



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1995

“OUR BEAUTIFUL LITTLE MIRACLE”

A proud and loving grandmother sent us this picture of her granddaughter. This is Hilary Frances Freeman, who was five years old this past January 15. She will be entering kindergarten come September. Her grandmother reminds us that “she was a preemie — very ill, had surgery on her eyes, before she came home”. Needless to say, the family is grateful to all the prayers that were offered for her life.



OBEDIENCE AND AUTHORITY

Obedience is not the most popular of virtues because it means, no doubt, doing the will of another, and that, on a scale of one to ten, is pretty low on the pole of our desires. Yet, it is shocking to realize just how much we do each day that is not exactly our own will. We may dream once in a while of a world in which we do only what we want to do. Then reality has to take over our dream as we realize what shambles this world would be, if only, for instance we all drove our cars at our own speed. We soon would hear the cry, “*There ought to be a law.*” We all agree, reluctantly perhaps, that authority is necessary for the wellbeing of humanity.

Let us go back to the innocence of the garden of Eden, where it all began. “*God created man in His image; in the divine image he created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying: ‘Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth’*” (Genesis, 1: 27-28). When God settled Adam in Eden, He gave him this order: “*You are free*

(Continued on next page)

to eat of any of the trees in the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die" (Genesis, 2: 16-17).

This was the first obedience given by the Creator to the created. The Lord God would continue to guide His chosen ones through the pitfalls of life, Noah, to escape the flood, Abraham, to be the father of His chosen people, Moses, to be the leader of these same people in their flight from Egypt to the Promised Land. It was when they wandered in the desert that God gave to Moses the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone.

To some extent everyone, or almost everyone, at one time or another, will have some sort of authority: parents over their children, teachers over their pupils, parish priests over their congregations, bishops over their dioceses, office-holders, legislators, and the list goes on. It is of paramount importance that all who have authority remember the source of that power.

When He stood before Pilate on that first Good Friday many, many years ago, Pilate asked Jesus, "Where do You come from?" Jesus did not give him any answer, writes St. John 19: 9. "Do You refuse to speak to me?", Pilate retorted. "Do You not know I have the power to release You and the power to crucify You?" Jesus' answer was clear and to the point, "You would have no power over Me whatever, unless it were given you from above. That is why he who handed Me over to you is guilty of the greater sin" (John, 19: 10-11).



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.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Fajardo, P.R.

I do want to let you know that when I lived in New Orleans, I did volunteer work at the Father Seelos Center but just for a week and at night. During the day I worked at the Robinson Lumber Co. on Camp Street and Gravier. Before my husband had our house built in Metairie, we rented an apartment on Prytania St., close to St. Mary's and St. Alphonsus. We attended Mass at St. Mary's. Sometimes on Saturdays I used to go and pray at Father Seelos' tomb. When my sister was being treated at Ochsner, she also came to pray. One of these Saturdays, as I left the church, I met Father Grangell. I still remember his kind smile.

As you see, I have known about the Seelos cause for many years. I have wanted to spread devotion to Father Seelos but the people here want things in Spanish. Is there any literature published in this language?

Eagle Pass, TX

I want to tell you about a cure. I was very sick with a stomach ulcer and suffered much for many years. A neighbor did not see me leave the house for many days and called me on the telephone to see if she could help. She sent me a prayer to Father Seelos. I prayed for good health and thanks to his intercession with the good God above, I was healed. Thanks be to God and His saints.

Baton Rouge, LA

I have never written to the Church about a saint. I am not Catholic but love the Church. I have a favor to report that was granted through prayers to Father Seelos. On Nov. 21, I was in a car wreck. My car was undriveable and I had no collision insurance. The accident was my fault. I had no \$ in the bank for a down payment, no trade-in, and no assets or savings of any kind, and I had to file for bankruptcy, ch. 13. I have a good income (\$33,000 per year). Most of my monthly income goes to pay ch. 13. I had \$60 in a bank account. I went to car places but was treated poorly. According to them, my only chance was to pay \$300 a month for a 1987 car at 29% interest! I drive two hours and forty minutes to commute to work and need something dependable with low maintenance. Anyway, I felt I should go to a regular dealership. To my shock a dealer gave me more than a fair price for a brand new car, no down payment or trade-in (except tax, title, license and \$500). Also a very affordable monthly payment. Truly God has done this. Thanks to Francis X. Seelos' intercession.

Mail: March, 1995

Petitions: 677

Thanksgivings: 311

Others: 421

Total: 1409

Dial-A-Messages: 764

Volunteer Hours: 1028

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

7/95

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 525-3734. Subscription is \$3.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII, all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approval.

Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R. Vice-Postulator, Rev. Joseph Eworthy, C.S.S.R. Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.