



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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AUGUST, 1986



THE FATHER SEELOS MUSEUM

In early April of this year work was begun on enclosing the walkway immediately behind the sacristies of St. Mary Assumption Church. With four large windows and two glass doors a room measuring 75 feet in length and 13 in width has been created. This room will house the memorabilia of Father Seeelos and rest facilities for the pilgrims who come to visit St. Mary's Church. This museum will be formally opened on September 7, the first Sunday of the month. Further details about the inaugural ceremony will be announced in the September issue of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY.

MEEKNESS

In other years we have written about the virtue of humility. This time we should consider a companion virtue of humility, meekness. Jesus called attention to the two, when He invited His hearers to "learn of Me because I am meek and humble of heart" (Matt. 11/29).

Whatever unfavorable images it may invoke today, such as "Mr. Milquetoast", or even "wimp", meekness is very much a Christian virtue. And meekness and humility do seem to go together. You cannot have one without the other. Can you imagine an arrogant man being meek and gentle?

St. Thomas Aquinas says the virtue of meekness moderates, controls anger according to the dictates of right reason. Anger is a strong human emotion, a reaction to an attack on ourselves or someone or something dear to us.

While anger does very often get out of hand, it is at times a justifiable reaction. The classic example of this, of course, took place when Jesus, angered by the market-place atmosphere they created, drove out of the Temple all those engaged in buying and selling. He overturned the money-changers' tables and stalls of the dove-sellers, saying to them, "Scripture has it, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you are turning it into a den of thieves'" (Matt. 21/12-13).

In His sermon on the mount, Jesus taught us that "everyone who grows angry with his brother shall be liable to judgement; any man who uses abusive language toward his brother shall be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and if he holds him in contempt he risks the fire of Gehenna" (Matt. 5/22).

When we are tempted to let anger get the better of us, even when we think we have right on our side, we can look to the example of Jesus in the last and most painful hours of His life.

When Judas betrayed Him with a kiss, rather than justly rebuke him for his perfidy, Jesus greeted him with the word, 'friend'. When Peter caused Him untold sorrow with his three denials, Jesus did not say, "I told you so," but merely looked at him in sadness.

Before Annas, Caiaphas, Pilate and Herod, Jesus kept His peace. When the rough soldiers threw a cloak about His wounded shoulders and weaved a crown of thorns for His head, struck Him with a reed, spat in His face and taunted Him, He made no complaint. When Pilate exhibited Him before the crowd and Barabbas, a criminal, was preferred before Him, Jesus said not a word.

Finally, when the executioners stripped Him of His clothes and drove nails through His hands and feet, He broke His silence only to pray, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing" (Lk. 23/24).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Baton Rouge, La.

My son graduated from college last May and was unable to find employment. We all prayed to Father Seelos for employment for him and it has been granted. Thanks to Father Seelos for this favor.

Metairie, La.

I promised public thanks for Father Seelos' intercession on my behalf. I had to undergo a Magnetic Resonance Imaging test (brain imaging) and it proved negative.

Marrero, La.

My son was away from church for a long time. He is now back in the state of grace. My prayers were answered. Thank Father Seelos for his intercession.

Gretna, La.

My son had a successful operation and is now speedily on the road to recovery. I promised thanks to Father Seelos; we are very grateful.

Metairie, La.

My son George had a triple by-pass and through the prayers to Father Seelos he is doing well. Thanks to Father Seelos for hearing my prayers.

Houston, Tx.

I had a deteriorating cornea and had to have a transplant. It was done about six weeks ago and now I have perfect vision. Thanks to Father Seelos.

New Orleans, La.

My son was terminated from his job because of being an alcoholic. I prayed to Father Seelos for him to take the treatment offered by the hospital. He has now completed the treatments by staying in the hospital. He was re-hired and is still keeping up with the follow-up treatments.

Mandeville, La.

My son was in intensive care for a week. He had three heart attacks in that week. My husband went to the rectory to get me some mementos and prayers to Father Seelos. The person at the window asked my husband who was ill. He told her his step-son was in Methodist Hospital in intensive care with heart attacks. The next day a priest from Redemptorist parish went to the hospital and blessed my son with the Fr. Seelos cross. The day after he was blessed with the crucifix, my son regained consciousness and was taken out of intensive care. Today my son is doing fine, has a good job and so far has not had another heart attack.

Mail received during April, 1986.

Petitions 440 - Thanks 194 - Other 636 - Total 1270

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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. We now have a Dial-A-Message program. If you wish to listen to a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, just dial (504) 586-1803.
2. We can send you a videocassette of the Father Seelos 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

3. For blessings of your sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
4. 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 this issue.

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