

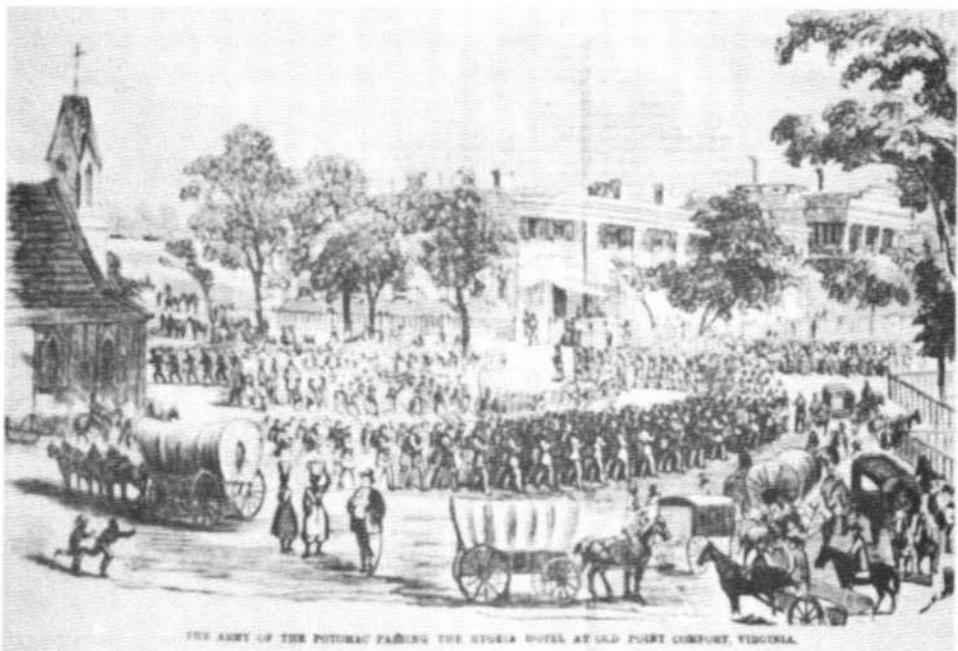


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1986

ST. MARY STAR of the SEA CHURCH at FORT MONROE, VA.



In 1862 Fort Monroe was surrounded by the Confederacy. At the start of hostilities, the Catholic troops were served by a Norfolk priest who came to the Fort by boat. When the Fort started to shell Norfolk, the trip was dangerous, so they appealed to the Bishop of Richmond who contacted the Bishop of Baltimore who asked the Redemptorists of Annapolis, Md., to help out on Sundays. The Redemptorists went by boat, leaving Friday night and returning on Monday morning. The Chesapeake Bay was open. Among those who thus served the troops was Father Seelos. He was novice master at the time. It is interesting to note he was reported to Rome for having been absent from his novices on several Sundays!

Father Nick Helldorfer, C.S.S.R.
Hampton, VA

GOD'S WILL — ON EARTH — IN HEAVEN

Our Savior Jesus Christ made obedience the law of His life. In the letter to the Hebrews, we read, "Wherefore on coming in to the world, Jesus said, 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for Me; holocausts and sin offerings You took no delight in. Then I said, 'As is written of Me in the book, I have come to do Your will, O God.'"

Jesus was obedient. In the days He was growing up in Nazareth, St. Luke describes Him, "He went down with them (Mary and Joseph), and was obedient to them." The Jews were filled with amazement and said, "How did this man get His education: 'My doctrine is not My own; it comes from Him who sent Me'" (Jn. 7/15-16). Of His heavenly Father Jesus did say, "The One who sent Me is with Me. He has not deserted Me since I always do what pleases Him" (Jn. 8/29).

Of Jesus St. Paul could write in his letter to the Philippians, "He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting death, death on a cross!" (Phil. 2/7-80). As He prayed in the midst of His agony in the garden, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by. Still, let it be as You would have it, not as I" (Matt. 26/39).

On July 4th we Americans proudly and gratefully celebrate our nation's birthday, our day of independence. We revel in our freedom, we boast of it. But we are always conscious that our freedom is not absolute. Our society does have laws, statutes, ordinances, regulations, and for the well-being of the populace, we are constrained to obey them.

Obedience is the virtue which enables us to do God's will as it is expressed to us through the commands of those placed over us in authority. God's will should be our supreme law. We owe Him complete submission in all our human endeavors.

