



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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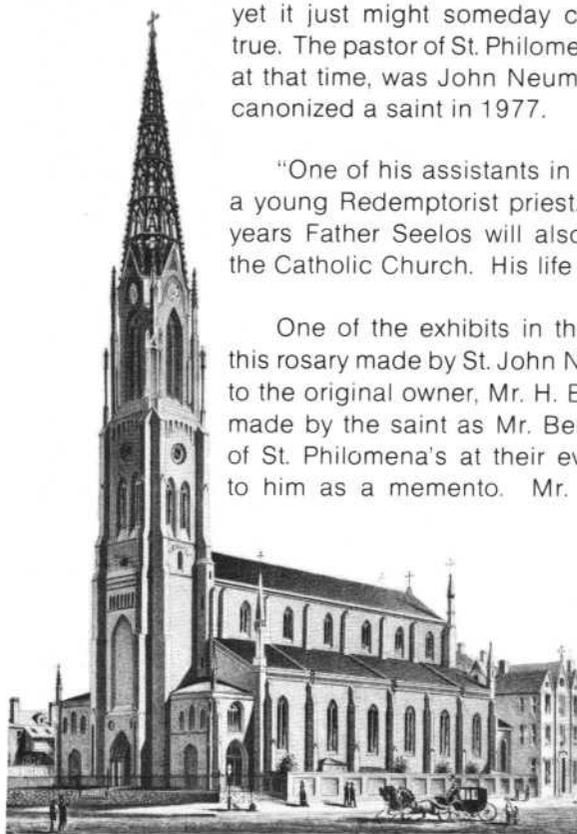
## THE PITTSBURGH CONNECTION

In his pamphlet on Father Francis X. Seelos, C.S.S.R., Father Thomas Artz, C.S.S.R. asks the question, "Could two canonized saints have lived in the same parish house in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in the late 1840's? It seems almost incredible, yet it just might someday come true. The pastor of St. Philomena's at that time, was John Neumann, canonized a saint in 1977.



"One of his assistants in the parish was Francis X. Seelos, a young Redemptorist priest. It is very possible that in a few years Father Seelos will also formally be declared a saint of the Catholic Church. His life is an inspiration."

One of the exhibits in the new Father Seelos Museum is this rosary made by St. John Neumann in Pittsburgh. According to the original owner, Mr. H. Berg, of Butler, Pa., the rosary was made by the saint as Mr. Berg visited with the Redemptorists of St. Philomena's at their evening recreation and was given to him as a memento. Mr. Berg gave it to his daughter, a Benedictine nun in New Orleans 100 years ago. It is very possible that Father Seelos was a member of the community at that time (1845-1847).



St. Philomena's Church  
Pittsburgh, Penn.

## LOVE OF GOD

A doctor of the law once posed a problem for Jesus: What is the greatest commandment of the law? This was apparently a topic of debate in the academic circles of the Temple savants. The answer that Jesus gave to this inquiry points up our meditation for this month. Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul, with all your strength and with all your mind." (Mt. 22/37) Then Jesus added, "This is the first and greatest commandment."

The problem we face is this: what is the proof of our love of God? The saints had a simple answer for this question: doing the will of God as God gives us the light to see it in all the circumstances of our life.

The greatest duty of every man is to love God above all things, to love Him ardently, to love Him constantly. Every other duty imposed on us by God is secondary to that. In fact, we should see in every other duty nothing but a change to fulfill this first and greatest commandment.

Jesus Himself fulfilled this great commandment perfectly; He loved God His Father with all His mind because the intensity of His love corresponded to His knowledge of His Father which He enjoyed. Every single thought was directed to the glory of the Father. He loved God with His whole soul, because His human soul was utterly responsive to the Spirit of God. Every faculty of His soul was at the service of the Father. Jesus loved the Father with His whole heart. In His heart there was no affection that was not inspired by this divine love. There was in Him no affection that was not inspired by this divine love. There was in Him no affection that resembled self-love or egotism. Jesus loved the Father with all His strength. He did not hesitate to sacrifice everything for the sake of accomplishing the will of the Father. His love was true love in every sense.

Gerard Majella spent long hours in prayer before Jesus in the Tabernacle. St. Gerard called Him "the Prisoner of Love." During one of his visits to the Divine Prisoner, Gerard heard a voice say to him: "Gerard, you are a fool." To this Gerard replied, "But, Lord, You are a greater fool; in the Tabernacle, You are a prisoner of love!"

George Corbett, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Franklin, La.

This is a letter of thanksgiving promised for favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos on my behalf.

Last year the dentist sent me to a periodontist because of swollen pockets on the gums of several teeth. We are trying to save my teeth (I am 44 years old) because the dentists say I would be unable to wear dentures. I had been going to the periodontist and the dentist regularly and my gum condition was not improving. I had been praying to Father Seelos about this since last year. I took sick in March of this year and was hospitalized on Easter Sunday through the emergency room for severe dehydration. I had been unable to eat anything and was so weak from throwing up. I had never been sick before and had never been in the hospital. After many tests, etc., I had to have surgery for an ulcer which had formed an obstruction in my duodenum (the surgeon later told me I could not have lived without this surgery). God was good to me, I had the surgery on April 7 and was discharged on April 13. I was in the hospital two weeks and my gums were the least of my problems and I never gave them a thought. When I got home, one day I happened to look at my teeth in the mirror and saw that my swollen gums were completely healed. I thought that maybe all the medicine in the hospital had cleared up this condition but my gums have never swollen and bled since, and I know that God through the intercession of Father Seelos on my behalf cured me. The dentist noticed the swelling was gone and I told him I had been praying for a miracle because the periodontist wanted to perform surgery and I could not afford it. Of course the periodontist tried to take some credit for the condition clearing up but I know better because I did not do the things he told me to do.

I was laid off my job on June 15. I had only been employed since July 22, 1985 and was hired then thru January 15, 1986. Under a federal program, I was unable to draw any unemployment, had no income from June 15 to October 23. I had to live on my savings but I managed. I have been praying to Father Seelos, Our Mother of Perpetual Help and other saints for their intercession on my behalf to find a job. Well, after many tries, through the recommendation of a very nice woman, two interviews, typing and spelling tests, I will start work Monday, November 10, 1986 as secretary for the St. Mary Parish Council on aging. It does not pay much but I am very thankful for it and thank God. I pray Father Seelos is canonized a saint very soon.

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Mail received during November, 1986

Thanks 226 - Petitions 466 - Other 557 - Total 1249

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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

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## SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Museum continues to attract visitors, from near and far, who come to St. Mary's and Father Seelos' tomb. The ordinary hours are at 4 P.M. on Saturdays, and from 9:30 A.M. to 11 A.M. on Sundays. At other times it is opened by appointment (telephone 504-525-2495).
  2. For a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, dial (504) 586-1803.
  3. The TV documentary, "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice" is available. At this time we can only supply VHS.
  4. This bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, is published monthly. A subscription for one year is \$2.00.
  5. In the December issue, we invited our readers to share in a burse for Redemptorist seminarians in memory of our long-time vice-postulator, Father William Grangell. We are pleased to announce that over \$3,000.00 has been contributed. The Redemptorists thank you all. You can still contribute to this fund.
  6. We wish all of our readers a Happy Easter.
  7. For blessings of your sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
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