



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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JANUARY, 1977

FATHER SEELOS and BLESSED JOHN NEUMANN

The approaching canonization of Blessed John Neumann, C.S.S.R., brings to mind again the years that he and Father Seelos spent together at St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh. Father Neumann was the pastor in 1845 when Seelos arrived there. Together with a Father Joseph Mueller they were called by Bishop O'Connor "the three saints of St. Philomena's." Besides St. Philomena's in what was then known as Bayardstown, the three zealous priests also took care of German immigrants in Sharpsburg,

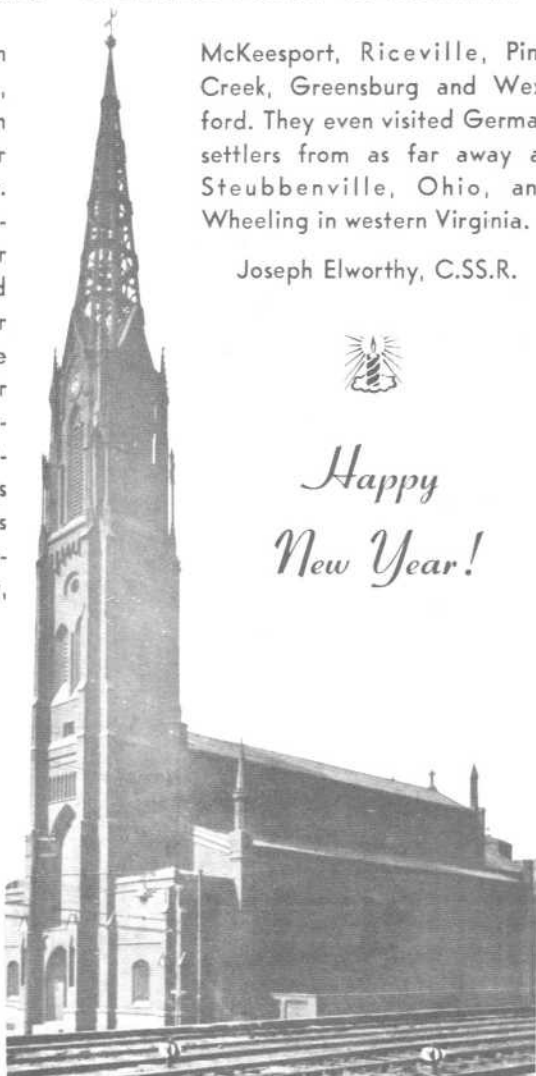
McKeesport, Riceville, Pine Creek, Greensburg and Wexford. They even visited German settlers from as far away as Steubenville, Ohio, and Wheeling in western Virginia.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



*Happy
New Year!*

Old St. Philomena's
around the 1890's.



WHO AM I?

by Father Grangell, C.S.S.R.

Virtue for January: Faith

Patrons: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Text: I am the light of the world (St. John 8/12)

Father Seelos used to say: to know who we are, how great we really are, we must go back to the day of our Baptism and see what happened on that day. Let us go back for a few minutes and see what happened.

1) First of all, we are not Catholics accidentally, because we were born of Catholic parents, or because as adults, we took instructions in the Catholic Faith, then embraced it. No. We became Catholics because we ASKED for the FAITH — infants through their sponsors; adults, personally. The priest began the ceremony asking us why we were at the font, what we asked of the church of God! 2) When we answered we wanted the Catholic Faith, membership in the True Church instituted by Christ, with all the means in it to get to heaven, he assured us that if we wished to be saved, we must keep the ten commandments. 3) Our bodies were anointed, we became temples of the Holy Spirit. How we should respect our bodies! 5) The waters of Baptism were poured on our brow, original sin was washed away from our soul, we received Sanctifying Grace, we became partakers of the Divine Nature, we became the children of God, heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven! What wonderful people we are! 6) At the end of the ceremony, the priest sent us away: Go in peace, the Lord be with you. 7) We are now members of the Communion of Saints, we belong to the Church Militant, we must fight through the years of life to get to heaven. Our enemy is the devil, whom we renounced on our baptismal day. He is determined to win our souls for his kingdom of hell. His greatest weapon is to weaken, destroy our Faith, the foundation of our holiness.

