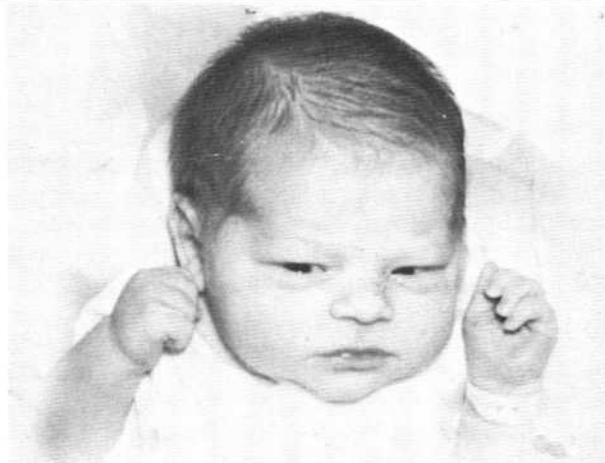




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1986



THOUGHTS FROM A NEW-BORN SON

It's true that I was very late
And you and Mom could hardly wait
Until that bright and sparkly morn
When at last, your son was born,
Now that I'm here I cry a lot
I want my bottle and what-not,
And right now, I'm starting to see
My brother, John, and sisters three,
Since I'm your son, please tell me Dad,
Is the world good or is it bad?
Do people still believe in God?
Or has He, too, become out-lawed?
Are Faith and Hope now really gone?
Is love found only in a song?
Tell me Dad I'd like to know,
In what direction I should go,
I'm sure by now you've really guessed
How to achieve life's happiness,
Just let me know what I should do
To grow up to be a man like you,
Then you'll be proud that I was born
On such a bright and sparkly morn.

Lois Krulisky

"Lyrics By Lois of Louisiana" 1984

THE MEANS TO PRESERVE PURITY

When we compose ourselves in prayers before God, our first impulse so often is to thank God for the great gift of life He gave us, our existence, a gift totally unexpected and undeserved. To this inestimable gift of life, God adds, among others, the great gift of sexuality. As we read in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, "God created man in His image; in the divine image He created Him; male and female He created them" (Gen. 1/27).

To preserve this gift God gave us the virtue of purity that, as St. Thomas Aquinas writes, results from the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, and especially charity, which by uniting the soul intimately with God, not only withdraws it from all inordinate love for creatures and preserves it from every stain, but also gives it all the splendor of the beauty of God.

While temptations against the virtue of purity may be many and strong and at times seemingly irresistible, it is good for us to remember that sin can only come from within the citadel of our own being. Jesus said, "Nothing that enters a man from outside can make him impure; that which comes out of him, and only that constitutes impurity" (Mk. 7/15). He explains it thus: "Do you not see that nothing that enters a man from outside can make him impure? . . . What emerges from within a man, that and nothing else is what makes him impure. . . . acts of fornication, theft, murder, adultery" (Mk 7/18, 20-21).

More than ever, we are reminded that to cultivate the virtue of purity, we have to use the means recommended by the church. Let us take a brief look at four of these means.

1. The practice of self-denial, a disciplining of the body and mind. If one can deny oneself in legitimate pleasures, the stronger one will be in confronting temptations to illicit pleasures.
2. Avoid the occasions of sin. An occasion of sin is defined as any person, place or thing that customarily leads us into sin. The occasion can be proximate or remote, necessary or unnecessary. Prudence tells us we must avoid all proximate and unnecessary occasions. We are told by Jesus: "If your hand or foot is your undoing, cut it off and throw it from you. Better to enter life maimed or crippled than to be thrown with two hands or two feet into endless fire (Mt. 18/8).
3. Prayer. We can always pray. Maybe we cannot always approach the sacraments; it may even happen that we cannot escape from a necessary and proximate occasion of sin, but we can pray. We should pray before temptations come, during the temptations, and even after they have gone. All, especially the young, should cultivate a tender and lasting devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God.
4. Frequent the Sacraments. The two sacraments that we are able to receive most are penance and Holy Communion. The sacrament of penance or reconciliation not only forgives the sins of the past but gives us the actual graces to avoid these same sins in the future.

Holy Communion is the great sacrament which unites us directly to Jesus Himself. It is the body and blood, soul and divinity of our Lord and Savior. It radically strengthens the bond of the life that exists between Jesus and us. It readies the soul to confront the allurements of sin.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Lafayette, La.

Our prayers to Father Seelos were answered recently when my brother underwent brain surgery. He is recovering nicely and I would like you to use the enclosed check to let other people know about Father Seelos. Thank you.

Cameron, La.

I have wanted to write and tell everyone of the grace that I have received through my son. My son is 17 years of age, a star athlete. He had recently survived a traumatic car accident in which his girl friend was killed. He is still troubled by the accident, but with prayers to Father Seelos, the healing is slowly taking place. Just when our worries were over, his pursuit of athletics was hampered by several injuries. He was told he could not play again. Again, I turned to Fr. Seelos and again with divine help, my son went on to continue to play and has received numerous honors. My thanks and prayers to Father Seelos for the many blessings we have received.

Baton Rouge, La.

In May 1985 I was sick with encephalitis. I had severe headaches and neck pain continuously for three months. The only way I could cope with the pain was to lie flat on my back and to pray. I was so ill that I could not sit up or stand up or work. Then I was in the hospital three times. I had five doctors. The only medication that helped the inflammation was regular aspirin. To add to all this, my ex-husband tried unsuccessfully to take custody of our two children. I know I am here only through my faith and the grace of God, as I recently found out that some people have died from this virus of encephalitis. I have mild headaches now, but I do not have the pain I had before. I thank God for this illness. My faith was strengthened. It has given me new insights and a new lease on life.

Portsmouth, Va.

We have been married for 24 years and have 8 children, I prayed for my husband to become a Catholic and had come to accept the fact that it would never happen. Six years ago I visited New Orleans and knelt before the tomb of Father Seelos and wrote my petitions. Among them was the conversion of my husband. When I came home we, as a family, would pray the novena following the rosary. That spring my husband announced that he was becoming a Catholic. After all our prayers to Father Seelos, he became a Catholic.

Mail received during February, 1986

Petitions 402 - Thanks 169 - Other 481 - Total - 1052

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. We owe a special salute to all the fathers out there on this Fathers Day. May God bless them all. May God bless our parents who through their generosity and love gave us the chance to be born, to live and breathe, and enjoy the eternal destiny to which God has called us.
2. The Redemptorists around the world will celebrate the feast of our Mother of Perpetual Help on June 27. The original picture hangs above the main altar in St. Alphonsus Church in Rome. This church, on Via Merulana, is just a stone's throw from St. Mary Major, the oldest shrine to Mary in existence.
3. It is still possible to order the video-tape of the documentary on Father Seelos. We can send you a copy for \$45.00 (includes dubbing, handling and shipping). The tape is unconditionally guaranteed. Allow six to eight weeks for delivery. When ordering, please specify whether you want the VHS___ or Beta___ format. Please make checks or money orders payable to:

FATHER SEELOS CENTER
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130-5099

4. We now have a Dial-A-Message program. If you wish to hear a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, just dial (504) 586-1803.
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