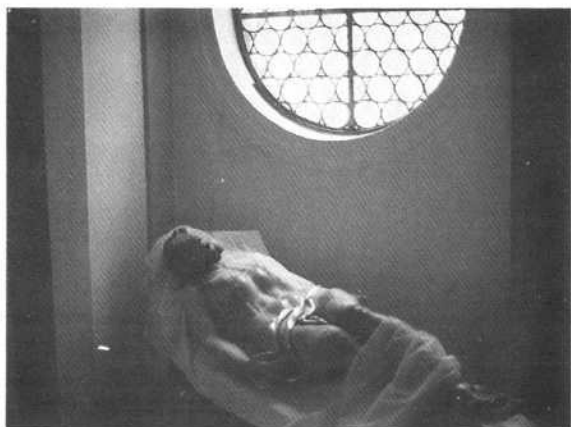




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1986



LENT

Mang Seelos, father of Francis Xavier Seelos, was very happy to acquire the post of sacristan of his parish church, Saint Mang's, in Fussen, Bavaria. It was a pleasant memory for Father Seelos in later life in America to recall his childhood days, and particularly the fervor of his family during Lent and Holy Week.

Mang Seelos was very attached to this statue of the dead Jesus, and Father Seelos would recall, many were the hours he spent reflecting upon the redemption, the pains and the death Jesus endured on the cross to pay for our sins.

Lent gives us the opportunity to dwell on the mystery herein depicted. Christ gave his life that we might be freed from sin and live.

HOPE

Faith lights up the purpose of our lives, eternal happiness with God. It is hope that encourages us to continue the struggle to attain it. On God's part we are certain of achieving our goal. He has promised us life everlasting and He is faithful to his promises. Not only does He promise us the goal, but also the means to make it a reality, pardon of our sins, and the grace to persevere to death.

Cardinal Nicholas Patrick Wiseman was a great churchman in England in the mid 1800's. He was a scholar, a novelist, and while in Rome he became very interested in the restoration of the hierarchy in England. He eventually became the architect of the English Catholic Revival, and the Cardinal archbishop of the diocese of Westminster.

They tell the story that when he was on his deathbed, his priest secretary was concerned to discover if he was conscious of his approaching end. He approached the dying cardinal and said, "Your Eminence, how do you feel?" At that the Cardinal's face lit up, and he replied, "How do I feel? I feel like a schoolboy going home for the holidays."

"Going home for the holidays" seems a good way of expressing the virtue of hope. Anticipation is a good part of the real thing. Tell a sick man he is leaving the hospital this afternoon; tell the soldier the war will come to an end at noon. Tell the weary sailor land is in sight, or the traveler that his destination is the next stop. The eyes light up, the heart picks up a beat, a smile breaks out on the face.

Hope is encouragement. It buoys us up in the midst of our afflictions. It lights up the dark. It lifts the burdens. It raises fallen spirits. It pulls the laggard. It pushes the doubtful. It cheers the despondent.

What would our life be without hope?

And the basis of our certain expectation of eternal happiness is God's word and His promise. In the Gospel according to St. John, we hear Jesus saying to His apostles on the night before He died:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in Me.

"In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you?

"I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with Me, that where I am you also may be" (John 14/1-3).

What a consolation it will be for all of us who strive to do God's will to know that the end of the pilgrimage is in sight. As our eyesight dims with the approaching night, and those around us talk in whispers, and move about us with muffled steps, what a crowning joy it will be to hear the Lord saying to us, "Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come, follow Me, and I will give you rest."

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Okarche, Okla.

I wanted to inform you that I prayed two novenas to Fr. Seelos about going to Fatima for two weeks. I asked him to ask Our Lady of Fatima if I could go for October 13th. Within a week, a letter arrived, the stationery had a picture of Our Lady of Fatima and a message to pray the Rosary for World Peace. No one knew that I wanted to go to Fatima. Then the second novena I asked Fr. Seelos to ask Our Lady to send a friend with me. Less than a week the answer came. A friend from Dallas joined me. We had a shower of graces.

Opelousas, La.

I would like to thank Father Seelos for the following: 1. The success of the major surgery performed on my husband. 2. The successful change from one job to another for me. 3. The safe and enjoyable vacation trip out of the country for both of us this summer.

Bay St. Louis, Miss.

The favor granted, was one that concerned Hurricane Elena. I have two houses, one I live in, located in Bay St. Louis, and the other one I use as rental property to help with my retirement check. The only damage we had during the storm, was a few limbs of trees that fell in the open yard. I attribute my good fortune to the prayers I offered to Father Seelos shortly before Elena turned toward the coast.

Jennings, La.

I would like to thank Father Seelos for helping my sister to recover from pneumonia caused by drugs. The doctors didn't give her much chance of survival. I prayed to Fr. Seelos and she pulled through. After, she was still dependent on drugs and was very confused. I prayed to Fr. Seelos to help her and now she has moved back home from California and has straightened up her life. She is able to live a normal life because Fr. Seelos has helped her.

New Iberia, La.

Recently a member of my family was ill (mentally) and I prayed to Father Seelos to intercede with God. My prayers were heard almost immediately. I have confidence in Fr. Seelos' intercession.

Mail received during October:

Petitions 421, Thanks 201, Other 499, Total 1121

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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 Church asks us to fast and abstain during Lent; fast and abstain on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. Not anything like the old Lent we knew when we were young. Should anyone ask you why the church is so lenient today, you can give this answer, "The Church wants you to make your own Lent. You can be as strict or as easy as you want. The responsibility is all yours."
 2. Some practices for Lent: attend Mass every day, several days, or just one extra day each week. Say the Rosary, or part of it each day, make the Way of the Cross publicly or privately. All that is required to make the Way of the Cross privately is to go from one station to the other, meditating on the passion and death of our Savior. No genuflecting is necessary, no prayers are prescribed.
 3. Once again we call your attention to the Mass that is celebrated each Sunday afternoon at 4:00 P.M. for the canonization of Father Seelos, if that be God's will. Before the Mass, beginning at 3:30 P.M. there is exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. During this time we pray for all those who recommend themselves to the Center. We invite all the people in the area to come and join us.
 4. For blessings of your sick with the missionary crucifix of Father Seelos please call Miss Addie Buhler. 895-6176
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