Now, today, the big question is: Who is winning my soul? Where do I stand? We meet people, we live with them, teenagers among them, who say they are confused about religion, they doubt everything, they gave up Sunday Mass and Holy Communion, they disagree with the Church and the Pope on matters of sex, they never pray. Definitely they have lost their faith, the devil has won their souls in the battle of salvation. God has lost! Forlorn, godless people! Do you think they are happy? Pray for them and ask Father Seelos and the Blessed Mother to pray for them. CHECK YOUR FAITH!

DO YOU PRAY MUCH? DO YOU GO TO SUNDAY MASS FAITHFULLY? HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO HOLY COMMUNION? DO YOU SAY THE ROSARY? DO YOU GIVE GOOD EXAMPLE AS A CATHOLIC?

SPECIAL LETTERS

Townson, Md.

"In July 1966 my brother's plane was shot down in Hanoi. For almost four years we did not know whether he was alive, but when the POW's returned home in 1973 he was among them. This was an answer to prayer through Father Seelos. Another Brother was operated on for cancer of the pancreas and given only six months to live. Again we pleaded with Father Seelos for his recovery. The diagnosis was changed to Lymphoma several years later, and though he has had many recurrences, he is enjoying good health today. Thanks for the innumerable favors received through Father Seelos' intercession."

R. M. S.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to fulfill a promise of publication. My niece, a mother of four, became very ill with a viral infection which caused her to have violent headaches and high fever. The doctor performed a tap of the spinal fluid. With bed rest and medication she was restored to her former health. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

R. S. A.

Theodore, Ala.

"My nephew is a kidney patient and has been using a kidney machine at home, but it was giving him trouble. He had to be brought to a hospital in New Orleans to be treated. He has since been able to return home and the machine is now in working order. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

V. A. B.

Metairie, La.

"My daughter recently had an exploratory operation. I prayed that there would be no cancer. In thanks I offer this for publication as I promised."

J. L.

Galveston, Texas

"A friend was in an automobile accident and suffered a massive brain hemorrhage. Doctors held no hope for her recovery. I immediately began to pray to Father Seelos and gave the family a cloth memento to place on her. For months she showed no improvement but with continued prayers she finally came out of the coma and began to recognize her family. She is improving daily and the doctors are amazed. We are most grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession."

F. C.

Ghana, West Africa

"Please publish this letter. For 3 years since I completed my schooling I have prayed fervently to get a job and God in His glory through Father Seelos' intercession, has answered my prayer. I am working. Thanks to God through Father Seelos."

D. B. K.

SPECIAL NOTES

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you and to all your dear ones. May 1977 be for you and all of them a holy, healthy year! As you awake every morning of 1977, after you give God your every thought, word and action of the new day as so many acts of love of Him, and after you ask the Blessed Mother to protect you — keep this in mind: I will be remembered by Fathers Grangell and Elworthy in their Holy Masses today! To remember you and all your intentions in our every daily Mass of 1977 is our way of saying "Thank you for all you are doing for Father Seelos. We appreciate your spreading devotion to Father Seelos. Thanks for helping us to pay our bills. The Center would not exist without your financial help. God love you!"

If you receive a favor from Father Seelos, let us know in detail what it was. We have a Father Seelos Novena on Wednesday at 4:10 P.M. If you cannot come in person to it, send us your petitions.

Make three resolutions for 1977: 1) to send a new name and address to the Center. 2) Pray for one new vocation to the Priesthood. 3) Make a convert to the Catholic Church.

When you genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament, TOUCH the floor with your knee — if it is exposed, both knees.

We never hear from some people. Please use the little gold envelope and let us know what you are doing for Father Seelos.

One of the great graces of old age is lots of time to pray. Talk to God all day.

For blessings with the Crucifix of Father Seelos for your sick in the hospital, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

If you are a god-parent, check on how your godchild is protecting his Faith.

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