



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1986



*

TO THE BLESSED MOTHER

You're the loveliest of ladies,
A beauty to behold.
You're always clothed in blue and white,
Your slippers are of gold.
To see your face is ecstasy.
You're happy, yet you're sad,
You always see the good in men,
Yet know they have been bad.
Keep us from destruction,
You know it's coming with great speed,
You know there's no obstruction.
Plead with God just one more time,
Your pleas He can enhance.
So soon men will erase the bad,
And give the good a chance.
Please shower us with roses,
Please send them from above.
Then we'll give them to others,
The roses that mean love.
Our world can be beautiful,
The way that God once planned.
If only you can help us,
We'll save our precious land.
"Lyrics" By Lois of Louisiana.

Lois Krulisky © 1984

*The statue of the Blessed Mother stands in St. Mang's Church, Fussen, Germany, hometown of Father Seelos.

DETACHMENT FROM MATERIAL POSSESSIONS

In these pages we have often mentioned St. Alphonsus de Liguori. This is only natural since St. Alphonsus was the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation, our spiritual father. St. Alphonsus was a great writer not only on theological subjects for priests and seminarians but of spiritual books for the laity as well. He wrote in a clear and simple style, according to his own advice to the members of his congregation, "Write or speak in such a style that the learned will not be offended and the uneducated will not be unenlightened."

Along with St. Francis de Sales, St. Alphonsus insisted that all perfection, all holiness consisted in loving God solely. The first thing necessary for this love was to detach oneself from those things that can come to choke one's heart. He called this detachment, *distacco*, and this love, *unione*. *Distacco* and *unione* were then the key to his spiritual guidance.

To love God with our whole heart, we must be detached from material possessions. However necessary material possessions are, such as food, drink, clothing, housing, the Lord never intended that they should be our masters.

One who hoards money is called a miser, one who lives to eat and drink is called a glutton, one who spends too much money on clothing and housing is called a spendthrift, a waster of riches.

In His sermon on the mount, our divine Savior taught us: "Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure." "No man can serve two masters... you cannot give yourself to God and mammon." "As for clothes, why be concerned?" "Stop worrying, then over questions like 'What are we to eat, or what are we to drink, for what are we to wear?'" (Matt. 6/19-31)

Jesus warns us that moths consume our possessions and rust corrodes them, that thieves break in and steal earthly treasures. He reminds us to look at the birds in the sky; they neither sow nor reap, nor do they gather anything into barns. Yet God feeds them. He goes on to point out a lesson from the wild flowers. They do not work nor spin. Yet, Jesus assures us, Solomon himself in all his splendor was not arrayed as they. The unbelievers are running after their material needs. It is the believers who see that the heavenly Father knows all that they need and provides.

What must be the proper attitude to the things of earth that are so much a part of our lives, is according to Jesus: "Seek first His (the Father's) kingship over you, His way of holiness, and all these things will be given besides." (Matt. 6/33).

Let us set our priorities. If earthly possessions, or even just one, come to obscure our union with God, then it is time for us to take stock with our souls and renew our will to love God above all things.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, La.

This is to let you know that I am receiving help from your wonderful prayers at the tomb of Father Seelos. I am not yet cured but have my disease under control. Thanks for all your wonderful prayers.

New Orleans, La.

We would like to thank Father Seelos for a favor granted. Father Seelos comforted us when we were afraid. He helped us to overcome fear.

Bogota, Columbia

My nephew, a very young man, was taking the wrong way in his life. He was irresponsible, kept bad company, used drugs and so on. The family was without hope, until a friend from New Orleans, told me about Father Seelos. She sent me his prayers and mementoes. Immediately I started praying to God through Father Seelos that my nephew would overcome his bad habits. My nephew is now a gentle man with a bright future and promises to continue to be in God's graces. I promise to spread devotion to Father Seelos.

New Iberia, La.

Last week, my daughter who has had three miscarriages, found out she was pregnant again. When she went to the doctor, he told her it was a tubal pregnancy and would have to have it removed. Over the weekend, I told a friend about this, and she gave me the prayer for Father Seelos. I said it Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. When my daughter went to him on Wednesday, the doctor ran some more tests and the pregnancy was normal. Instead of operating, the doctor sent her home. We were overjoyed. I'm sure my prayers to Father Seelos were answered.

New Orleans, La.

My son had a problem with alcohol. I had been praying to Father Seelos asking that "My son live his life in good health." It has been many months since he has consumed alcohol and he has returned to church. Thanks to Father Seelos.

New Orleans, La.

Recently, my prayers to Father Seelos gave me the courage to face a mastectomy. My deep faith in him was rewarded, the cancer was localized and no chemotherapy or radiation treatments were necessary. In addition, my recovery was remarkably accelerated, thanks to Father Seelos.

Mailed received during January, 1986

Petitions 397 - Thanks 230 - Other 486 - Total - 1113

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$1.00 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. 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. In 1985 over three hundred Masses were offered in thanks to God for Father Seelos' prayers here in St. Mary's Church and our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel.

2. We are please to announce that the documentary for television on the life of Father Seelos has been completed, and we are making it available on videocassette for anyone who wishes a copy. Keep in mind it would make a nice gift for a relative or friend. It will be good for showing at parish meetings, small assemblies, catechetical instructions.

We can send you a videocassette of this documentary for \$45.00 (includes dubbing, handling and shipping). The tape is unconditionally guaranteed. It runs approximately 50 minutes. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. When ordering, please specify whether you want the VHS___ or Beta___ format. Please make checks or money orders payable to:

FATHER SEELOS CENTER
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130

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