



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1988



## HIS FAMILY REMEMBERS

As the years roll by a steady stream of members of the Seelos family from Bavaria have come to St. Mary's in New Orleans to visit the tomb of their now famous relative. Eighteen years ago Gebhard Seelos visited us in New Orleans. He was a distinguished man in his own right. He had been ambassador of West Germany to Greece, Portugal and Brazil. Gebhard's grandfather was Ambrose, Father Seelos' brother.

Just recently Gebhard's grandson, Christian Heldt, came to visit the tomb and St. Mary's Church. He is a student of law and political science, and lives in Bonn, the capital of West Germany. Bonn is the birthplace of Beethoven, and Christian fittingly enough lives on Beethovenstrasse.

## FIRE ESCAPE?

Mrs. Lynn Wilson, of Mobile, Alabama, sent us this photo. Her automobile was totally destroyed by fire. The objects of her devotion were above the dashboard. All the objects: three statues, a crucifix, and a memento of Father Seelos were made of plastic and remained untouched by the fire.



## "THY WILL BE DONE"

To do God's will is the supreme rule of life. God is the Lord and Master of all creation. His plan, therefore, has to be fulfilled. All creation rightly obeys the laws that its nature decrees. The sun rises in the east every morning and sets in the west every evening. The stars travel through the skies according to a set plan. Acorns produce graceful oak trees. Animals roam through the woods and jungles of the earth. Some are tamed to serve the needs of human beings.

God has created men and women to differ from the rest of this earth's creatures. We possess intelligence and free will. God has made us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him. Of all created things only we can choose not to serve the Lord and not to obey His will. We alone in this world can turn our back on God and commit sin. In the pursuit of the good, God does not leave us unaided. If we ask Him for help, He gives us His grace, and hence the ability, to do His will.

In the Our Father, Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." When He promised the Eucharist to His hearers in Capernaum, of Himself He could say, "... it is not to do My own will that I have come down from heaven, but to do the will of Him who sent Me" (John, 6/39).

As He preached to us, so did He practise. The night before He died, He suffered a distressful agony, even to the sweating of blood. It was at this moment that He prayed, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup from me; yet not My will but Yours be done" (Luke, 22/42).

In Mary we have the beautiful example of her submission to God's holy will. When the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her to announce the good news that she had been chosen to become the Mother of God, she bowed her head and her will and said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say" (Luke, 1/38).

In all the circumstances of our lives, the sorrowful as well as the joyful, let us pray, God our Father, may Thy will be done.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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SPECIAL NOTE. Patricia Treece, of Calabasas, California, has just written a book called NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE, The Healing Power of the Saints. It is published by Image Books, Doubleday, New York, 1988. The price is \$7.95. There are two chapters in this book concerning Father Seelos, and also St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R. Look for this book at your local book store.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Iota, LA

I am writing to express my thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers. I was employed at one job ever since I was fifteen years old. After almost twenty years of service to this company, I was released without any type of warning. A father of three young children and a home to pay for yet – at the age of thirty-five, I felt as though I had been beaten. But through the help of Father Seelos' prayers to the Almighty, I'm glad to say that in five months' time, my home is now paid for and I have a very good business of my own. For this my deepest thanks and continued prayers.

New Orleans, LA

This is in thanksgiving for a favor received. My face would turn very red and burn. I prayed to Father Seelos and St. Anthony and my prayers were answered. I am grateful and will help promote the sainthood of Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos for a favor granted. My niece was in a terrible accident. We prayed to Father Seelos and she has made a miraculous recovery and is now back to work.

Arabi, LA

On March 4 my husband was diagnosed as having cancer, a tumor in the colon. His sister gave him a cloth memento of the Servant of God Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. Four days later he had surgery and wore the cloth memento in the operating room. We all said the special prayer for the canonization of Father Seelos, over and over again. The surgery was successful and we have been assured that all the cancer has been removed. My husband is getting better every day, and I sincerely believe that it has been through the prayers of Father Seelos.

P.S. My husband and I were both raised in Redemptorist parish and attended Redemptorist schools and were married in St. Alphonsus Church by Father William Grangell.

San Antonio, TX

Our prayers were answered through the help of Father Seelos. Our son took the aptitude test and passed with flying colors. He scored even higher than he did previously.

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Mail received in March, 1988

Petitions: 717. Thanksgivings: 281. Others: 579. Total: 1577.

Dial-a-message calls: 700.

Volunteer hours: 455.

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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.

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## 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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