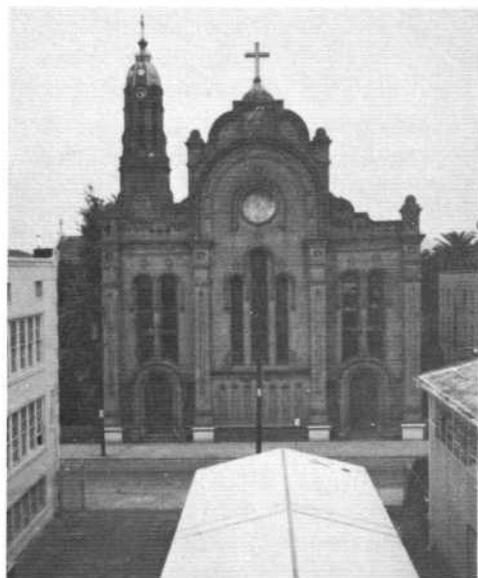




# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1988



## MEMORIES OF OLD ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's Assumption Church has a long history, dating back almost a century and a half. We do not always realize that there are people alive today, not only here in New Orleans but in other parts of the country, who knew relatives who lived in the times of the beginning of the parish (1843) and the building of the present St. Mary's (1860) and the short term of Father Seelos' stay in New Orleans (1867).

Agnes, for example, lives in a nursing home in Milwaukee, but writes us these memories, "I want to tell you about my grandparents, what they did when they were building St. Mary's. They brought the bricks to the builders. My grandmother used to carry the bricks in her apron. They helped a lot. They were lovely people. My grandfather's name was Godfried Gaisser and my grandmother's single name was Wegmann. They raised four daughters and raised them very well. They all went to St. Mary's School; my two sisters and I went there also. I was married in St. Mary's and my sister as well. I think my parents were married there, too."

At the beginning of her letter, Agnes poignantly writes, "I have a very sad and lonesome life. Please pray for me." Thanks, Agnes, for the memories. We'll keep you in our prayers.

## MEEKNESS

The virtue of meekness is closely allied to the virtue of humility. Jesus pointed to Himself as an example, "Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Matt. 11/29). While humility enables us to know ourselves as we really are only in the sight of God and thus attacks pride, meekness helps us to control the passion of anger.

It is good for us to know that there is such a thing as justifiable anger. The classic example of this is, of course, told us in the gospel according to St. Matthew: "Jesus entered the temple precincts and drove out all those engaged there in buying and selling. He overturned the money changers' tables and the stalls of the dove-sellers, saying to them: "Scripture has it, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are turning in into a den of thieves" (Matt. 21/12-13).

During the closing days of His life on earth, Jesus often practised the virtue of meekness. Herod treated Him as a fool and made light of Him before his whole court. But Jesus held His peace. A group of rough soldiers made Him the butt of their jests. They plucked His beard, they struck Him with their fists, and, clothing Him in a rag of purple, they pretended He was their King. For a scepter they put a rod in His hands, and, weaving a crown of thorns, they placed in on His head. Through all this uncalled-for barbarity He uttered not a word.

A servant struck Him a blow in the face for seeming to disrespect the high priest. Jesus meekly replied: "If I said anything wrong produce the evidence, but if I spoke the truth why hit me?" (John, 18/23). Even during His very last moments on the cross, His enemies continued to taunt Him and revile Him. When they cursed Him He blessed them. His first word on the cross was a plea for the forgiveness of His executioners. He even supplied an excuse for them: they did not know what they were doing.

Anger is an emotion that arises within us even before our reason is aware of its presence. It arises when we and people close to us are the victims of injustice and injury. Our immediate desire is to take revenge on those who have offended us.

I believe we readily understand the sinfulness of uncontrolled anger. We see all around us every day the victims of violence arising from quarrels, family and otherwise.

The fits of temper that seem to bother us most are the ones shown to those with whom we live and whom we love. When these fits of temper come upon us, that is the time to imitate Jesus. When He was provoked, He remained silent.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

El Cajon, CA

In thanksgiving for a favor: my husband's tests came out negative. If you have space, please publish this.

Metairie, LA

My grandson from Michigan has been trying to sell his home for four or five summers now. I prayed to Father Seelos and the house was sold two weeks ago. Thanks to Father Seelos. I have been praying to him for many years. May he soon become a saint.

Harahan, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos our sixth grandchild now weighs almost ten pounds. She was born with problems and had major surgery six hours after birth. We put the scapular of Father Seelos on the nursery bassinette in C I C U at Tulane. What a pretty little girl she is. We have enjoyed her these four months.

Baton Rouge, LA

I have been praying to Father Seelos to help my brother-in-law to have a successful open heart surgery. He had four by-passes. I gave him a memento to wear, and thanks to God and Father Seelos, he got along so well he was back home in one week. He is 72 years old. We are all so happy that he got along so well with no complications.

Metairie, LA

In November I was operated on for a large malignant tumor. I had a mastectomy. The doctor was not sure that he got all the cancer. I asked our Blessed Mother, Father Seelos, St. Peregrine to intercede for me. A priest brought the mission cross to the hospital and touched me with it. Tests after the operation proved benign, and my recuperation was quick.

Chalmette, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos for six months to help me find a job so that I could quit the stressful one I had. At my age changing jobs would be very difficult, if not impossible. Sure enough my prayers were answered. Not only did I find employment but my income will be increased. I am grateful for Father Seelos for his intercession.

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Mail for April, 1988

Petitions: 509      Thanksgivings: 240      Others: 509      Total: 1258

Dial-a-message: 637

Volunteer hours: 473

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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 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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