




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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DISTINGUISHED VISITOR



In late November of last year Miss Eleanore Linsmayer of Munich, Germany visited the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. Miss Linsmayer's great grandfather was Ambrose Seelos, the brother of Francis Xavier. We snapped a photo of her as she paused before the statue of Father Seelos. This statue for many years graced the entrance of Seelos Hall, once a part of the Redemptorist High School complex. Now that the High School is no longer in existence, we have brought the statue out of the cold and rain, so to speak, to the warmth of the museum.

Miss Linsmayer, in the footsteps of her uncle, Gebhard Seelos, is in the foreign service of her country. She is at present the cultural attache of the West German embassy in Washington, D. C.

FATHER RAYMOND GAYDOS, C.S.S.R.

We regret to announce that on December 30, 1987, Father Raymond Gaydos, former director of the Father Seelos Center (1969) died at the Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans. He was 70 years of age and just seven months short of the 50th anniversary of his religious profession as a Redemptorist. He was a genius at organization and for the brief time he served as director helped to streamline our operation. He will be missed. Please remember his good soul in your prayers and Masses.



LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

"The second (commandment) is like it (the first: love God): 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments the whole law is based, and the prophets as well" (Matt. 22, 39-40).

Jesus marks out for us the measure of our love for neighbor, "as yourself." No one with a sound mind hates himself. As we love ourselves, so we must love others. One of the basic instincts of human life is self-preservation. There is no limit to what we will do to preserve our lives, gasp mightily for air to breathe, scratch for water and food when we are deprived of them, even to the taking of human life when we are attacked.

Yet Jesus asks us to give food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty; He even said that one could have no greater love than to lay down one's life for a friend. St. Paul rightfully acknowledges that it is not easy to give your life for some one else. For a very good person, perhaps, but not just for anybody. Jesus gave us the supreme example, He died for us even when we were still His enemies by sin.

Love for neighbor also includes forgiving the faults of others. For this we again have the example of Jesus. On the cross His first thought and words were to ask forgiveness for His executioners: because they did not know what they were doing.

In our lifetime few, if any of us, will be called upon to forgive our executioners. Many a time, however, Jesus will expect us to forgive the sins of others against us, as we hope they will do for us. Jesus taught us to pray in the Our Father: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The words we pray thus are certainly a challenge. We ask God to forgive our sins in the very measure we forgive the sins of our neighbors.

To forgive another's faults is not the easiest thing to do. Often these sins have scarred the body, bent the mind, wounded one's sensibilities, and the hurt just does not disappear with an act of the will. It is good to remember this. Once we have made the will act to forgive, whatever remains of the hurt should be disregarded. We do not want to remember it, and in the passage of time it will disappear.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Dial (504) 586-1803 for a daily spiritual message.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Kenner, LA

Father, I have been cured of cancer. I have much to be thankful for. Will you please pray for my husband who had to undergo some tests. He has not been well of late and still has to work. He is 70 years old. For the past two years things have not been going well with us. We have had so many heartbreaks. I am ashamed to complain because years ago I had surgery for cancer. My doctor said it was a miracle. He had no doubt that it was though my faith that I was cured. He said God smiled on me. Thank God for me.

Jefferson, LA

My daughter's fiance was seriously injured at work. His whole arm was caught in a printing press. The doctors thought they would have to amputate the whole arm. I told my daughter that I was praying to Father Seelos and that her fiance would not lose his arm. He has had many operations and may lose the tips of two fingers but the arm will be saved. Thanks to Father Seelos. I pray for his canonization every day.

Lake Charles, LA

The following is the testimonial I promised should the last great favor be granted through the prayers of Father Seelos:

I am one of the many who have prayed for favors of Father Seelos. They range from health, financial aid, etc. All have been answered and the last **great** favor – that of my son finding a good job is the greatest of all. I am so grateful and wish to acknowledge my firm belief in the powerful intercession of Father Seelos to help those who pray for his aid.

New Orleans, LA

I broke a bone in my foot and recovered without surgery. Thanks to Father Seelos and all the others I prayed to for this and many other favors granted.

Covington, LA

I am writing this letter to report two favors received after praying to Father Seelos. The first was the successful outcome of surgery I had last July. A "routine" hysterectomy turned into a three-hour surgery with two other surgeons being called in and the removal of twenty inches of intestine. The second favor happened recently. My husband was offered a job he had interviewed for, with a certain city as director of public works. Both favors were received through the prayers of Father Seelos on our behalf. I felt I had to write this letter to thank him.

Mail received in December, 1987

Petitions: 459. Thanksgivings: 223. Others: 636. Total: 1318.
Dial-a-message calls: 713.

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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. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux, Executive Assistant.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. On April 3 we celebrate the glorious feast of the Resurrection of Jesus from the tomb. The editors and staff of this publication wish all its readers a holy and happy Easter, and the fulfillment of the promise it holds: eternal life with the risen Savior.
2. Numbers to remember:
Father Seelos Center, Father Seelos Museum, pilgrimages to the tomb and St. Mary's: (504) 525-2495.
Daily spiritual message from the Center: (504) 586-1803.
For blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
3. A prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos is held every Sunday morning from 11 to 11:30 in St. Mary's Church. All are invited to attend.
4. The Father Seelos Museum is open on Saturday afternoons after the 3:00 vigil Mass in St. Mary's and on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11. At other times, by appointment.
5. If you wish to inform us of a change of address, of a correction of name, address, zip code, or of a cancellation of subscription because of duplication, death, or you are no longer interested in receiving the bulletin, please use the form below:

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