



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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ST. MANG CHURCH FUSSEN, BAVARIA

On the very day he was born, January 11, 1819, Francis Xavier Seelos was brought to the parish church of St. Mang to be baptized into the Catholic faith. That was the custom in those days. Thus he became a citizen of this world and a citizen of heaven on his first day on earth.

Mang Seelos, his father, and Frances Schwarzenbach, had married on October 28, 1811. In the first twenty years of their marriage they had twelve children. Francis was the sixth. The first child was Elizabeth, then twins, Mariana and Xaveria (both lived but a short time), Josephine, Ambrose, Francis Xavier, then Antonia, Frances, Ulrich, followed by Anna, Adam, and Kuni-gunda.

The parish church of St. Mang played an important role in the formation of Francis Xavier and even more so when Mang Seelos became the sacristan. He loved to roam the church helping his father. He served Mass often. With his mother he went often to St. Mang's to recite the rosary with her.

THROUGH FAITH WE LIVE

We do not hear this talked of too much because it might make us a bit conceited, it just might make us feel more important than we really are in the divine plan. However, the truth is that through baptism we all of us share divine life.

Our Lord has two great objectives in submitting to His suffering and death. First, He wanted to make reparation for our sins and to win us His Father's indulgence and pardon. His second purpose was to restore to us a share in the divine life and its consequences which Adam had lost by his sin.

By our baptism we were given divine life, given the Holy Spirit as the guest of our souls. With this divine life we were given membership in the Body of Christ, the Church. Much more could be said about our baptism. That will be taken care of later. However, right now we look to the effects of this divine life. The very first effect is very simple: we were given the power to think as God Himself thinks.

This is the virtue of faith, the power and right to think as God thinks. This is faith, a new power added to your mind, given freely as the faculty of this divine life. Faith is an added power given to your intellect.

You will ask: what does God think of? He Himself has told us what He thinks of; He has revealed His thoughts to the prophets of the Old Testament, to His Son in the Gospels, to the apostles through His Son and through His apostles to His Church, His mystical Body. We find the mind of God, at least a small part of it, in the teachings of the creed we recite at Mass.

For us the Gospels will tell us what He thinks and what we must think to live out our faith.

John N. McCormick, C.S.S.R.

GOD'S LIGHT

My eyes grow dim, I cannot see
The needle's eye in front of me
I pull the window curtain bright
To let in God's most precious light
It's so very beneficial
Better than the artificial
And as I thread the needle's eye
It seems I realize that I
Have sought God's light my whole life through
To change the grey skies into blue,
And as my eyes grow oh so dim
How bright the light that shines from Him.

Lois Krulisky

SPECIAL LETTERS

General Cepeda, Coahuila, Mexico

Our family has been serving the Lord in the foreign missions since 1975, here in Mexico for the last two and a half years. In June our son Joseph fell to the ground, striking his head. He suffered a severe convulsion. Convulsions have since occurred from time to time. Naturally we were very much concerned.

One day we were scheduled to bring our son to Ochsner Clinic for testing and treatment. A friend suggested we bring the child to the Father Seelos Center to implore the intercession of the servant of God. My wife and I and the child attended the morning Mass at St. Mary's. Afterwards the priest brought out the mission crucifix of Father Seelos and we all prayed for Joseph's healing.

We went to the Clinic. In the playroom there Joseph showed marked improvement in his eye and limb coordination. After the visit to the Center, our son has never again shown the signs of his prior epileptic condition. We thank God for His great love and kindness, and Father Seelos for his intercession in our behalf. We thank the good Lord that we can continue to proclaim His gospel to the nations.

Joseph, now five years old, thanks the Lord for his healing. As a family we are inspired by the missionary zeal and fruitfulness shown forth in the life of Father Seelos.

Metairie, LA

I would like to report a favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. My husband had a major stroke on May 30 and was being tube-fed for almost two months. My doctor told me his condition would never be better and I would have to take him home. I was trained to feed him through the tube. I prayed to Father Seelos and asked for his intercession so that my husband's paralyzed throat would come back to normal. The next morning I happened to see the doctor in charge of x-rays and I asked him for another x-ray. It was taken the following day and my husband's throat was normal and his swallowing perfect. I am so thankful to Father Seelos for his intercession with Almighty God.

Gretna, LA

I just recently heard of Father Seelos from a very dear friend. I was unhappy and distressed with my job for 24 years. My friend told me I should pray to Father Seelos for guidance. She gave me a very short prayer to say, which I said daily. After a short time my prayer was answered. Thanks for Father Seelos' intercession with God.

Mail, September, 1989:

Petitions: 512 Thanksgivings: 256 Other: 728 Total: 1496

Dial-a-message: 628.

Volunteer hours: 832.

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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 and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography. Price: \$10.00
 - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: \$45.00
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos, Price: 8.95 plus postage. Available at the Center.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and the museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - h. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS: every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We do appreciate your letting us know you want to continue to receive the bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Please return the lower portion of this page to us.

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