



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1978

SAINTS OF AMERICA

In 1939 the then Apostolic Delegate of the United States, Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani wrote a book called "Sanctity in America". It was an unpretentious book, giving short accounts of the lives of a number of people who all lived in America for at least part of their lives and all died with a reputation for holiness.

Amongst those Archbishop Cicognani wrote about were Mother Elizabeth Seton, who became the first American-born saint in 1976, and Bishop John Neumann, C.S.S.R., who was declared a saint in 1977. Also included in this work was Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., whose cause for canonization is promoted by this bulletin.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



Steve Dequeant, a native of Crowley, La., reads one of the lessons at a memorial Mass for Father Seelos. When Steve graduates, he will go to a Redemptorist college seminary, Holy Redeemer, Waterford, Wis. Pray for him and all Redemptorist seminarians.

THE SURE WAY TO A LIFE OF HOLINESS

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for June: Purity of Heart (Think of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

Patron: The Apostle St. James, the Less.

Text: Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God. (Matt. 5/8)

One day St. Teresa of Avila was having severe mental troubles, worries, doubts, temptations against the holy virtue of Purity. It was a veritable battle with hell. She prayed and yet felt abandoned by God. When calm came, our Lord appeared to her. She asked: Dear, good God, where were you when I was in such a desperate mental struggle? He answered: I was in your heart the whole time, protecting you with My grace. Your heart is pure, your desire to love Me is sincere. I will always protect you against the attacks of the evil one. I do that for all who are pure of heart.

Our Lord talks the same way to us individually. Everybody is tempted to sin. The pure of heart are victorious. Temptations are not sin. They are invitations to commit sin. The pure of heart resist them.

God has a beautiful plan, a pattern for making us pure and keeping us that way. He begins with innocent children. At an early age, when they begin to understand, He gives them Holy Communion. That means the child becomes as completely lost in God as a drop of water is lost in the immensity of the sea. He loses his littleness in the greatness of God, his sinfulness in the holiness of God, his weakness in God's strength, his finiteness in infinity, his humanity in divinity. What more can the Almighty God do to make the child holy! There is no angel in heaven greater than a little First Holy Communicant.

The child lives through the years, maybe 70 or 80 of them. If, as he grows older, he is faithful to Holy Communion, possibly, daily Holy Communion, he is still an angel.

If he loses love for Holy Communion, gives it up at some time during the years, maybe as early as a teen-ager, the good God has lost that soul. The potential saint is dead.

Why does anybody give up Holy Communion? He prefers the life of sex, its abuse, its misuse, to the Eucharistic life of the all pure God. True happiness has gone — he lives in fear of a sudden death, an unhappy eternity.

How sad! Yet not all is lost. Christ is whispering: Come back to my Sacred Heart. The sure way back whether you are sixteen or sixty is Holy Communion — daily if possible.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY BE MY SALVATION!

MGILY

SPECIAL LETTERS

St. Louis, Mo.

"My nephew went completely deaf. I prayed to Father Seelos to restore his hearing and it is returning. Many thanks to Father Seelos."

P. S.

Owensville, Mo.

"Through the intercession of Father Seelos I passed my real estate tests and received my license. Also many thanks to Father Seelos for other favors granted."

L. W.

Metairie, La.

"My daughter was operated on for a tumor on the liver. There were seven doctors present during the surgery and they could find nothing. There was not a trace of Hodgkins disease for which she has been treated since 1974. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers for this wonderful favor that was granted to us."

W. L.

New Orleans, La.

"One year ago my son was operated on and they found cancer. We immediately started saying the Father Seelos prayer every day. Recently they took a biopsy of his lung and no cancer was found. Many thanks to Father Seelos."

S. C.

New Orleans, La.

"My sister had crushing pains in her chest. The cardiologist scheduled an angiogram and several other tests. We prayed to Father Seelos to intercede for our sister. Finally the results of the test were in. Her heart and arteries were in very good condition. All other tests were also negative."

R. P.

Natchez, Miss.

"I prayed for a friend of mine who had a drinking problem for 13 years. Through the intercession of Father Seelos he has stopped drinking and has returned to a regular job."

D. H.

Jefferson, La.

"Many thanks to Father Seelos for helping my daughter sell her house."

E. B.

SPECIAL NOTES

Father Seelos said this prayer daily to the Blessed Mother: "Since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or rather, obtain for me the strength to triumph over them until death." (You should memorize this.)

We hope it is possible for you and your neighbors to make the Father Seelos Sunday Novena in St. Mary's Assumption Church, New Orleans, every Sunday at 3:35 p.m. followed by Holy Mass at 4 o'clock and the veneration of the Crucifix of Father Seelos. We have the same novena every Wednesday at 4:10 p.m., followed by Holy Mass at 4:30 p.m. and veneration of the Crucifix of Father Seelos.

We are anxious to help teen-age boys in the eighth grade and High School and College students to think about the priesthood and brotherhood. Write the Center.

A quote from a letter: "I never felt so close to a Saint and never even thought of making others know and love him til I met Father Seelos. I am so happy I know him. Thanks for 'Father Seelos & Sanctity.' I now have some system in my spiritual life."

Pin a crocheted memento of Father Seelos on your sick. Pray for miracles. Call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176, for blessings of your sick with the Crucifix of Father Seelos.

Be an enthusiastic worker for Father Seelos. Talk about him, write about him. May he work miracles for you!

June is the month of the Sacred Heart! Don't forget the First Friday of this month and of every month. Have his image on the wall of your home.

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.