



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1992

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

On the eleventh day of January in the year 1819, Francis Xavier Seeelos was born. His parents were Mang Seeelos and Frances Schwarzenbach. He was baptized on the same day in the parish church of St. Mang in Füssen, Bavaria. The picture at the right is of a memorial of him in the foyer of St. Mang's. Visitors from all over the world have registered their names at this memorial.



“LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?”

Faith is our response to God's word, our assent to His revelation. We often rely on the word of our fellow human beings. How much more can we trust the word of God, the very truth itself. In times past God has spoken to us through the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament. Lastly He has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, the God made man.

In His days on earth Jesus changed water into wine at the wedding feast of Cana. He had walked on the water and had calmed the winds and the waves. Now He fed 5000 people with a few loaves of bread and fishes. The crowd literally flocked after Him to see even greater wonders.

Jesus then took this occasion to tell His listeners that He was the bread come down from heaven, that “everyone that looks upon the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life” (John, 6/33, 40). His hearers murmured in protest, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know His father and mother? How can He claim to come down from heaven?” (John, 6/41-42).

Jesus continued, "The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world" (John, 6/51). "At this time the Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, 'How can He give us His flesh to eat?'" (John, 6/52). Jesus did not retreat from His position. He said the same thing in a more emphatic fashion, "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood, you have no life in you" (John, 6/53). Upon hearing these words, many of His disciples remarked, "This sort of talk is hard to endure! How can anyone take it seriously?" (John, 6/60).

After Jesus' promise of the Eucharist, "Many of His disciples broke away and would not remain in His company any longer. Jesus then said to the twelve, 'Do you want to leave Me too?' Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'" (John, 6/66-67).

Our faith rests on Jesus. Things our mind cannot understand we believe because our God has spoken. In a hymn to the Blessed Sacrament St. Thomas Aquinas said it was our senses of sight and touch and taste that fail us. Only our hearing sets us right: This is My body. This is My blood. The bread and wine of the Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus.

Who was the well-known agnostic or atheist who said, "If only I believed in the Eucharist, I would crawl on my hands and knees to be there with Jesus every day"? And we who believe, would we dare to do the same?

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. 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.
 - d. "The Sanctified Body," by Patricia Treece, a study of the physical phenomena that accompany persons who are close to God. Price: \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage.
 - e. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404.
 - h. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - i. The 11:30 A.M. PARISH MASS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH IS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER. Veneration of the mission crucifix of Father Seelos after the Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. Please let us know you want to continue receiving this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us. Include your old address.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Port Sulphur, LA

I want to begin by saying "thank-you" for your prayers. We had someone from your church visit our daughter. A Mass was said for her. Someone called the hospital to keep tabs on her condition. She was hospitalized with pneumonia in March. She spent over 30 days in CCU, a total of 51 days in the hospital. In June her condition had improved: her heart rate had slowed down, the thyroid level was normal, her lungs still had a way to go. She has to be on continuous oxygen. While in the hospital her left lung had collapsed once, her right lung three times. She had three chest tubes, a lung biopsy, and two tracheotomies. At one time the doctor told us that she was in God's hands.

She was on a 100% ventilation, the machine was breathing for her. We waited and prayed. A turn for the better was noted on the Sunday a Mass was said for her in your church. The ventilator was needed less and less. Physical therapy helped her to walk again. Her appetite came back; the nausea stopped. Thank God, she is still making progress every day. One day we plan to visit St. Mary's.

Baton Rouge, LA

After my grandson was born almost six years ago, he began having serious health problems. He had one life-threatening illness after another. After extensive testing, it was discovered he had a genetic immune disorder. The doctors hoped that he would begin making "immunes" on his own in a short time. I prayed to Father Seelos to intercede with Jesus for him. In the spring my husband and I took this child to New Orleans and had him blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos. Last week after the doctors had declared he was still not making "immunes", an extensive test was done; this showed he was beginning to make "immunes." We all thank Father Seelos for interceding for him before the throne of God.

Jeanerette, LA

Usually when I crochet for myself my vision gets blurred. As I crocheted mementos for Father Seelos, I prayed to him to clear my vision and so it was done. I thank him for his intercession with the Father. I am very glad he is part of my life.

Ponchatoula, LA

I wish to thank Father Seelos for praying for my great grandson who was born with SCID (severe chronic immune deficiency). He was not supposed to see his first Easter, but he is now a normal seven year old boy. Of eight living in the world he is the strongest. God bless Father Seelos.

Lockport, LA

I would like to thank God and Father Seelos for all the blessings that have come my way. I've prayed to Father Seelos in many situations and so far all my prayers have been answered. I have so much faith in Father Seelos and I introduce him to my relatives and friends in their times of need, so that they can also pray to him. I love almighty God and Father Seelos for his intercession. I will always pray to Father Seelos.

Mail, September, 1991

Petitions: 599 Thanksgivings: 258 Other: 419 Total: 1276

Dial-a-messages: 775

Volunteer Hours: 1030

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