



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1996

## BLESSING OF ALPINE SHRINE



Father Monroe Perrier, regional superior of the Redemptorists, blessed the wayside Alpine shrine in the garden of St. Mary's on April 28. The shrine marks the site of the first Redemptorist rectory in New Orleans. Father Seelos died in this rectory on October 4, 1867.



## FATHER JOSEPH BUHLER, R.I.P.

Father Buhler entered into eternal life on April 8 of this year. He was the vice-postulator of the cause of canonization of Father Seelos since 1979. A third of his life as a priest was spent in foreign lands. He was treasurer, archivist, and secretary of the Redemptorist vice-province in New Orleans for many years. He was a member of the mission team in Brazil and gave missions throughout that vast land. His accomplishments were many and we beg your prayers for his eternal rest.

## THE PRIDE OF LIFE

A hot topic of conversation these days is the one of "assisted suicide." It is strange that this subject has been brought into prominence by the efforts of a physician in Michigan. All these centuries we thought physicians were sworn to the healing arts. Has death become a healing? I heard a young man ask this question, "I have the right to procreate, why can I not have the right to end my life when it becomes no longer bearable?"

There is a definite swing in the thinking of people throughout the U.S., surprisingly in favor of assisted suicide. One might hazard a guess that it is because we have lowered our esteem for human life by legalizing the taking of innocent human life at its very beginning.

A well-known journalist sneered at the efforts of the Catholic bishops of the U.S. to register their opposition to assisted suicide. He said that the bishops' thinking is out of touch with current thought. Implied in that remark is that morality is now open to the democratic process. Another corollary to that remark is that we Catholics have to become counter-cultural, a sign of contradiction. We shall see who the ultimate victor will be.

(Continued on next page)

Those of us who were born in the early years of this century can readily attest to the almost unbelievable technological progress mankind has made just in our own time. We are ready to expect almost anything in the field of technology. We can do anything, we've been on the moon, haven't we? That feeling of accomplishment is in the air. We're proud.

As we look to the material accomplishments that human intelligence has produced just in our own time, we must in truth hang our collective heads in shame as we view the depths we have descended to in our moral lives. Our moral infrastructure has crumbled. There is so much dissatisfaction in our country. Crime is on the increase, drugs are eroding the moral fiber of our people, sexual immorality has sapped the foundations of family life. Our very selves have gotten in the way of our better intentions, and we have become a contentious, litigious society ready to war with anyone who crosses our path.

These conditions are not unfamiliar to the human family. One can trace them back to the garden of Eden. Our first parents were given but one command, not to eat of the forbidden fruit. The serpent deceived them by coaxing them into thinking they would be as gods, knowing good and evil. They bit on the temptation as well as the forbidden fruit, and the human race was cast into a darkness that only the coming of Jesus Christ and His grace could lighten and bring hope and redemption. All that we have comes to us from our Creator. All that we accomplish is due to the creative hand of God. We came into this life without our knowing or willing it; we leave it with His call. Only not knowing whence we come and to whom we will return will lead us to thinking that we have the authority to take our own life. Jesus, dying on the cross, uttered this prayer which can be ours: *"Father, into Your hands, I commend My Spirit."*



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 \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Grosse Tete, LA

I enjoy the bulletin, "Father Seelos and Sanctity" bulletin, very much. I pray daily to Father Seelos for our trials and for his canonization. He has helped me in so many ways.

Waveland, LA

We want to help the Center continue Father Seelos' journey to sainthood. We hope to do this monthly.

My wife is a recovering lung cancer patient who was given 60-90 days to live when diagnosed on June 12, 1991. Thanks to God, our Lady (green scapular), Father Seelos (memento), an untold number of prayers, holy water from Lourdes and Medugorje, and continued prayers, she is and has been in remission since completing her treatments (radiology and chemotherapy). After four years (November, 1995) following her last treatment, her specialists pronounced her cured. Aside from a loss of some lower extremity motion due to spinal cord damage from the huge tumor on the lung which also invaded the spine and destroyed some bone, she has been truly blessed.

During this same period, I suffered several heart attacks followed by three angiograms, two angioplasty procedures (91 & 94) and a triple by-pass in April, 1994.

We were never without our Father Seelos memento and our green scapulars. Even now they are a standard part of our dress and for "insurance" one each in purse and wallet.

Both of us consider ourselves, through the grace of God, walking miracles. We sincerely believe that our survival would not have been possible were it not for the many prayers offered for the intercession of our Lady and Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

In January, 1996, my grandson, who lives in Virginia, was diagnosed with pressure on one side of his brain. The doctor recommended a neurosurgeon. We began to pray to Father Seelos. On his visit with the neurosurgeon a week later my daughter was told that the baby was fine and nothing was wrong.

In early February, 1996, my son-in-law, the father of the baby, was diagnosed with a tumor of a muscle. He was told that an operation was to be performed the following week. I sent the prayer card and memento of Father Seelos to my daughter, asking her to pin one relic on the bed of the baby and one on my son-in-law. When the doctor operated, he found nothing but a soft mass, benign. He found the exact opposite of what all the tests indicated. My daughter was told that in matters such as this, it almost always is cancerous. No cancer has been found. We thank Father Seelos for his intercession. My husband, my mother and I want to thank Father Seelos for his prayers.

New Orleans, LA

Yes, I wish to continue to receive the Father Seelos Bulletin. In 1964, I visited the center to pray to Father Seelos for the success of the medical problem that my wife was having done in the hospital at that very moment. My prayers were answered. My wife was able to conceive and in 1965 our daughter was born. We named her Terri Frances. Terri was taken from my wife's name, Theresa (after the Little Flower), and, of course, Frances, was taken from Father Francis X. Seelos...

---

Mail: April, 1996

Petitions: 581

Thanksgivings: 206

Others: 435

Total: 1222

Dial-A-Messages: 753

Volunteer Hours: 1087

**FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)**

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by

The Father Seeelos 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

8/96

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seeelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 523-3734. Subscription is \$4.00 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 Approbation.

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