



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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LOOKING BACK

Cardinal Newman said, "I loved the garish day, pride ruled my will, remembering not past years." St. Augustine cried, "O God, our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." Oscar Wilde left posterity these words:

"All men kill the thing they love.
By all let this be heard.
Some do it with a bitter look,
Some with a flattering word,
A coward does it with a kiss,
A brave man with a sword."

The backward glance, the last one to see what was once
so great, 'tis not what one believed.

What did shine bright turned tawdry overnight.

What sparkled in the sun lost its allure as night did come,
Gold shown mellow in the light now tarnished in the
passing night.

Attachments all these — so held in fond delight, have
grown pallid.

The pleasures with which they sent the senses glowing,
are dull, and rendered now invalid.

To God then, our only Friend, to whom we hope our journey
wends, our words might be:

"O God, deliver us from this debris.
Please set us free,
For our hearts are restless until they rest
in Thee."

Vincent A. Elworthy

REASON AND FAITH

Our human reason tells us there is a God. One of the Psalms of the Old Testament tells us this, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork" (Ps. 19/2). We cannot look at the heavens, day or night, without thinking of the God who made them. What precision, what immensity, what beauty is found in our universe! What mysteries are not contained in the atom, electricity, a simple blade of grass, the tiniest bird, the largest animal! What secrets are locked in the human body! What great artist has painted the sunrises and the sunsets! What great mind has grasped the intricacies of our own little globe! The Bible again tells us, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Ps. 14/1).

Our faith tells us so much more about God, because He has revealed Himself to us. In Scripture which is the word of God, we learn that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" (John 3/16). The author of the Letter to the Hebrews begins it in this way: "In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our fathers through the prophets; in this, the final age, He has spoken to us through His Son, whom He has made heir of all things and through whom He first created the universe" (Heb. 1/1-2).

In the fullness of time the Son of God became man and lived among us. At the age of thirty He began His public life of preaching and healing. Wherever He went He preached the Word of God. Of our own unaided reason, we would never have known anything of the mysteries of the divinity, except He told us.

He told us that He and the Father and the Holy Spirit are one, that the Word became flesh through the Virgin Mary, that He suffered and died for our salvation on the cross, that He rose from the dead, that He became our food and drink in the Holy Eucharist, that He shares with us His divine life through sanctifying grace, that the Holy Trinity dwells within us and we become truly the temples of God. And when death comes, He promised us eternal life in His heavenly kingdom.

Because we share in the divine life, we shall be able then to see Him as He is. For St. John says, "Dearly beloved, we are God's children; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3/2).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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As 1989 approaches, the staff and volunteers of the Father Seelos Center wish all the subscribers to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY a holy and happy new year!

SPECIAL LETTERS

Bronx, NY

I just got home from my volunteering in our local hospital and was glad to find my copy of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY in my mailbox. I wanted to send a note of thanksgiving. A severe rash had developed on my body. I was treated by my doctor, and the rash went away. However, it returned a few weeks later. I did not want to return to the doctor again. I started praying to Father Seelos. In a week the rash disappeared. I pray that others would believe in his intercession with the Lord and pray to him earnestly. I am 87 years young and work as a volunteer in a hospital four days a week. I am so grateful to be able.

Peekskill, NY

I can't begin to express my thankfulness to you for pursuing my phone call. As I said, I have been having a difficult time with my pregnancy, recently almost losing the baby. The day I received your suggested "Nothing Short of A Miracle," the doctor informed me that there is a possibility of a deformity according to a blood test. Since that day I (a non-Catholic) have been praying to Father Seelos and Father Solanus. The book has given me much hope.

New Orleans, LA

I would like to thank Father Seelos for helping me during these past six months. In February I was diagnosed as having breast cancer. After surgery, chemo and x-ray therapy, I am happy to say I am doing fine. Today I had to take a C-scan for what the doctor thought was a mass or tumor in my abdomen. The C-scan was negative for any tumors. All during the C-scan I prayed to the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos. How could I have doubted that my test could be anything but negative?

New Orleans, LA

I want to thank you for sending Father Steffes to my home to bless me with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. God is so good. He has healed me of cancer of the lymph nodes behind the lung. It is good to know that through servants like Father Steffes and Mr. Gautreau that we have a Divine Physician who is the same yesterday, today and forever. God continue to bless you in your work for our good Father Seelos. May he be canonized soon.

Mail, September, 1988:

Petitions: 627

Thanksgivings: 324

Other: 583

Total: 1552

Dial-a-messages: 790

Volunteer hours: 594

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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. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," 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.
 - h. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters about the cause of Father Seelos. Available at the Center. Price: \$7.95
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