



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1992



## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Father Seeelos spent 24 Christmases in his homeland and 24 in his adopted country. He celebrated his first Mass on Christmas day, 1844, in St. James Church in Baltimore. We wonder how many times he dreamed of being in Fussen for the holidays.

Charles Escude, narrator of the documentary, SEELOS: A CAUSE TO REJOICE, is pictured here in the winter wonderland of Bavaria.

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## SELF-DENIAL AND LOVE OF THE CROSS

In the years just previous to Pope John XXIII's call for the Second Vatican Council, Donald Atwater published an interesting book on the martyrs of the Catholic Church. He gives us an impressive list of people who willingly gave their lives for their belief in Jesus from the deacon Stephen of apostolic times down to our own time.

Even a hurried leafing through the stories of this book will give the reader a lasting impression of bravery, courage and faithful love for God. It is only natural to wonder where these men, women and children, got the strength, moral and physical, to face torture, weak old men and women, youths in their teens, strapping soldiers, tired missionaries, one and all willing to suffer the fatal stroke that would bring an end to their lives.

It was, we well know, God's grace that gave them the strength. Jesus said, "Without Me, you can do nothing." Grace builds on nature. But what had they themselves done to prepare them for their great moment? Jesus counseled His followers to deny themselves daily, take up their cross, and then follow Him.

St. Teresa of Avila is one of the great saints of the Church, a mystic and a doctor of the Church. She has written wonderful accounts of her life of prayer and the trials she underwent in pursuit of her reform of the Carmelites in Spain.

With all the great esteem in which she was generally held by her contemporaries, it is surprising, to say the least, how many sufferings she had to undergo in founding the convents of her reform. Frustration piled up on frustration - people made grandiose promises and then failed to keep them, bishops, men and women prominent at the royal court, priests, nuns, lay persons. Obstacles were placed in her way, some deliberate, some not. She suffered from the heat and the cold, from rain and snow, long journeys, many times over non-existent roads. Once at least the carriage in which she was riding overturned. She then complained to the Lord of the rough treatment she had received. He told her that He did that sometimes to His friends. Her retort was, "No wonder You have so few." Teresa did not die a martyr, but she would have been prepared.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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### 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. 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: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, or Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591.
  - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
  - h. The 11:30 A.M. SUNDAY 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 THREE 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Metuchen, N.J.

I am writing to thank Father Seelos for helping my son find a job. It has not been easy; he still has many debts to pay. I am praying that he will be able to finance his mortgage so that he will not lose his home. I feel certain that Father Seelos will continue to give him and his family the strength to get back on their feet. Please continue to pray for them and for my special intentions.

I'd also like to thank the volunteers at the Seelos Center for being so kind when I visited there, and I would like to share with friends some of the prayer cards and mementos that you so generously gave me at that time.

Pensacola, FL

Recently I heard about Father Francis Xavier Seelos from my sister-in-law. I had cataract surgery in January and the operation was successful. She showed me a recent bulletin in which a man had a very serious operation on his eyes. There was very little hope. His doctor believed it to be a miracle and attributed it to the fact that he was wearing a cloth memento with the picture of a man on it and he remembered that he placed the picture on the patient's shoulder and asked the man who was portrayed to help him through the operation.

New Orleans, LA

I am writing this letter in special thanksgiving. Last year I had problems with my stomach. The trouble was always blamed on my medication. Early this year I was put in the hospital. X-rays were taken; a surgeon suggested tests for diverticulitis. These were to be made the following morning. I was so medicated I really did not know half of what was going on. I did hear the surgeon say the test was not going to be made. He was worried about my appendix. He took me right to surgery and sure enough my appendix had ruptured.

I know that I prayed to Father Seelos with all my heart and I do think that at times I was praying out loud. I needed his help so much. Two weeks later I was discharged from the doctor. My prayers were answered and I came through with flying colors.

College Station, TX

In April I requested prayer prior to surgery to remove a mass in my breast that could have been malignant. The surgery is over, and I am pleased to report that the mass, though very large, was benign. I am sure that Father Seelos' prayers had something to do with this outcome. I am very grateful, and to you for your support and prayers.

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Mail, August, 1992

Petitions: 601      Thanksgivings: 239      Other: 375      Total: 1215

Dial-a-messages: 772

Volunteer Hours: 1081

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