



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1988

THANKS, FATHER SEELOS



Lacey Lynn



Ryan Joseph

Recent visitors to St. Mary's Church and tomb and museum of Father Seelos, were these two bright-eyed children, together with other members of their families. They are first cousins. They came to see and to pray and to thank Father Seelos for his intercession. The mother of one of them has written, "Father Seelos has intervened for us so many times and often favors are granted in very unusual and unexpected ways. Our family is large and someone always seems to have a serious problem. . . We are always calling on him to help pray for us and he always seems to intercede for us."

SAINT ALPHONSUS AND HOPE

St. Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Redemptorists in southern Italy in 1732. He was a preacher of parish missions, the superior of a group of missionaries, a confessor of renown, a writer, a theologian, a poet, a lawyer, an artist, to list a few of his accomplishments. At the age of 67 he was made bishop of the diocese of St. Agatha of the Goths. His health was never robust. He was anointed seven times in his long life of nearly 92 years. Not too long after his death he was declared a saint, then a doctor of the Church, and just lately the patron of confessors and moralists.

He was respected and revered by all who came in contact with him. Yet in his old age he was beset with scrupulosity and assailed with doubts of his eternal salvation. Despite these trials, St. Alphonsus was full of confidence. He often prayed, "O my Jesus, it seems as though I must wait a thousand years until I have the happiness of beholding Thee in heaven."

His confidence was based on the goodness of God, the merits of Jesus Christ, and the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was accustomed to say over and over again, "My Jesus. Thou art my hope; Mary, my Mother, all my confidence rests in thee." He would say, "When temptations assail us, we have no other recourse than to abandon ourselves into the hands of God. All other means are deceitful."

As holy a man as he was, in his declining years he was tempted to despair. When so afflicted, he would pray from the Psalms, "In Thee, O Lord, I have hoped; let me never be put to confusion."

St. Alphonsus' whole life was filled with struggles, beginning with the one to leave the world and enter religious life. The early years of his fledgling Congregation were filled with disappointments. All his first companions left him. This did not deter him. He felt that it was God's will that he should found this society, and he trusted that God would provide.

He even found himself excluded from the Congregation he had founded. He was sick a good part of his life. However, his hope was ever in God. On one occasion he said, "God is a Master who will not allow Himself to be surpassed in kind services." Before his life came to an end, he saw his little Congregation of priests and brothers begin to spread in this world, he felt the cessation of his interior struggles, and in peace he gave his soul to God.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Napoleonville, La.

My prayers to Father Seelos were answered. Our program for the mentally retarded had been in jeopardy for some time. Changes have taken place which indicate that many problems have been solved.

Suburban, Il.

I would like to report many favors received by praying to Father Seelos. I became pregnant for the first time at the age of 36. I have always been a heavy drinker and smoker, so I was very concerned about the health of my baby. Hearing that I was pregnant, I immediately stopped drinking and smoking and prayed to Father Seelos for minute or two for the health of my baby. My baby is now two months old and very healthy and happy. I hope Father Seelos will soon be declared a saint.

Houston, Texas

I wish to make public my thanksgiving in fulfillment of a promise to Father Seelos ... for two favors granted. One that my surgery was not a major radical one as was once feared. Second, that the operation was a successful one according to the doctor. The tumor was all removed. I need a checkup every three months to see that all is well. I have promised to spread devotion to good Father Seelos.

St. Louis, Mo.

Gratitude requires that I write to say that I got a very desirable job through prayers I made to Father Seelos for work. Less than five percent of the writers in the U.S. earn their living by writing. Most work and do their writing in their free time. I am one of those. I started to look for a writing job in business. I did not get the first one offered. Subsequently I was offered an even better one.

I received a prayer card and memento from my son at a Catholic school. One of the sisters had asked her pupils to help Father Seelos become a canonized saint by praying to him and for his cause. Will you ask readers to pray for mothers who have to work to maintain their families?

New Orleans, La.

Gee, I'm awfully happy you have me on your mailing list. Then too, I'm tickled pink that I'm on your prayer list. Thanks bunches for all your prayers. I am a senior citizen, and the bills are not getting any easier to meet. Thanks a million for being my friend.

Mail received October, 1987:

Petitions: 582 Thanksgivings: 182 Other: 664 Total: 1428
Dail-a-message (504 586-1803): 601.

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

SPECIAL NOTES

1. Miss Regina Beck, longtime executive assistant of the Father Seelos Center, died on November 1 after a short illness. We recommend her to the charity of your prayers. She was gentle, kind and totally dedicated to the cause of Father Seelos. May her reward be great.
2. Dial daily for a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center: (504) 586-1803.
3. The Father Seelos Museum is directly behind the sacristies of St. Mary's Church. It is open on Saturdays after the 3:00 P.M. vigil Mass and from 9:30 to 11:00 on Sunday mornings. At other times, call (504) 525-2495 for an appointment.
4. We welcome pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. Call the Center for further details.
5. Every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock there is a prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos with benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It is followed by the 11:30 A.M. Sunday Mass.
6. For blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler at 895-6176.
7. 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.

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