



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1998



## FATHER SEELOS DAY: APRIL 26

The annual "Father Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be observed on the last Sunday of the month of April, April 26. A Mass in his memory 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 Gerard LaPorte, C.S.S.R., will be the principal celebrant and homilist

at the Mass. The noted St. Patrick's choir will provide the music.

After the Mass there will be a dinner at the Jefferson-Orleans North, 2600 Edenborn Avenue, Metairie, La., at 1:30 P.M. Father Francis Gautreaux, C.S.S.R., will be the main speaker at the dinner.

Father LaPorte is the pastor of St. Alphonsus parish. His parents live in the parish.

Mr. Joe Hoppe is the director of the St. Patrick's choir.

Father Gautreaux has been a missionary in Thailand for over 40 years, and like Father LaPorte, was raised in St. Alphonsus parish.

Tickets for the dinner are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La., 70130, telephone (504) 525-2495. The price is \$20.00 per person.



## TO FORGIVE IS DIVINE

To love God with our whole being is not an easy commandment to obey because of the almost insurmountable distance between the divine and the human. On the other hand, love for the neighbor is all too difficult because of the proximity and equality which human beings enjoy and the familiarity which too easily breeds contempt.

Yet love for God and love for our neighbor are so intertwined that the proof of our love for God is the love we have for our neighbor. St. John writes very bluntly: "If anyone says: 'My love is fixed on God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. One who has no love for the brother he has seen cannot love the God he has not seen." (1 John 4:20).

Countless times we have been reminded of our obligation to love our neighbor, to wish him well, to respect him and his property, too. In our relations with our neighbor the golden rule is to do to him what you would want him to do to you. Jesus commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Love for neighbor becomes an occupation that is with us all our waking day. No other virtue is so extensive and so demanding. Faults against this virtue are

*(Continued on next page)*

numerous, in thought, word and deed. Unkind thoughts can lead to unkind actions. Words can cut and wound. Anger can lead to crimes of passion, even murder. Spats, quarrels, heated discussions, jealousy, envy, backbiting, slander, detraction, insults, defamatory lies, plain hatred — are just a partial list of offences against the neighbor.

Besides asking us to love the neighbor as we love ourselves, Jesus gave us the command to love the neighbor as He Himself loved us. His measure of love for us is heroic indeed! He loved us to death — on the cross. Now that is a challenge! St. Paul himself became a martyr for the faith; he did say that one might die for a very dear friend, but it would not be easy (Romans 5:6). But our Savior gave His life for us even when we were not His close friends. To be called to give our life for someone will be a very rare event in our lives. But Jesus does ask us to forgive those who offend us and leave us smarting and sometimes seething.

On the cross Jesus's first words were for those who were the least interested in His welfare, His executioners. He prayed, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do" (Luke 23:24). Wasn't that a prayer for all those who were involved in His crucifixion? Herod, Pilate, Annas, Caiaphaz, the soldiers who scourged Him and then crowned Him with thorns, Peter who denied Him and even Judas who betrayed Him?

Jesus died for all of us, even those who had become His enemies by sin. He came unto His own and His own did not receive Him. The Lord forces no one to love Him and to do His will. He offers us His grace, but it is up to us to make the proper use of it.

Jesus taught us to pray, "Father, ... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." We are asking God to forgive us our sins in the same measure we forgive those who sin against us. We must forego our revenge, soothe our hurt feelings, stifle the just retort. If the Father forgives us and forgets, can we do no less?

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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423, Jim Howard, 277-7949 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
  - 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Clint, TX

I have been praying to Father Seelos for a year and a half. My mother-in-law introduced him to me at a time when I was very ill. Since that time my health has greatly improved, much to the amazement of my doctor. Every day I am aware of the marvelous power of prayer.

Chicago, IL

I am writing to acknowledge that a favor I prayed for has been granted. Please know that I don't pray only when I am in need or in trouble. However, this favor was for my daughter and the favor was granted one day shy of one month. We had been praying for several months, but the deadline was at this point, one month. Thank you so much, I don't know what I would do without faith in my daily prayers.

Marysville, CA

This is my retirement place, finally. Because of moving I did not get to read the November bulletin until today. Some time ago my daughter handed me the mail in the car. I forgot where I put it and feared I had lost it. This morning as I opened my Missal to accompany the Mass, did not one of the mementos of Father Seelos fall out. I knew it had some meaning so I prayed about it a couple of times. On the way out to Mass I decided that maybe I would meet people open to receiving his bulletin, etc., so I got the material and opened a zipped compartment in my pocketbook to store them. There to my delight was the November bulletin. After Mass while having breakfast I read it and found another reason why he might have wanted me to read it today. The article on "We Pray to the Saints" mentioned Mother Cabrini and today is her feast day. I write about her this morning.

Harahan, LA

After praying very hard to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our Blessed Mother Mary and Father Seelos, my daughter delivered a beautiful baby boy by C-section, one month early, after a very stressful pregnancy.

Because of a small amount of amniotic fluid she had to be monitored every day and have an ultrasound every week. Finally, this week when the fluid level went down more, the doctor decided to operate and we had a successful outcome — a five pounds, eight ounces baby boy.

We also had another sort of miracle. I prayed for my granddaughter who had a skin condition. I prayed that it would go into remission and lo and behold a new medicine appeared on the market and her skin has cleared up almost. I believe I received an answer to my prayers, thanks be to God.

Baton Rouge, LA

Like my mother I have had and do have a great devotion and love for Father Seelos. He has obtained many favors and answered my prayers and this for 28 years.

My daughter had an unexpected major surgery. She has many problems and I was very worried. I bombarded heaven with novenas to the Sacred Heart, the Holy Spirit, St. Jude and my old friend, Father Seelos. The surgery was successful and the results good. We were so thankful.

On the day she reported back to work she and three others were terminated. It took several weeks before she found a job that she is very happy with. Father Seelos never let me down, and I appreciate his help more than ever. I continue to pray daily for his canonization. More than ever I hope to continue to spread devotion to him.

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Mail: December, 1997

Petitions: 709

Thanksgivings: 352

Others: 272

Total: 1333

Dial-A-Messages: 778

Volunteer Hours: 1061

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