



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1990

## FATHER SEELOS' MUSEUM

It is nearly four years since the Father Seelos Museum was inaugurated so auspiciously. Thousands of people, parishioners, tourists from all parts of the world, have now passed through its doors. Perhaps the most interesting "relic" of his life is paradoxically one he really never knew during his lifetime. It is his first casket, made of iron and now encrusted with rust. His remains were brought up in 1902 during the course of the diocesan investigation into the holiness of his life, and duly authenticated. It is now 123 years since the Servant of God died and was buried in St. Mary's Church. The church was crowded for his wake and funeral and it is still so for his memorial Mass on the first Sunday of each October.



## THE WILL OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF FATHER SEELOS

Even before he became a Redemptorist, Francis Seelos saw God's will in his acceptance as a candidate for the Redemptorist congregation in America. It so corresponded to the inner call of God he felt. To explain his resolve to go immediately to America without returning to his home in Füssen, he wrote to his brother, Adam, "It is God's holy will that I go to the land which I have shown you many times during the summer on the maps when we were alone, and I was able to show you many things that will be useful to your future life. If this concerned me alone, I would always remain with you and the family, but I cannot resist the inner call, and I will not oppose it but freely follow it."

In 1857 when he was pastor of St. Alphonsus in Baltimore, a blood vessel broke in his throat, and for three days the blood flowed. Fears were entertained that if this should continue his life was well in danger. He calmly made an act of resignation to God's will and was ready for anything that might happen.

Brother Louis Kenning, a member of the Redemptorist community at St. Mary's in New Orleans from its beginning, knew Father Seelos as a holy man from the days of his novitiate and was with Seelos often during his last days on earth. He asked the sick man to tell the ways and means of acquiring personal sanctification and the pleasure of God. This is what Father told him;

"I think the best way is to accept the Will of God, to obey faithfully and quietly the order of one's superior and do the work assigned him."

Brother Louis offered his own life to God if Father Seelos would be spared. Thoroughly aroused, Seelos cried, "No, not that." His arguments failed to convince the sick priest, who said, "If God demands the sacrifice of my life, willingly will I make it. The Will of God and my own soul are dearer to me than all the souls in the world."

Let us ask his intercession that we may always seek God's will in all that we do as did good Father Seelos!

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Chalmette, LA

For many years I have been praying to Father Seelos to do well in school. This year I graduated from college cum laude. I am now asking Father Seelos' intercession to help me find a job in the area where I feel most confident. Thank you for your prayers.

Jefferson, LA

My sister was away from Church for so many years. I prayed to Father Seelos for her return to the Church and the sacraments. She did and I am so grateful.

Wichita, KS

I want to tell you how much I appreciate the monthly publication from your area, the meditation, the special letters and the encouragement they bring me. There is lots of work connected with this. Thank you for all the good it is doing.

Lafayette, LA

My family planned a trip for the summer. I was afraid of it. I prayed very hard to Father Seelos and with his help with God I really enjoyed the trip. In September I had a very difficult situation come up in my professional life. Again I prayed to Father Seelos and this situation dissolved in a short time. Thanks to God for the intercession of Father Seelos. I pray to Father Seelos every day and certainly hope that one day he will be declared a saint of the Church.

Gramercy, LA

Many thanks to Father Seelos that through his prayers I will not need an operation on my eyes.

New Orleans, LA

My great grandson has had leukemia since he was a year and a half old. He is now going on four years and he is still in remission. We are so grateful for that. I pray for Father Seelos' intercession that my great grandson will continue in remission and one day will be able to go to school. He goes to Children's Hospital every Tuesday for a treatment. Please keep him in your prayers.

Worthington, Ohio

The FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY publication is very special. I put the monthly issue on my refrigerator door with magnets. Anyone who comes to my kitchen can read it and get "food for thought." Keep up the good work.

---

Mail, March, 1990:

Petitions: 693. Thanksgivings: 310. Other: 662. Total: 1655

Dial-a-messages: 758.

Volunteer hours: 952.

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$2.00 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. 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

- The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
  - "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. Price: \$10.00.
  - "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: \$45.00.
  - "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.
  - "The Sanctified Body," by Patricia Treece, a study of the physical phenomena that accompany people who are close to God. Price: \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage.
  - Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
  - Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
  - Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
  - 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.
- A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

---

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)

7/90

is published monthly for \$2.00 per year, by

The Father Seelos Center

2030 Constance Street

New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

Second class postage paid at New Orleans, LA.

Postmaster: send address changes to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

2030 Constance St., New Orleans, LA 70130-5099