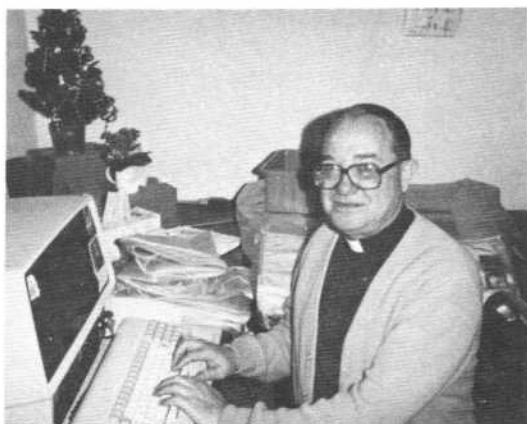




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1988



OUR MAN IN ROME

Father Carl Hoegerl, C.S.S.R., is stationed in the Redemptorist Generalate in Rome, where he is working full time on the canonization cause of Father Seelos. At present he is preparing a collection of historical documents the purpose of which is to prove that Father Seelos lived the Christian virtues to a heroic degree. When this work receives the approval of our Holy Father, the title of "Venerable" will be given to Father Seelos, and a giant step will have been taken toward his beatification and canonization.

Father Hoegerl, a Pennsylvanian by birth, is a member of the Baltimore Province. For eight years he has been attached to the Redemptorist Historical Institute in Rome. Needless to say, we are most grateful for the work he is doing for the Father Seelos cause. He visited the Center just before Christmas and posed for this picture at our computer. His in Rome no doubt speaks many languages.

LOVE OF GOD

The Israelites first heard the command to love God as they were making their pilgrimage through the desert to the Promised Land. Moses spoke to them in this manner, "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest" (Deut. 6, 4-7).

As the footnote in the Jerusalem Bible says, "this passage contains the basic principle of the whole Mosaic law: since the Lord alone is God, we must love Him with an undivided heart." Christ cited these words as "the greatest and first commandment."

Back in those far-off years, what did the Israelites know of God in the desert? They certainly had experienced His concern. When they seemed doomed to slavery in Egypt, the Lord brought them safely out of their exile. He helped them cross the Sea of Reeds ahead of their enemies. When they were hungry in the desert, He fed them with manna and quail from the skies. When they were thirsty, He brought forth water from the rock struck by Moses. For forty years of wandering, He was with them. He brought them successfully to the Promised Land. And all this, despite their grumbling, their infidelities, and even their idolatry. They just had to return His love.

And we, what do we not owe God?

Simply, we owe God our life, the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink. We owe Him our birth into the world, the opportunity to be a member of a family, with our parents, our brothers and sisters, and the friends that surround us. We owe Him the visible universe with all its splendor. Beyond all natural expectation, God our Father has made us His adopted children. He loved us so much, He sent us His Son. Conceived of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, He became one of us, and in effect, He made us His brothers and sisters. Through sanctifying grace He gave us all a share in His own divine life. Even when we sinned, God redeemed us through the death of His Son on the cross. Further, to give us enduring hope of eternal life, Jesus rose from the dead. It was as He had promised before the tomb of Lazarus, "I am the resurrection and the life . . . and whoever is alive and believes in Me will never die" (John, 11/26).

Our response to these thoughts should be the simple phrase that Father Grangell liked to repeat: "MGILY. My God, I love you."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Annapolis, MD

I have relied on Father Seelos more than one time and each time he has come through for me. May the good Lord be praised for hearing Father's prayers. I hope Father Seelos is soon canonized; he is truly wonderful.

Galveston, TX

My thanks to Father Seelos. I pray to him morning, noon, and night. I could not get along without my Father Seelos.

Metairie, LA

Just a note to let you know I am doing fine. My cancer is in remission and under control with medication. My bone marrow is free from tumor cells again. Thanks to the intercession of Father Seelos. I was blessed with his cross in February, 1986 when I was first diagnosed as having cancer with no hope of recovery.

New Orleans, LA

I promised to acknowledge that I received a special favor through the intercession of Father Seelos. My daughter was having difficulty finding employment and was becoming very depressed because of this. Today she was called to work at a very good salary. We thank God and Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

On two occasions I visited Father Seelos' tomb and prayed for his intercession. The first time, years ago, my son had graduated from college, but no jobs were to be had except at fast food places. After I prayed for a job for him, the job materialized. Very soon he proved his worth and has done well. I thank God and Father Seelos for his prayers.

Lately I have visited the tomb with a petition for work for my two daughters. I also prayed that my son make the right decision. It seems he did. As for the daughters, one was able to get a good job quickly, even though the job market here is not very good. The other, after years of struggling as a free-lance writer, now has published a book and is inundated with writing offers.

Greenwell Springs, LA

I have prayed to Father Seelos for various favors and have been granted every one. I prayed for employment for my children and other personal favors. My list is always getting longer and longer as my family grows, but I continue to ask Father Seelos and he always comes through for me.

Mail, November, 1987

Petitions: 612

Thanksgivings: 209

Other: 375

Total: 1079

Dial-a-message calls: 612.

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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 prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos is held every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock in St. Mary's Church. All our readers are invited to attend this half hour of prayer, at least, in spirit. A parish Mass follows at 11:30.
2. The Father Seelos Museum is open on Saturday afternoons after the 3:00 vigil Mass, and again on Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11. At other times, by appointment. Please call (504) 525-2495.
3. We welcome pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. Please let us know your plans. For details, call the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495.
4. For a daily spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center, dial (504) 586-1803.
5. For blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.
6. If you wish to inform us of a change of address, or correct an address or a misspelling of your name, or that you wish to remove someone's name from our subscription list, please use the form below. Also send us your name from a previous issue.

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