recovery from a tumble down a flight of twelve steps. I injured myself seriously, but the worst was my right knee where I pulled the tendons and injured the muscle attached to my femur bone. All in all a very painful injury for which the doctor projected a long recovery, six months at least.

I am so happy to report to you that after a prayer to Father Seelos and the promise to write you upon recovery, the doctor was amazed at the remarkable recovery. In three months I was able to move around without the cane and only a small ace-bandage for insurance. The most remarkable miracle was that the pain was relieved the very moment I placed his memento on my injuries, the memento you gave me when I visited the Center in 1992. I was privileged to be blessed with his mission crucifix at that time.

I do believe he obtained this favor as I was able to carry on with my home demands all through the recuperation, in spite of my bodily trauma and all. I am grateful to my friend in New Orleans who brought Father Seelos to my attention. He is so kind. I hope and pray he is soon declared a saint.

Thank you and all your staff who are so devoted and who treated us with such courtesy and love. They do Father Seelos proud and thank you for your wonderful messages in your little publication. So inspiring.

Lafayette, LA

In April I wrote asking a favor through the intercession of Father Seelos. It was concerning my husband's employment. Although employment is not as critical as a healing, my petition was very important to me and my family. The intercession of Father Seelos and St. Jude has changed our lives and we will be forever grateful.

Briefly, I wrote concerning a new job for my husband in Lafayette parish to aid with my mother in the care of our children. Out of the blue, a Catholic school in Lafayette parish called my husband for an interview. This school did not receive a resume' from my husband. The only time he sent a resume' was to the Catholic diocese two years ago. When he returned from the first interview he told me that the principal interviewing him did not have a single piece of paper in front of him, nothing to tell him anything about my husband. He had telephoned the diocese and had been given his name from a list of applicants. I believe that it was through prayer that his name was chosen. My other prayer was that my husband could teach in the school of religion, as I do. To my surprise he came through with answers to both. One of my husband's lessons in religion is: How Jesus works in mysterious ways.

Palm Desert, CA

Six months ago I had a condition which would have required a hip replacement. I had always prayed that Father Seelos would be declared a saint but now I asked him to plead with God for myself. I promised a letter of thanksgiving.

My doctor recommended a new procedure with a 65% chance saving my hip, without replacement. Now three months later I no longer need a wheel-chair, walker, or cane. I now have normal hip function. I am forever grateful to God and the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos. I will continue to pray that he be declared a saint.

Mail: June, 1997

Petitions: 753

Thanksgivings: 273

Others: 399

Total: 1425

Dial-A-Messages: 743

Volunteer Hours: 1053

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