



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

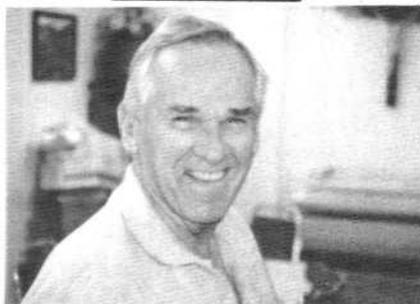
VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1994



(PHOTO: JOELL BOWAB)

On October 14 Mr. Lloyd Sevin, a tireless volunteer worker at the Father Seelos Center, died. The Center mourns with his family. We will miss him and his friendly smile. May his soul rest in peace.



LLOYD SEVIN

MAN OF FAITH

Father Francis Seelos was eminently a man of faith. It was evident in all his actions. He was baptized the day of his birth, January 11, 1819, in the parish church of Füssen, St. Mang's. As a child he sat under this pulpit and learned the truths of his Catholic faith that would carry him from the old world to the new, would lead him into the religious life and the priesthood, would bring him to New Orleans where he would depart this earth for the reward promised by Jesus to his faithful followers. He died on October 4, 1867, and is buried in St. Mary's Assumption Church in the Irish Channel of New Orleans.

FAITH

There are somethings about God that we can know through the power of our reason, as we learn in the Psalms: "The heavens declare of the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork" (Ps. 19/2). There are other things we could never know unless the good God told us. The letter to the Hebrews tells us: "In times past, God spoke in fragmentary ways to our fathers through the prophets; in this, the final age, He has spoken to us through His Son" (Hebrews, 1/1-2). What God has told us about Himself, the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Church, the Holy Eucharist, God's immense love for us, heaven, hell, eternity, judgment, demands of us a response, which we call faith.

Every Sunday at Mass we renew our profession of faith in the truths taught us by the Church. More important than the words we say with our lips is the liv-

ing of that faith in our daily actions. The just man lives by faith, says the Scripture.

As believers in the word of God proclaimed to us through His Son, Jesus, we should study the particulars of our faith, by listening to sermons and instructions, and by our reading. We should deepen our understanding of them, always remembering that here we are dealing with mysteries.

We have often been urged to make the principles of our faith the guide of our daily living. For example, if we truly believe that Jesus is the Son of God who died for love of us, we must make His commandment to love our neighbor as He has loved us the dominant principle in our relations with the people around us.

Finally, the faith that we profess, the faith that is operative in our daily lives should make us the image of Christ, not in the lineaments of His face, but in the spirit. St. Paul had this to say: "It is not ourselves we preach but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. . . . Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed. While we live we are constantly being delivered to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh" (2 Cor., 5/5-11).

Vatican Council II told us that the Church is the people of God and that the Church is the sacrament (the outward sign) of Christ. It devolves on us in our day so to live our faith that those around us who know not Christ will see Him operating in us.

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 - 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.

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Arcadia, CA

I just wanted to let you know that I have been praying fervently to Father Seelos. I was in the hospital for ten days. I had a hysterectomy which resulted in some serious complications concerning my stomach and particularly my bladder. My aunt called me in the hospital and told me about dear Father Seelos (I had never heard of him before). She mailed me his picture and prayer to the hospital. I began praying and praying to him. I was very sick. After ten days the doctors allowed me to go home but with a catheter. I never stopped praying to the good Father. Yesterday I went back to the doctor and he removed the catheter because he wanted to see if I could remain for a day without it and function normally. Throughout the day I prayed constantly to Father Seelos. Anyway.... I came home without it and am no longer wearing it now. I know from the depths of my heart and soul that it was Father Seelos. I will always be devoted to him for the rest of my life. I love him very much. If there is anything I can do to further his canonization let me know. I will help in any way I can.

Lockport, LA

I have prayed to Father Seelos for a long time now and all my prayers have been answered. I promised I would publish this favor granted. I had back surgery three years ago and my back has been healthy pretty much since. The other day I went boat riding and my back started bothering me. Evidently I twisted the wrong way or something. I started praying to Father Seelos for his intercession and my back started feeling better after three days. I thank Father Seelos and the good Lord for helping me get better because your back is your life, especially if I would ever have to quit my job over the situation. Thanks for everything.

New Orleans, LA

I had a lump on my neck for at least 25 years. I showed it to a doctor some years ago; he said he wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole. I just left it at that. One morning I looked in the mirror and the lump did not look good; it was turning red. In my bedroom I have fairly large picture of Father Seelos, so I looked at it and said show me you can take this off my neck. I didn't think about it any more. Then one morning I went to look to see if it was getting worse and it was gone. I really know it was Father Seelos' prayers that brought that about. So all my thanks to God and Father for his help.

Schriever, LA

I'd like to thank Father Seelos for his intercession in behalf of my mother, my niece and myself. There was a possibility that each of us would have to undergo surgery for certain medical conditions. Thanks to God and Father Seelos and the prayers of so many of my relatives and friends, surgery was not deemed necessary for each of our situations at present.

Dana, TX

Several months ago my daughter-in-law was very ill with a liver ailment and a liver transplant seemed in order. We began to pray to Father Seelos to intervene with the Lord for an improvement in her condition. After the second day she began to show improvement and is now holding her own.

Mail, September, 1993

Petitions: 623 Thanksgivings: 235 Other: 393 Total: 1251

Dial-a-messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1089

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)

is published monthly for \$3.00 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

01/94

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$3.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement 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.