



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FÜSSEN, BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER SEELOS

"Romantic" and "picturesque" are two of the adjectives that travelers use to describe the town of Füssen, sixty miles southwest of Munich, the capital city of Bavaria. Gracefully straddling the meandering Leck, where that stream escapes from Tyrolean Alps and wanders over the plains to the north, Füssen and its surroundings had everything to evoke poetry in the mind of a visitor: aged buildings snugly set together, high gabled roofs, narrow streets and still narrower sidewalks, smooth lakes, castles and rolling fields.

(From the *CHEERFUL ASCETIC*, by Michael Curley, C.S.S.R.).

It was in this small town that Francis Xavier Seelos first saw the light of day on January 11, 1819, just 169 years ago.

"INCREASE OUR FAITH"

We all have heard the lament. "If only I had more faith." Perhaps we have made it ourselves. Faith, we know, is a free gift of God, bestowed on whomever God wills thus to bless. It is, therefore, the most important treasure we can possess. It would be a mistake, however, to think that we can do nothing about it.

Father Arthur Mouton, a Redemptorist writer on the spiritual life, points out four ways that we can develop or increase our faith.

First, he says, we can pray for an increase of faith. Remember the apostles. They said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And Jesus replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this sycamore, 'Be uprooted and transplanted into the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke, 17/5).

Remember the blind man of Jericho. He was sitting by the roadside when Jesus passed along. Jesus asked him simply what he wanted, and the man replied, "Lord, that I may see." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight. Your faith has healed you" (Luke, 18/35-43).

Secondly, we can make repeated acts of faith. With respect to this, Father Mouton reminds us, "We simply say that faith is developed by acts in the sense that repetition makes these acts easy. Let us never forget, and least of all, in time of temptation, the part the will plays in faith." Otherwise, Jesus would never have reproached the apostles for their slowness to understand (Mark, 4/40). Nor would Jesus have said to Peter when he lost confidence walking on the water, "How little faith you have" (Matt., 14/31).

The more temptations against faith assail us, the more we should repeat our act of faith. Spiritual writers advise us not to argue with the temptation, but merely repeat over and over again our act of faith.

Third, we can meditate more on the mysteries of faith. We can try to penetrate into these mysteries by reflecting on them and studying them. There are many groups of Catholics who gather together to study the Scriptures.

Fourth, we can strengthen our faith by the practice of charity, "Faith, which expresses itself through love" (Gal., 5/6/). The more we love God, the deeper will be our respect for His word, His teachings as outlined by the Church. The more we seek to do the will of God, the stronger our faith will become.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Kenner, La.

I was scheduled to have an operation in September. There was more than suspicion of cancer; one report said, "highly suspicious of malignant neoplasm." I visited the Father Seelos Center and asked to be blessed with the mission crucifix that he used during his life. At the moment of the blessing I felt that the tumor would be benign. With all my friends I began to pray to the good Father. On the day of the operation I was totally unafraid. Even when one of the doctors said just before the operation, "Thank God, we are catching this lesion in the very early stages because so much can be done nowadays with cancer." I replied, "This lesion is not cancer, it is benign." And so it was, thanks to God through the intercession of Father Seelos.

New Orleans, La.

Last year along with two friends I ventured into a business deal. We pooled our time and money. I invested everything I had. The bank that had promised us a loan backed out. We were facing bankruptcy. My friends were slowly losing their minds with all the pressure. One night I asked Father Seelos to help me out of this venture or help me go forward quickly. I did not even pray for the money. The next day I received news that a bank would give us a loan of \$80,000. I had already invested \$70,000. So you can imagine my immense relief. I have complete trust that Father Seelos' prayers helped me. Thank God

Gretna, La.

I just had to write you that my prayers to Father Seelos were answered. When my husband was 73, he had to undergo an emergency operation. At the time they did not know what was wrong with his stomach. The doctors said that if they did not operate immediately, he would die that night. It was his gall bladder. His blood pressure was 50, his temperature was 93. Five days after the operation one doctor said it was like a miracle. Five days ago he was dying, and now he is improving at a great rate. I thank God that he heard the prayers of Father Seelos.

Metairie, La.

My son was out of work for one year. I prayed to Father Seelos. My prayers were answered. My son has a good job and is now able to take care of his family's needs. Thanks.

Mail received September, 1987:

Petitions: 436 Thanksgivings: 161 Other: 666 Total: 1263
Daily message calls: 577.

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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; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The staff and volunteers of the Father Seelos Center wish all the readers of the bulletin a very happy and holy new year. We pray especially that the cause of Father's canonization will move forward both here and in Rome.
2. Be mindful of the prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos held every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. The service precedes the regular 11:30 A.M. Sunday Mass.
3. We welcome pilgrimages to the tomb of Father Seelos in the sanctuary of St. Mary's and to the museum attached to the church. The museum is open on Saturday afternoons after the 3 P.M. Mass, and on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11. For other times, please call us at 504-525-2495.
4. Begin each day by listening to a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center. Dial 504-586-1803.
5. For blessings of your sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, (New Orleans area only) 895-6176.
6. Please use the form below, should you wish to inform us that you are receiving more than one copy of the bulletin, or you are changing addresses or we have the wrong address or we have misspelled your name. Please send us your name from a previous issue.
7. Miss Regina Beck died November 1. May she rest in peace.

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