



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1996

FATHER SEELOS DAY APRIL 28



*Father
Albert
Babin,
C.S.S.R.*



*Mr.
Jack
Pitkin*

"The Father Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be observed on Sunday, April 28. A Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church (*on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans*) at 11:30 A.M. Father Albert Babin, C.S.S.R., will be the main celebrant and homilist at the Mass.

The Mass will be followed by a dinner at the Jefferson-Orleans South, 2536 Edenborn Avenue, Metairie at 1:30 P.M. Mr. Jack Pitkin will be the featured speaker at the dinner.

Father Babin is a parish missionary stationed in Biloxi, MS; he was formerly the regional superior of the Redemptorists of the mid-south and pastor of St. Alphonsus parish in New Orleans. Mr. Pitkin is the president of the parish council of St. Alphonsus parish and a minister to the sick.

Tickets for the dinner are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street. The telephone number is (504) 525-2495. The price of a ticket is \$20.00.

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

Jesus summed up the whole law in two words, love God and love your neighbor. He spelled out the first commandment, love God with your whole heart and mind and strength, and then He said the second commandment is like the first, love your neighbor (Matthew 22: 37,38). In commanding love for neighbor, Jesus gave us two challenges, love your neighbor as yourself (cf. Matthew above), and love your neighbor as He has loved you (John 15:12). Since His love for us was universal and all-embracing, there is no end to the love we should shower on our neighbor.

Love is indeed a demanding virtue. The opportunities to practise it are endless; literally, it is a 24-hour a day job. No other virtue is so constant and unyielding in its demands on us. Only rarely will it happen that we are completely isolated from other people for any length of time. We are in daily contact with at least the members of our family and people in our usual surroundings. We cannot escape contact with others.

(Continued on next page)

Where two or more people gather together, there is bound to be a difference of opinion, a difference of tastes. There are so many things that do divide us: gender, race, color, religion, nationality, wealth, position, politics, family background, and the list goes on. If it is true that these things divide us, isn't it also true that these same things can unite us?

St. Paul has written beautifully of the love for neighbor, describing it as the underpinning of all the other virtues in I Corinthians 13: 4-8: *"Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure."*

In his first letter St. John wrote, *"If anyone says, 'My love is fixed on God', yet hates his brother, he is a liar"* (I John 4: 20). St. Paul is eloquent in much the same vein: *"If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing"* (I Cor. 13: 1-4).

Just lately Pope John Paul II has written an encyclical, *"That All May Be one."* The title is taken from Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper. He is calling all to be one in faith. Let us also be one in love - for God and for one another. Jesus prayed, *"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You"* (John 17: 20,21).

Jesus' heart went out to the sick, the poor, the sinner. And He died for all of 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 SANCITY 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.

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Celestine, LA

Six months ago I asked for prayers to be said at Father Seelos' tomb that I would be able to go to Germany on a trip for which I had already paid. I had bone cancer and was having additional pain and I was afraid that I would lose my money if I couldn't go. It would be my only opportunity ever. I was able to go after all. My radiation treatments ended on Friday and we left on Sunday. The trip was most successful and I am most grateful.

In July my left hip cracked and I had to have the ball replaced. A biopsy was done and it showed no cancer even though a previous MRI showed cancer in both. Since June I have had no pain in my right hip. I pray that this right hip will be entirely cured. Gratefully I pray for Father Seelos' canonization.

Indianapolis, IN

The battle with my personal evil and illness is not by any means over but a very strong ally in my struggle has been (and probably/hopefully still is) Father Seelos.

At a time when I was terrified by God and desperate for forgiveness and healing, I prayed to Father Seelos for help. I was directed to a brilliant and charismatic confessor transplanted from New Orleans to Houston where this incident occurred and I was brought to the Church after a ten year lapse.

I have persevered in the Church and under its discipline for about seven years now, have served as a member of my parish council and have been asked to sponsor RCIA candidates (one, actually).

The long and short of it is, that I feel I am on the right road to healing and I owe whatever success to the intercession of Father Seelos and the saints of our Church.

Keep me in your prayers and forward my recommendation that Father Seelos be canonized. I'm sorry that I can't do and say more.

Plano, TX

I am writing this letter to acknowledge gratefully the intercession of Father Seelos on my father's behalf. Last year at this time my father was a very sick man. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer, a benign tumor in the bladder, and severe diabetes. He went through surgery and the prostate cancer was completely removed. Through every phase of medical tests and treatment, I prayed fervently that Father Seelos would intercede and answer our family's prayers for Dad to once again regain his health. Our whole family feels that Father Seelos' intercession played a great part in Dad's recovery. Gratefully we all hope that he will soon be declared a saint.

Edmond, OK

I had two black spots on my spine and two on my hip bone. The doctor advised a bone scan for another problem. I was so worried as were my son and my sister. I took the test Friday and there was no malignancy. Before the appointment we all said the Rosary and the prayer for the intercession of Father Seelos after each decade. The first thing the doctor said, there was no cancer.

Kenner, LA

A few months ago I was told I had an enlarged pancreatic duct. An ultra-sound and blood work was ordered to determine the problem. I prayed to Father Seelos and promised a letter of thanksgiving. The tests were negative, thank God. We met Father Seelos in November, 1966. His prayers have helped us many times.

Mail: December, 1995

Petitions: 701

Thanksgivings: 328

Others: 372

Total: 1401

Dial-A-Messages: 735

Volunteer Hours: 1080

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