



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1993



KING'S CASTLE, NEUSCHWANSTEIN

## THE BAVARIAN ALPS

Füssen, the birthplace of Father Seeelos, lies peacefully in the midst of the Bavarian Alps, a most picturesque part of the world. Not too far away is the town of Oberammergau, not to mention the lesser known town of Unterammergau. Twenty miles or so away we find the interesting city of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Closer still is the famous castle built by King Ludwig of Bavaria. This castle was a source of inspiration for Walt Disney.

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## PURITY

Those who are familiar with the Wall Street Journal would be surprised as I was, to read among its many pages naturally devoted to news of the financial world a column with the title, "God and the Ghetto." The writer, Glenn C. Loury, dared to enter into the national debate the idea that spiritual principles have to be acted upon to help solve the social and economic problems that afflict us as a nation today. He wrote, "One cannot imagine effectively teaching sexual abstinence, or the eschewal of violence, without an appeal to spiritual concepts."

While this idea may come as a surprise or even a shock to many, it is certainly nothing new to us who have been raised as followers of Jesus Christ. God created human creatures, male and female He made them, and joined

them in marriage to bring forth children to inhabit the earth and people the heavens. Jesus raised this natural contract to the dignity of a sacrament. He forbade divorce. He not only condemned the act of adultery but spoke of adultery in thought. He warned us of the danger of entering into the occasions of sin and asked us to be willing to enter the kingdom of heaven with one eye and one hand rather than to have our whole body cast into Gehenna.

St. Thomas Aquinas said virtue was always in the middle between two excesses, one on the right, the other on the left. The practice of the virtue demands restraint both on the married and the unmarried. Sex is a gift of God, given to us for the betterment of the race and the good of the individuals involved in matrimony with each other.

These are spiritual principles that move us to follow in the footsteps of our Savior. We should not be put off in any way by the fact that often our efforts to live the Christian life are to a great extent ignored by those who fancy themselves as movers and shakers in the world, sometimes we are ridiculed, sometimes we are laughed at.

Somehow and some day we must prevail. I am consoled by this story: a teacher in high school said loudly that the practice of abstinence from sex would never work; she received this reply: it works infallibly every time it is used.

As members of the Catholic Church we are called by our Founder not so much to succeed but to be the shining light on the mountain top. That light can never always be ignored.

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 - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
  - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
  - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - e. 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.
  - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
  - 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. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
  - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
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.

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## SPECIAL LETTERS

Dallas, TX

I am writing this letter in thanksgiving. My daughter for a long period of time has found it difficult to make up her mind in a choice of a partner in marriage. Over the years she has had the opportunity of meeting and associating with decent people. I, as her mother, became very concerned and worried. Then I prayed specially to Father Seelos to intercede with God for me in this matter. I definitely know that he was praying on my behalf because my daughter is to be married shortly to a wonderful caring person. I am really grateful to Father Seelos and hope and pray for his canonization.  
New Orleans, LA

1992 was a seriously trying time for my family and me. It started with the birth of my daughter in April, born with a serious heart defect. She was in intensive care for six weeks after her birth and multiple stays in the hospital during the course of the year. She was scheduled for open heart surgery on Dec. 14. I prayed to Father Seelos to provide comfort for my family and see my little girl through this difficult operation. Our prayers were answered and her operation was a success. After a miraculous recovery we were able to take her home the day after Christmas. I am forever grateful for the blessing given to us by Father Seelos. Take care of our children; they are truly gifts from God.  
Syosset, N.Y.

I would like to report what I believe to be nothing less than a miracle. This miracle was an answer from God through the intercession of Father Seelos. A year and a half ago I was diagnosed with cancer. I underwent many months of chemotherapy treatments and went into remission soon after. I returned to work after a year's absence and back to a healthy adult life once again. A few months later a MRI test was done. The doctor told me I had a mass in the chest area where much of my disease has been in the past. After the scan was read I was told I had a relapse and must undergo more chemo to be followed by a bone marrow transplant. My life was once again upside down and I felt fear more than anything else. A woman in my father's office gave me a booklet on Father Seelos, and highlighted the part in the booklet called THE GREAT HEALER. After reading through this book on Father Seelos I felt a sense of warmth and hope from him. I began to pray to God for a miracle and I asked Father Seelos to help me with his prayers.

I asked Father Seelos for a miracle, to heal me completely and take the pain of this ordeal away from my husband and family members. I prayed very hard to God and for Father Seelos' intercession. I promised no matter what I would help others get through rough periods of despair and help bring more faith to those who need it most.

Another MRI test was taken 25 days after the first and the results showed that the mass had gotten smaller and did not spread. The doctors ordered me to have a biopsy. After the surgery the doctor told us that it was a miracle and the mass was not a cancer but a gland that had become inflamed from prior chemo treatments. The condition is not life-threatening. I pray that Father Seelos be declared a saint. His power with God is very apparent.

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Mail, February, 1993

Petitions: 495      Thanksgivings: 227      Other: 495      Total: 1217

Dial-a-messages: 755

Volunteer Hours: 1017

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