In obeying the commands of those in lawful authority, our parents, teachers, employers, civil and church authorities, we fulfill the will of God. It stands to reason that no human authority can command us to do what is sinful, what is contrary to our conscience.

In its document on the Church and the Modern World, the Fathers of the II Vatican Council said, "In the depths of his conscience, man detects a law which he does not impose upon himself, but which holds him to obedience. Always summoning him to love good and avoid evil, the voice of conscience can when necessary speak to his heart more specifically: do this, shun that. For man has in his heart a law written by God. To obey it is the very dignity of man; according to it will he be judged.

"Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. Then he is alone with God, whose voice echoes in his depths. In a wonderful manner conscience reveals that law which is fulfilled by love of God and neighbor. In fidelity to conscience, Christians are joined with the rest of men in the search for truth, and for the genuine solution to the numerous problems which arise in the life of individuals and from social relationships. Hence the more a correct conscience holds sway, the more persons and groups turn aside from blind choice and strive to be guided by objective norms of morality.

"Conscience frequently errs from invincible ignorance without losing its dignity. The same cannot be said of a man who cares but little for truth and goodness, or of a conscience which by degrees grows practically sightless as a result of habitual sin."

Jesus taught us to pray: "Father...Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6/10)

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R

SPECIAL LETTERS

Stuttgart, Ark.

Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession, financial help was obtained.

New Orleans, La.

In the first part of January, I fell and broke my right elbow. My right leg was so painful it was useless. After reading the January special letters, I asked Father Seelos to obtain the use of my leg for me. In about two days I could walk on my leg. It is still very comfortable. I placed the memento of Father Seelos in the inside of the cast on my arm and it is getting along very well.

New Mexico

When our bank failed, we had to declare bankruptcy. After a long wait, we finally have been cleared to start business and live again. Thanks for all the prayers to Father Seelos. And rejoice with us.

Chalmette, La.

My daughter's nephew was told he had cancer. He was put in the hospital and given treatments. I gave his mother a prayer to Father Seelos and also the memento to pin on him. He had several treatments. He began to lose his hair and also his hearing. This happened in September. In November he went back for a treatment; after several tests, the doctor said he was not going to give him any more treatments, that he did not know what happened but there was no sign of cancer. When they called me and told me I said, Thanks to Father Seelos. Here it is February, he is able to work and is doing fine. So I am writing to let you know that I feel my prayers were answered.

New Orleans, La.

I had several favors granted, my son had heart surgery and he is doing well. My son-in-law had heart surgery and he is doing well. I also prayed for my back to get well. I didn't expect it to get better, but it is much better. I am 86 years old.

New Orleans, La.

I remember back in 1969, when I was very sick, emotionally and physically and spiritually, that my mother came into my room and pinned a picture of Father Seelos to my undershirt. It never occurred to me that one act of hers may have been the beginning of my long, long recovery back to good health, physically and spiritually. It could have been my mother's devotion to Father Seelos and the Sacred Heart that started the ball rolling for me.

Baton Rouge, La.

On October 14, 1985, the doctor put my mother, who is 81, in the hospital to run some tests. She was losing weight and could not eat. He said she had an obstruction in her stomach and saw something he did not like. He thought he might have to operate. When the tests came in they all showed up negative and my mother said she felt wonderful. While she was in the hospital I prayed to Father Seelos to help her get well and strong again. She has regained her appetite and looks and feels wonderful.

Mailed received during March, 1986

Petitions 448 - Thanks 194 - Other 594 - Total 1233

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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. Since 1962 the price of a subscription to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY has been \$1.00. After 24 years, because of the rising costs of postage (three increases in February and March of this year alone), printing and paper, we have no other choice but to increase the subscription price to \$2.00. We thank all those who have sent their subscription fee for 1986. We know the others will follow suit, so that we can keep you informed of the progress of the cause of Father Seelos towards sainthood. We ask the good Lord to bless you.
 2. We want to say a special thanks to all the good people who have volunteered to crochet mementos. We have received many fine examples of their sewing art.
 3. You can still have a copy of the TV Documentary of Father Seelos for \$45.00. Please specify the VCR format you have: VHS Beta .
 4. The third Sunday of July is the feast of the Most Holy Redeemer, the titular feast of the Redemptorists (Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer). Join us in thanks to God for His many graces.
 5. We wish you all a safe and healthy and happy holiday on July 4th.
 6. For a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, Dial (504) 586-1803.
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