



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1995

THE STORY OF A LIFE 1819 - 1867



We shall all be remembered on our tombstones by the date of our birth and the date of our death. Most of us are content with the brief mention that once we lived upon the earth. There are privileged others, such as Francis Xavier Seelos, whose memories are destined by God to continue long after their earthly existence. The picture above on the left gives us an idea of Füssen, Bavaria about the time that Seelos was born.

On the right is a view of the large crowd that attended the 127th annual memorial Mass of his death. The purpose of the Father Seelos Center and this bulletin, *Father Seelos and Sanctity*, is to keep alive this memory and to promote the cause of canonization of the Servant of God.



TO LOVE GOD

Moses was taking care of his father-in-law's flocks when he spied a bush that was burning and at the same time was not being consumed. As he neared this phenomenon, he heard the voice of God calling him. This was the beginning of an intense relationship with God that would endure to the end of his days. God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage and to preserve belief in the one true God — no easy task. Moses would learn how fickle his people could be. Coming down from Mount Sinai where he had received the ten commandments from God, Moses could hear the revelry of the Israelites as they adored the molten calf shaped with their own hands.

At that moment, Moses would have agreed with the thought of the Russian writer, Dostoyevsky, who said, *"It is impossible to be human and not bow down; if God is rejected, before an idol we bow."* He had to be thrilled, then, to pass on to his people the revelation of the great commandment: to love God. *"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these*

(Continued on next page)

words which I enjoy on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them on your wrist as a sign, and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates" (Dt. 6/4-9).

St. Paul, as we know, was once a convinced Pharisee and most zealous for the observance of the law; he even persecuted the first Christians. By the grace of God he was brought to his knees and Jesus, the Son of God made man, revealed Himself to Paul and so won him over to His cause that he could pen these lines to the Romans: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? As Scripture says: 'For your sake we are being slain all the day long; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.'* Yet in all of these we are more than conquerors because of Him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future, nor powers, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ, our Lord" (Rom. 8/35-40).

In our efforts to keep the great commandment, the story of St. Peter should give us all consolation. The great St. Peter faltered in his commitment to the Lord when he denied his Master three times on the night before He died. They say that one look from Jesus brought tears of sorrow to his eyes and he wept so much that lines formed in his cheeks. Shortly before Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him, and Peter each time said, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love You." (John, 21/15-17).

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 _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Baltimore, MD

I deeply appreciate receiving the Father Seelos Bulletin. We in Baltimore are also praying for his canonization. Along with Mother Seton and St. John Neumann, we believe Father Seelos to be one of the saints that have walked our streets.

Houma, LA

This letter is long overdue. We are grateful to Father Seelos for favors granted especially those bestowed on one of our grandsons, Jordan. At the age of nine months Jordan underwent heart surgery to open a valve, and with prayers he was able to avoid surgery until age seven, June, 1993, when he had to have a mechanical valve. A day or two after this surgery we were told that he would need a pacemaker. We stormed heaven with prayers to Father Seelos — Jordan improved and the pacemaker was not needed.

In November, 1993, Jordan was rushed to the hospital following a stroke. The only news that was given to us was bad news: paralysis on his right side. I finally phoned a very lovely and gracious lady on a Sunday night, and the next morning Jordan was blessed with the cross and memento of Father Seelos. Jordan's pastor went in to New Orleans to administer the sacrament of the sick. After three weeks in the hospital following the blessing and the anointing, we got our first encouraging news — no paralysis!

In March of 1994, Jordan's doctors again had bad news for us — Jordan would need a new valve as a bad leakage was detected. We kept praying to Father Seelos.

May, 1994 — good news! The leak was still there but not as bad as it had been. A visit to the doctor was scheduled for July. July brought us good news — the leak was very minor. We are praying daily to Father Seelos that Jordan will continue to do well. We thank the gracious lady who brought him the cross and prayed with him. We thank Father Seelos for his prayers to God.

New Orleans, LA

A friend in her early thirties has had malignant cancer for over a year. It was an inoperable cancer close to the heart — lung cancer. She has had chemotherapy and radium treatments and shots for many months in the hospital. I have prayed to Father Seelos and begged others for their prayers. Her cancer has been cleared now for four months. She is back at work and raising her two nice sons. I feel as though Father Seelos' prayers have brought this to pass. We came to the 11:30 Mass with her family, we kissed the crucifix of Father Seelos and knelt at this tomb.

Slidell, LA

I pray to Father Seelos every day and he has always helped me through many a trying time. I asked him to help my son find a job and my prayers were answered. Thank you for sending the bulletin each month. I extremely enjoy it and wait for it with excitement. Thanks again for being there to help Father Seelos become a saint.

Mail, November, 1994

Petitions: 587

Thanksgivings: 246

Others: 564

Total: 1397

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