

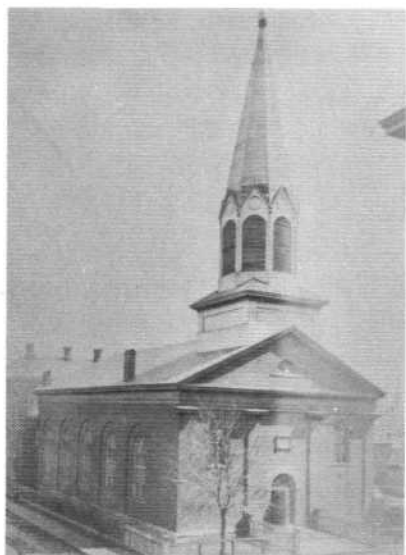


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVI, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1987

FATHER SEELOS AND ST. MARY'S - DETROIT



Saint Mary's church, Detroit

The Redemptorists first arrived in Detroit, Michigan, shortly after they came to America in 1832. They came to this city in the persons of Father Francis Haetscher and Brother Aloysius Schuh. It was only in 1846 after an absence of nearly ten years that the Redemptorists returned to Detroit and founded the parish of St. Mary's. Here they remained until 1872. In 1880 they would come back again to found the parish of Holy Redeemer on the corners of Junction and Vernor.

In late November of 1865 Father Seelos joined the community at St. Mary's. He had been relieved of his duties as head of the mission band, perhaps because of fear for his health. For most of the ten months he served in Detroit he was engaged in parish work. He did give some retreats to priests and religious during that time.

Because of a shift of personnel in the already undermanned American province, the provincial selected Father Seelos in September of 1866 to fill a void in the trilingual parish of New Orleans. St. Mary's, Detroit, was sad to lose him, and they gave him a rousing farewell. His superior was most impressed with the love and gratitude showered on him by the people. Bishop Lefevre of Detroit was quoted as saying, "I am sorry that Father Seelos must leave my diocese, for one has only to look at him to know that he is a saint."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

HOLY PURITY

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have bound themselves to a life of perfect chastity; when they did so, it was in imitation of the life led by our Blessed Lord. He thought of nothing else but the interest of His Father in heaven. This He explained clearly to His Mother and St. Joseph when they discovered Him in the temple with the doctors. He was then only twelve years of age, nevertheless, He expressed His detachment from all family ties in His reply: "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke, 2. 49). His Father was His one interest, His first pre-occupation. He was, then, perfectly detached from His family, His friends.

And for what purpose? To devote Himself to the things of the Lord; to be solicitous for the things that belong to His Father, how He might please Him. His nights were passed in speaking to Him in heart to heart prayer; His days were spent in preaching His word, and in kindling in the hearts of others love and devotion to His heavenly Father. What better example of this than our Divine Savior Himself?

Whilst He lived on earth, our Lord, like every human being, had friends and special friends. Some were more closely associated with Him than others. John the Baptist was one of these, another John was to be the disciple whom Jesus loved. And since a man's closest and most intimate friend is his mother, Mary was most intimate with Jesus.

The Son of God was the only one in a position to select His Mother and for this He chose a virgin, "the Virgin most pure." A virgin she was and a virgin she was to remain always.

Then to take the place of an earthly father, another father had to be found, one who would earn daily bread for Him and His Mother, one who would teach Him a trade and initiate Him into business methods and show Him how to support His Mother later on. The man chosen for all this is referred to by the Church as "the most chaste spouse of Mary, the guardian of virgins"—St. Joseph.

Nothing could prove more clearly our Divine Lord's special love for this virtue than those persons He chose to associate with so intimately while living here on earth.

O Jesus, lover of chaste souls, keep me ever close to Yourself, so that I may always be faithful.

George Corbett, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Thibodaux, La.

My visit to your beautiful church and museum on this past Saturday was pure joy. I pray that Father Seelos will pray to the Lord to grant me the special favor of a heart and mind filled with the peace and love of Christ in this time of need. Please send more information and place my name on the list of monthly thanksgivings. Many thanks for your kindness.

Kenner, La.

In January of this year I was facing another heart surgery. I feel certain that the prayers offered by Father Seelos to the Lord were answered. The tests showed no surgery was necessary at present.

I promised to acknowledge publicly his help if my request was granted. Thank you.

Morgan City, La.

I have prayed to Father Seelos for many a year. Every time I needed him he was always near me. To me he is already a great saint. This is what happened to me. I would like everyone to know, as the doctors said that only a miracle saved me.

I will soon be 71. I was rushed to the hospital at 2:00 in the morning by my son. They told him after seeing me they saw no hope of my living. My blood sugar was 615, my heart rate 175, my blood pressure 300/195. I was in acute respiratory distress. Four doctors worked on me. It was 7 o'clock when I opened my eyes in I C U.

New Orleans, La.

I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Father Seelos for the wonderful favors granted to me and my family.

I say the prayer for Father Seelos every moment of the day I can, while driving, cleaning house, etc. It brings me such comfort.

I feel the canonization of Father Seelos is just a short time away.

May others share in the confidence this family holds for him, and pray for his sainthood. He is such a big part of our lives.

Mail received during February, 1987

Petitions 471 - Thanksgivings 176 - Other 620 - Total 1267

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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.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. We invite all our readers who live in the New Orleans area to come to the weekly prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos. It is held every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock in St. Mary's church on Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. The service consists in exposition and benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament, a short meditation on the life of our Divine Savior, an opportunity for private prayer. Join us at this time at least in spirit. This prayer service is followed by the regular 11:30 Sunday Mass.
2. We remind our good readers that, because of rising postal costs and others, we have raised the subscription price of this publication to \$2.00 per year. We thank you in advance for your kindness.
3. The TV documentary on Father Seelos is still available for VHS at \$45.00 each.
4. Telephone numbers to remember:
(504) 525-2495 - Father Seelos Center
895-6176 - Blessing of sick with crucifix
(504) 586-1803 - daily spiritual message
5. For your convenience if you are changing your address, or if we have misspelled your name or have an incorrect address, please inform us by placing the correct address on this form below and enclosing your name and address from a previous issue.

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