



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1987

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

With this issue, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY completes the twenty-fifth year of its existence. It began in most simple fashion in mimeograph form, sent to a few hundred devotees of Father Seelos in the greater New Orleans area. It was no time before it was in a printer's hands and seventeen years ago it took its present form. At this date the bulletin is being sent to more than 35,000 people in all states of the Union.

The second floor of the bell tower of St. Mary's Assumption church was the first office of the Father Seelos Center. It was soon moved to its present location, to what was once the carriage house of the Redemptorist rectory. It has antiquity and a certain style. A picture of its facade has been included in the study of the architecture of the lower Garden District of New Orleans by the noted architect and preservationist, Mr. Sam Wilson.

This building is well over a hundred years old. On the ground level there is a carpenter shop, a tool shed, several store rooms, and space for three small cars. Upstairs in what was once living quarters, the Father Seelos Center is housed. It is here that this bulletin is composed, folded and prepared for mailing each month. This year we hope to make some very necessary repairs.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



Father Seelos Center

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

In the dealings of Jesus with His disciples, we can find all the qualities of true charity. Let us consider in a special manner His patience and indulgent kindness in dealing with them. The Apostles were men of the people, ordinary workers. They were good men, but their education was far from the best. They were really ignorant in many ways. Jesus lived with them in very close companionship for three years. He was the incarnate Wisdom, yet we never find Him lording it over them. He never humiliated them by a show of superior learning. He simply took them as they were and adapted Himself to their ways. He spoke in their terms as He taught them. He led them along gradually. They were, as He said Himself "foolish and slow of heart. (Lk. 24/25)." They did not seem to take in even the most lucid explanation, yet Jesus never lost His patience with them.

Not only were they ignorant, but they were also very imperfect. They had their full share of human passions. They were ambitious, worldly-minded, they could be vain of the little work they did for Him. All this must have been trying to Jesus, yet He never showed them anything but patience. In the last hours of His life, one betrayed Him, even after receiving His kiss, and another denied Him, and all abandoned Him. Yet after His resurrection, He was as loving toward them all as if they had never offended Him. His charity appears as charity which could not be shaken. His charity was deeper than the sins and failings of men. Jesus saw man as one loved by His Father, just as he was, in spite of all his failings. This fact attracted Him with such force that the failings faded into the background.

It is necessary for us ever to keep before our minds the example of the charity of Christ. Instinctively, our human nature is inclined to act otherwise. The ignorance, the imperfections, the malice of others loom larger in our minds than the fact that they are children of our Father who is in heaven. True charity has to be built on the realization that we have not here a perfect world. We cannot look for the ideally perfect man before we offer him our charity. We are asked to love one another, not for the good that we may find in each other, but for God's sake.

George Corbett, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

I want to express thanks for the healing power of Father Seelos. I was blessed with his mission crucifix. My doctors and friends call me a living miracle.

Last April the 12th, I was hit by a taxi cab and the impact threw me up in the air and dropped me on the hood into the street. I had five fractures in my pelvis, a hairline fracture in my hip and a broken leg. I was in the hospital for two weeks. After returning home, I was flat on my back for seven weeks. I returned to the hospital for therapy and had to use a walker. I prayed to Father Seelos. By July 15th, I was back to normal. I owe many thanks to Father Seelos and friends for prayers.

Gretna, La.

This letter is in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for his intercession to our Lord in granting me my wish for a cancer free check-up after my operation of last year, a colon cancer surgery. I am now praying for a very special intention to Father Seelos.

Villa Park, Ill.

I was sure I had a blockage from a hiatal hernia. I went to the hospital for an upper GI. Was I ever surprised when the doctor called and said everything was normal. Thanks to my prayers to Father Seelos. I will continue to pray to Father Seelos.

Thibodaux, La.

My husband had a heart attack in December and was in ICU in the hospital. One day a sweet nun came to bless and pray over a young boy who had been in a terrible accident. We all prayed together in the waiting room and after praying over the young boy, she asked if I would like her to pray over my husband and touch him with the Father Seelos cross. She did and my husband was out of ICU the next day.

After four weeks passed, I took him to the hospital for an angiogram to see how much damage there was to his heart. The doctor told us his attack was worse than expected and he had quite a bit of damage to the heart. However, he said the artery that should have been blocked to cause the damage on that particular section of his heart was now open and functioning. We asked him how could that be and he said ONLY GOD KNOWS. I know that our prayers to Father Seelos is what helped save my husband and I will continue to thank Father Seelos and pray to him.

Mail received during December, 1986

Petitions 398 - Thanks 226 - Other 640 - Total 1264

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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. 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.

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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