



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1998



St. Mary's Church tower presides over the Irish Channel.

ANNIVERSARY MASS — OCTOBER 4

The 131st anniversary Mass for Father Seelos will take place on Sunday, October 4 at 11:30 A.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church (on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans). Father Antonio Marrazzo is coming from Rome to be the celebrant and homilist. Father Marrazzo is the postulator general of Redemptorist causes for sainthood. He will be accompanied by Father John Vargas, one of the vice-postulators of the cause of Father Seelos.

The mission crucifix of Father Seelos will be venerated as usual. A reception will be held in St. Mary's garden.

The restored museum of Father Seelos will be rededicated and open to visitors.

THE ANSWER IS DIVINE

A young man from the neighboring big city was on his way to the "country" to regain his broken health. He had thrown himself so strenuously into his work that at one point his doctor almost despaired of his life. The drive along the sea-coast was refreshing. It opened up vistas of blue sky and sea and fragrant lemon groves cascading down the walls of the cliffs that guarded the land from the encroaching sea. It was the most beautiful sight he had seen in his young life. Already he could feel his strength returning. To get to his destination he now had to climb over a thousand feet above the sea.

His destination was the little town of Scala between Sorrento and Salerno on the Mediterranean Sea. The young man was a priest recently ordained, formerly a successful lawyer in the royal courts of Naples. Alphonsus de Liguori was his name. Coming to Scala would bring him into contact with the goatherds of the region, who were poor and uninstructed even in the rudiments of their Catholic faith. The city of Naples was well supplied with priests. That was hardly the case in the country districts.

(Continued on next page)

It was here in the little town of Scala that St. Alphonsus, in his moments of prayer and communing with God, received the inspiration to found a group of priests and brothers who would minister to the most abandoned. The date was November 9, 1732 when Alphonsus and his companions began the institute which would be known as the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.

Beginnings are never easy. Certainly the early years would be rough and would be stormy even to his death. Today, with numbers diminished from pre-Vatican II days, there are nearly six thousand priests and brothers working in over seventy countries of the world.

Alphonsus found a cave in Scala overlooking the Mediterranean where he could go for his hours of prayer and meditation, away from the necessary distractions of his ministry. Each of us, I would imagine, have found a time and a place where we can be alone, a time and a place where we can ask ourselves the questions that come to us as children of God in a world that pulls us hither and thither, seemingly without rhyme or reason.

We have had to wonder why we inhabit this earth. What purpose did God have in placing us here in the midst of a family, in a city or town, on a farm, in the mountains or the desert, by a lake or by the sea. Wherever it was that we came into this world, God made us to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him, and to be happy with Him in heaven for all eternity. This we learned in preparation for our first Holy Communion.

Vatican Council II in its document on The Church Today, n.41, says: "...man will always yearn to know, at least in an obscure way, what is the meaning of life, of his activity, of his death. The very presence of the Church recalls these problems to his mind."

Not everyone will be in ideal circumstances, as Alphonsus was, to find a place and a time when the Lord speaks to the soul. But all of us, no matter where, can find the answer to the purpose of our existence in the prayers we raise to God, in following the prescriptions of Jesus in the Gospel.

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, Jim Howard, 277-7949 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

Plano, TX

I am writing to acknowledge the works of miracles by Father Seelos in the life of my father-in-law. Routine tests found an elevated PSA number, and our family feared prostate cancer might be found. Many prayers were said, and the intercession of Father Seelos was called upon. I am very grateful to report that all further tests found no signs of cancer. We thank the Lord and praise Him for the blessing of good health. We thank Father Seelos for his intercession. He has done great things for us.

I am also grateful for his intercession on behalf of a family member and friend. Our prayers were answered when my 88 year-old grandfather had a successful eye operation. His vision is important because he lives alone in White Castle, Louisiana.

My friend, Father Seelos, has also come to the aid of a family friend named Hannah. At the age of nine, she has had 22 operations to correct some birth defects... We are asking for the intercession of Father Seelos and the continued grace of God to help Hannah in the healing process. Hannah's family was happy to receive the information about Father Seelos. They are praying for his canonization.

Many thanks for your prayers and diligent work on behalf of Father Seelos.

Houston, TX

...Three and a half years ago, my brother was diagnosed with a very advanced prostate cancer. I found Fr. Seelos and have entrusted my brother to his care. He is going for an evaluation at M.D. Anderson next week. Please remember him in your prayers and through the intercession of our dear Fr. Seelos, our dear Lord will fully restore him to good health.

Lafayette, LA

This is in thanksgiving to Father Seelos. I was scheduled for surgery, but through his intercession it was found that medication would be fine. I also ask his help for a high blood pressure condition, for my eyes and my hearing and also domestic help, and for someone to care for me. I have prayed to Father Seelos for many years and wear his memento all the time...

I pray he will be made a saint which he deserves. Many thanks again to Father Seelos and I shall continue to ask his intercession for the above favors and spread devotion to him.

Inglewood, CA

It is soon approaching a year since my son...was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. In fact, it was two tumors. He is taking "Radiation Therapy"; he completed a series of chemotherapy. He appears to be doing well, but seems to be different in his personality, but I feel strongly that out of this God has a purpose for this...I faithfully pray for the strength to accept most graciously God's Will, continue to pray for a miracle healing, to guide my son back to his family who loves him dearly. He is the seventh child of eight and much loved by all of his family. Please pray for him and his entire family. I have had so many wonderful answers to my prayers through Father Seelos. I continue to ask prayers that I may continue to walk by faith.

Pray also that our office remains open to continue to provide a ministry to the elderly and poor. We provide 1500 meals a month for the elderly and poor. A huge thank-you for your prayers in behalf of so many. I am eternally grateful to everyone in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Seattle, WA

I'm always misplacing important documents, money, checks, etc. Father Seelos has become to me "the patron of lost items." Whenever I misplace these items I feel his eyes on me and I begin to pray and sure enough I go straight to where they are. I'm praying that the doctors will find the right medication to cure my sister.

Mail: June, 1998

Petitions: 728

Thanksgivings: 232

Others: 377

Total: 1337

Dial-A-Messages: 751

Volunteer Hours: 1050

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