



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1986



The cemetery in Fussen where Father Seelos' parents are buried.

THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

This is the month we celebrate the communion of the saints: November first is the feast of all Saints, November 2 is the day of the holy souls in purgatory. We here on earth pray to the saints in heaven as God's proven friends and also to the souls who, as it were, are standing in heaven's vestibule, in purgatory.

It has been the long tradition of the church to pray for souls in purgatory. We on earth can help them with our prayers. I know many people who have great devotion to them so they in turn will have intercessors in heaven.

Father Seelos, once he decided to come to America to become a Redemptorist, never returned home to say goodbye to his mother and father and family. It was not because he did not love them, but because he felt it would be too emotional a leave-taking for them as well for himself.

Father Seelos never saw his family again. The news of the deaths of his father and mother must have grieved him deeply.

PRAYER

God knows our needs even better than we do. He knows the very secrets of our hearts. Nevertheless it is His will that we pray. Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you" (Lk. 11/10).

St. Alphonsus de Liguori, called the doctor of prayer, wrote a small treatise on the subject and gave it the subtitle "Prayer, the universal means of salvation." He who prays will be saved, says St. Alphonsus; he who does not pray will be lost.

We were taught to pray at our mother's knee. Our prayer should have these qualities.

Our prayer should be humble. To pray as though we were ordering groceries is an insult to God and unworthy of His thinking creatures. It is much the same if we pray with voluntary distractions. Involuntary distractions are understandable because we are human and each one's attention span is very much limited. The Lord looks kindly on efforts to control them.

We are not in a position to command. We are, as it were, beggars who plead for alms. To confound the self-righteous Jesus told this parable of the Pharisee and the tax-collector. "Two men went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee with head unbowed prayed in this fashion: 'I give you thanks, O God, that I am not like the rest of men, grasping, crooked, adulterous or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on all I possess.' The other man, however, kept his distance, not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven. All he did was beat his breast and say, 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' Believe me, this man went home justified, but the other did not" (Lk. 18/10-14).

We must pray with confidence. God will hear our prayers. He has promised to do so, and He is faithful to His word. Jesus did say, "Ask, and you shall receive. For the one who asks, receives" (Mt. 7/7-8). "If two of you join your forces on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in their midst" (Mt. 18/19-20).

We must pray with perseverance. God promised to hear our prayers but He did not say for how long. We must pray always and not give up.

"Jesus said to them: 'If one of you knows someone who comes to him in the middle of the night and says to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has come in from a long journey and I have nothing to offer him," and he from inside should reply, "Leave me alone. The door is shut now and my children and I are in bed. I cannot get up to look after your needs."—I tell you, even though he does not get up and take care of the man because of friendship, he will do so because of his persistence, and give him as much as he needs.'

"So I say to you, Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you" (Lk. 11/5-9).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

In July of last year, I was told I had cancer of the colon. I was operated on and was sent for radiation treatments and more surgery.

I went back for my yearly check-up. I prayed to Father Seelos that the test would be negative. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers, I had no more polyps or tumors.

New Orleans, La.

On June the 7th my wife Mary and myself and two friends left on vacation traveling through Chicago, Denver, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Phoenix and New Orleans. My wife is afraid of mountains; so I prayed to Father Seelos for a safe trip which he gave us.

Erin, Tenn.

My son was in a very bad car accident. The doctor said at the time he didn't see how he was alive. He had a crushed pelvis and left leg. The doctor told him, "God must have some reason for saving you" (his exact words). At that time he was told he'd never use his left leg and live a normal life because of his crushed pelvis. Well, I asked for your prayers and I began to pray to Father Seelos. Today he lives a normal life and walks fine even without a cane. Father Seelos again has helped. God be praised.

Mobile, Ala.

My son lives in a neighboring state and is the father of nine children, all at home and dependent. He was the manager of a super market. He had become most dissatisfied due to the lack of promotion possibilities and many unorthodox and unreasonable company policies. He had been with this company for 23 years starting at age 16. With his family responsibilities a job change at first was unthinkable. Every one in the family started praying to Father Seelos daily. This past Monday, Dan reported to work with a large superfood store chain in Alabama. The company seems to be delighted with him and he with them. His income is equal to that of the other and his future is very bright. We thank the good Lord. Our whole family continues prayers to and for Father Seelos.

Mail received during July, 1986

Petitions 501 - Thanks 213 - Other 698 - Total 1412

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Museum is open Sunday mornings from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. At 11:00 there is a prayer service before the Blessed Sacrament for the canonization of Father Seelos. The regular Sunday Mass follows at 11:30.
2. We will be happy to accomodate pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church and the tomb of Father Seelos. Please contact the Father Seelos Center for further details, (504) 525-2495.
3. The TV documentary, "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice" is still available at \$45.00 per copy. Let us know what kind of VCR you have: VHS or Beta .
4. For blessings of your sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
5. For a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, dial (504) 586-1803.
6. If you have a new address, or we have spelled your name incorrectly, or the address is wrong, please inform us by filling out the form below and sending us your name and address from a previous issue.

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