



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

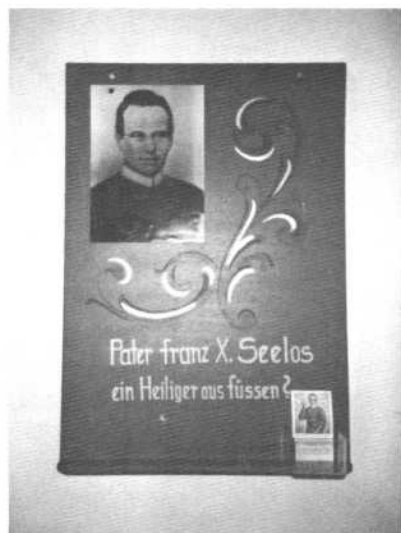
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## FUSSEN, BAVARIA AND NEW ORLEANS THE SEELOS CONNECTION

Although Fussen and New Orleans are thousands of miles apart, they do have a connection: Father Francis Xavier Seelos. He was born in the first and died in the second. Now to commemorate the illustrious 48 years of his life there is a museum in each of these cities. The one in Fussen was inaugurated over a year ago; the one in New Orleans just a few months ago. Frau Lilly Neumaier Aschenbrenner, the great grandniece of Father Seelos, came to New Orleans for the ceremony.

In her home in Fussen, Frau Lilly has exhibits of her revered great great-uncle, some poems handwritten in German by him, several photos, copies of letters written to members of his family, his life in English by Father Curley, his life in German written by a contemporary of his, Father Schlaenkhofer. She has also placed a marble plaque on the house where he was born (below left). She has also placed a picture of her saintly relative in the vestibule of the church of St. Mang where he was baptized and made his first Communion (below right). Already 10,000 prayer cards for his canonization have been distributed from this center of pilgrimage.



## I BELIEVE

No one has ever seen God. God created us and endowed us with intelligence and free will. With our minds we can come to a knowledge of our Creator. Through the power of our reason we can know that God exists even though He is invisible to us.

But God wanted to tell us more about Himself than our pure reason could expect to arrive at. So through the patriarchs and prophets of the Jewish people He revealed more and more of Himself and things about eternal life that are far beyond the scope of our intelligence to grasp.

Then at last God spoke to us through His own divine Son, Jesus Christ. When the second Person of the Blessed Trinity became man, God became visible to us in human form. And the revelation continued and expanded.

It was through the message of the archangel Gabriel that Mary, virgin of Nazareth, learned that she was to become the Mother of God, not through the intervention of man, but by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It was John the Baptist who heralded Jesus to His future apostles with the words, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John, 1/28). After Jesus was baptized by John, He saw "the Spirit of God descend like a dove and hover over Him. . . a voice from the heavens said, 'This is My beloved Son. My favor rests on Him'" (Matt. 3/16-17).

"Jesus toured all of Galilee. He taught in their synagogues, proclaimed the good news of the kingdom, and cured the people of every disease and illness" (Matt. 4/23).

It was on the plains of Caesarea Philippi that Jesus asked the apostles who did they think He was. Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus responded, "You are 'Rock', and on this rock I will build My church" (Matt. 16/13/18).

At the Last Supper He said over the bread, "This is My body," and over the cup of wine "This is My blood." (Mark 14, 22/25). In chapter 6 of St. John's gospel He commanded His disciples to eat His body and blood in the eucharistic celebration in order to live eternally. Then He went out to die on the cross. That was not a human failure, for He rose triumphant and glorious on Easter Sunday.

After the ascension He would no longer be visible in His human nature, but would entrust the future of His church to His followers who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, would reflect by their lives His image to the world. This, in brief, is some of the revelation of Jesus to us.

My Jesus, I believe,

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Harvey, La.

A priest from Father Seelos Center went to visit my husband in Meadowcrest Hospital, about the middle of August.

At the time he was critically ill in the intensive care unit. He was admitted to the hospital for gallbladder surgery on August 11. That night his temperature reached 107.8°. Infection from the gallbladder had spread through his body, and he was immediately transferred to ICU. On August 12 his gallbladder was removed. The next day his lungs began to fail. He had adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) which is fatal to many people. His condition was critical.

A priest from Father Seelos Center visited with him. It is truly a miracle that after four weeks in ICU in critical condition most of the time, and over five weeks in the hospital my husband is home now, and almost fully recovered.

Your visit was a tremendous comfort to me, which gave me hope at a time of despair. It is truly a miracle that he was able to overcome this illness, when the odds were all against him. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Brighton TWP. Mi.

I want to let you know about a favor received by me from praying to Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R.

On April 5, 1986, I had a seizure. I was otherwise healthy without any symptoms or illness. I was diagnosed to have a malignant brain tumor. I had surgery on April 8, 1986 to remove part of the tumor since the other one-half was too close to the speech center. I had radiation and chemotherapy to treat the other part of the tumor.

On August 25, 1986, I had a brain scan. The results were very good. There was no visible evidence of a tumor. Needless to say, I am very grateful.

I continue to pray to Father Seelos and thank him. I also plan to return to work on a part-time basis in a couple months, God willing.

I thank you for allowing me to share this personal account.

Metairie, La.

I spoke to you on the phone and asked you to publish my request. Every time I pray to Father Seelos it seems like my favors are granted. Our whole family prays to Father Seelos and we try to spread devotion to him.

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Mail received during September, 1986

Thanks 513 - Petitions 511 - Other 325 - Total 1349

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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.

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## SPECIAL NOTES

1. As 1987 unfolds, we wish all our good readers a holy, happy, and peaceful New Year. We ask you all to remember in your prayers the cause of Father Seelos, and the intentions of all those who ask the intercession of Father Seelos.
  2. For a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, dial (504) 586-1803.
  3. For blessings of your sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
  4. The Father Seelos Museum is open on Sundays from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. At 11:00 there is a prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos with benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Mass follows at 11:30 A.M.
  5. We will be happy to accommodate pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church and the tomb of Father Seelos. Contact the Father Seelos Center for further details (504) 525-2495.
  6. The TV documentary, "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice" is still available for \$45.00 per copy. We can only furnish a VHS.
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