



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1996

## ST. THERESA OF AVILA

Avila is an ancient town in the mountains west of Madrid, much of it still walled as in medieval times and when St. Theresa was born and lived there. Her statue welcomes visitors to the place that she has made famous. Theresa became a Carmelite nun and with St. John of the Cross was instrumental in the reform of the Carmelite order. She was a true contemplative and wrote much on the subject of prayer. St. Alphonsus was very devoted to her and made her one of the heavenly patrons of the institute he founded. St. Theresa and St. Catherine of Siena have been named doctors of the Church.



## WE PRAY TO THE SAINTS

In a storied neighborhood of New Orleans called the Irish Channel stands the venerable church of St. Mary's Assumption. It is now the parish church of St. Alphonsus parish. St. Mary's, built in 1860, is full of wood-carved statues, which, along with the prize-winning high altar, came from Munich, Bavaria. Father William Grangell, who was born and raised in the parish and for 20 years was the promoter of the cause of Father Seelos for sainthood, used to say that St. Mary's church reminded him of heaven because there were so many saints there. Another Redemptorist called the church the "Hall of Fame" of the Catholic Church.

The saints indeed occupy an important part of the Church. They are the Church Triumphant. They are our models, our heroes. In the first preface of the Mass for holy men and women, the Church prays to the Father:

"In their lives on earth, You give us an example.

In our communion with them, You give us their friendship.

In their prayers for the Church, You give us strength and protection."

The saints led holy lives and thus set for us an example. It is an old saying, credited rightly or wrongly to St. Augustine, "The saints could do it, why cannot we?" We recall with obvious familiarity anecdotes from the lives of our favorite holy people. From the Gospels we easily remember stories of the apostle Peter, and St. Paul, and Mary Magdalen and her sister, Martha. Today we remember stories about the Little Flower, St. Therese, Maria Goretti, Mother Cabrini, Mother Seton, Bishop Neumann, the Jesuit martyrs of North America. These holy people and many others have touched our lives. Some were cradle saints, as it were; others had to turn their lives around before they started on the road to heaven, such as Mary Magdalene, Augustine, even St. Peter. We admire all of them for the valiant efforts they made to love God. Their example becomes a part of our arsenal against the enemies of our souls.

*(Continued on next page)*

It is always a consoling thought to realize that the saints, now in glory, went through the same kind of life as we do, life with its joys and sorrows, its triumphs and defeats, with its bright hopes and shattered dreams, with its trials and temptations, and with God's grace, they won. And so can we.

I believe it was the Little Flower who said that she would spend her heaven doing good on earth. The saints pray for us. They remember well what it is to live on earth and they are only too eager to see us through the difficult moments of life. Their one desire is to see us with them in heaven before the throne of God.

In the beautiful church dedicated to the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven lie the earthly remains of the Servant of God, Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. People come literally from all parts of the world and our own country to beg his intercession with God. Many are the stories told here and elsewhere of his successful communication with the powers of heaven.

We pray to the saints because they are God's friends and ours, too. We pray for others in the general intercessions at Mass. When we go to church our relatives and friends ask us to pray for them. If we are considered good enough to offer prayers, certainly the saints who are much, much closer to God can be asked to offer their prayers with us and for us.

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, Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, or Mrs. Teresa LaCour, 887-0214.
  - 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 FOUR 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

Saint Louis, MO

Many years ago, when I first learned of Father Seelos' special intercession for the sick, I began to pray to him to intercede with the Lord to bless my family with freedom from a terrible affliction called myotonic muscular dystrophy that was inherited by all the males in my husband's family. For 13 years, ever since my husband was diagnosed with it, we have all been afraid that it was inherited by our son, our only child. Recently a DNA-based test was developed for diagnosis of the disease, and we had our 18-year-old son tested. Thanks to the bountiful goodness of God, with the prayers of many people and the intercession of Father Seelos, our son does not have the faulty gene. All of our descendants will be free of it, too; no one can inherit it again in my family. My son will always know that he will not experience the weakness and disability that he has seen in other members of the family and he can become the father of children without fear of giving this disease to them. This is the greatest gift I could have for my family's well-being and my child's future...I vowed in thanksgiving...to make a pilgrimage to St. Mary's Church and to spread the message of Father Seelos and work for his canonization.

Eunice, LA

Recently during a trip to New Orleans to visit my brother, who had just undergone a triple bypass, we stumbled on the Father Seelos Center. We prayed to Father Seelos for my brother to regain his health and strength, and to give him a second chance at life. We also asked for other favors. My brother has recuperated with flying colors and is doing well. Thanks to the kind gentleman who gave us a tour of the church, the museum, and the Center. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Freeburg, IL

Our daughter was operated on for an ovarian cystic tumor (23 cm. or 8.8 in. across) and we were happy to hear it was benign — unusual for so large a tumor and for someone that age (48). Our prayers were answered. We stormed heaven and were rewarded. She wore the Father Seelos memento on her gown at all times.

I am always spreading the word and giving out prayer cards and mementos to our friends.

Jefferson, LA

Recently I was thinking of giving up my occupation as a fisherman and shrimper, due mainly to the lack of live seafood being caught each night on my trips to the available areas. After talking over the situation with my mother, she placed a card in my hand and told me to place it on the boat that night when I went shrimping, and to ask Father Seelos to steer me to a decent area. When I asked, "Who is this guy, anyway?", she explained briefly and told me simply to have faith. I placed the card on my visor and figured Father Seelos and I were off to a running start.

During the night I came upon a large school of shrimp and worked many hours with them. I found most of the boats around mine had picked up small shrimp in small amounts. I found that strange, but it happened several nights again, and I feel certain that it was the prayers to good Father Seelos guiding me each night. So far, I have had a fantastic run of luck...My mother calls Father Seelos her little "Dutch uncle" and has given out more information on him than one can imagine. All I know is I am very thankful to him for his assistance and guidance during a hard period of my life.

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Mail: July, 1996

Petitions: 683

Thanksgivings: 251

Others: 432

Total: 1365

Dial-A-Messages: 735

Volunteer Hours: 1049

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