



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1988



FÜSSEN REMEMBERS FATHER SEELOS

Füssen is a small but beautiful winter resort town in the Bavarian Alps. It could well be the Aspen or Vail of that area. It also happens to be the birthplace of Francis Xavier Seelos, who may well be its most famous citizen.

Father's picture hangs prominently at the entrance to the parish church of St. Mang, where he was baptized on the very day of his birth, January 11, 1819.



Pictured above is Mr. L. Charles Escudé, of River Ridge, Louisiana, on his arrival at the town in March of last year, and signing in on the registry at the church. Mr. Escudé is the narrator of the TV documentary, "Seelos - A Cause to Rejoice." This documentary is available at the Center in the VHS format only.

PURITY

It is truly remarkable that in this day and age, the word, purity, or chastity or abstinence from sexual activity, has made a comeback in, of all places, the secular press. Heretofore, when anyone suggested chastity or abstinence as a means to correct some of the ills of the world, he or she was greeted with laughter and ridicule. After all this is the era of the so-called sexual revolution, and all traditional family ethics are on hold. However, to give credit where credit is due, the press is merely reporting what some prominent people are thinking and saying.

Sex is a gift of God to the whole person. He made us male and female, men and women. The Church teaches us that sex is a gift to be shared between husband and wife bound together in holy matrimony. Abstinence is required of those who are not married.

In his book, *Following Christ*, a handbook of Catholic moral teaching, Father Daniel L. Lowery, C.S.S.R., has this description of purity, and I summarize him:

Purity is not the greatest of virtues, charity is the greatest. But purity is very closely related to holiness. St. Paul reminds us, "God has not called us to immorality but to holiness" (I Thessalonians, 4/7).

Purity is a demanding virtue, because it deals with the capital vice of lust. The pull of the concupiscence of the flesh is great.

Purity is a liberating virtue. It frees us from the lusts we experience, it frees us from the slavery of concupiscence. St. Paul tells us, "The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed you from the law of sin and death" (Romans, 8/2).

It is worthwhile to repeat in this connection the means of preserving purity long endorsed by the spiritual writers of the Church: 1) the practice of self-denial; 2) avoiding the occasions of sin, persons, places, objects that can lead one into sin; 3) prayer in the time of temptation, and prayer to our Blessed Mother; 4) frequent reception of the sacraments of reconciliation and Holy Communion.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Los Angeles, CA

Thank you for your prayers for Robert. His surgery was a success, thank God. I am so grateful for everyone's prayers. It is a blessing to know that people care for some one else. God bless each and everyone for their prayers for sick people and others with problems.

Broomall, PA

I was a smoker for fifty years, but I prayed to Father Seelos for help and have now gone one whole year without smoking. Previously I had tried many times to stop. I feel that my prayers to Father Seelos were answered.

Chalmette, LA

My son lost his job last May. He has three small children. At first we were not too concerned because his qualifications were good, and there were quite a few places where he could apply. When the weeks started to pass and no offers came in, we began to worry.

I started to say the Rosary daily, and with my memento of Father Seelos on me, I said the prayer for his canonization at all hours of the day whenever I could. On Christmas morning my son received a call to come to work the following day. What a wonderful Christmas present for all of us! I promised this letter of thanks if my son got a job.

Covington, LA

I would like to thank Father Seelos for his prayers. I began to pray to him two and a half years ago to help my daughter's life to turn around. She is now free from drugs and is making a living on her own.

New Iberia, LA

I am writing to express my gratitude for many favors granted me through the prayers of Father Seelos. I would also like to share something with you. I find a peace, a sort of calmness by praying to Father Seelos. I know I can speak for my mother as well when I say this, even though she has now passed on. She knew she did not have long to live. Through a lot of prayers she was given the strength and courage to cope. I believe this the greatest answer to a desperate prayer.

Mail received in February, 1988

Petitions: 495. Thanksgivings: 255. Others: 519. Total: 1269.

Dial-a-message calls: 705.

Volunteer hours: 236.

FATHER'S DAY

Our prayers and best wishes to all the fathers.

Our special prayers for all the deceased fathers.

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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 Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography. Price: \$10.00
 - b. A TV documentary on Father Seelos (VHS only): \$45.00.
 - c. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission cross of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - f. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - g. Every Sunday morning in St. Mary's Church at 11 A. M., there is a prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. WE ASK YOUR COOPERATION!

Because of the rising costs in the production and mailing of this bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, it is imperative that we hear from you. The sole purpose of this publication has been and will be to acquaint the public with the life and virtues of Father Seelos and to encourage people to pray for his canonization. So, please let us know, as soon as possible, that it is your wish to continue receiving this bulletin. The subscription price per year is a modest \$2.00.

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