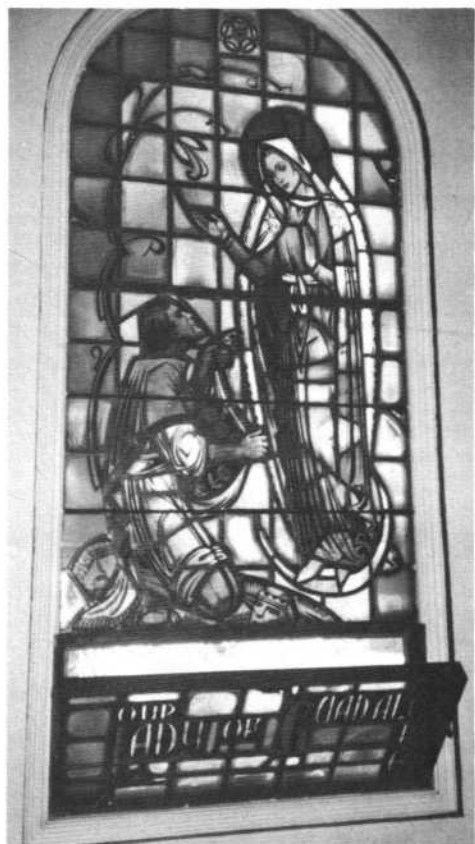




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1989



ST. WILLIAMS' CHURCH
Greeley, Colorado

PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

In the nineteenth century our country was flooded with immigrants, most of them coming from Europe and many already Catholic. Father Seeelos left his home in Bavaria to help the people who spoke German. In New Orleans he worked in the Redemptorist parish with its three churches and three nationalities: English, German and French.

Today the Church is trying to serve the large number of immigrants coming from Latin America. The Church here is the richer for the heritage left by the early hispanic presence, decades before England came to settle our shores.

We pray that Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, will continue to guide us in our outreach to these her dear children.

LOVE OF THE CROSS - IN SICKNESS

We are aware of the difference between mortification and self-denial. In mortification we are the active agents, whereas in self-denial we are the passive recipients of whatever comes our way: slights, insults, blows, sickness.

One of the favorite movie-actors of all time was Gary Cooper. He was tall, tan, ruggedly handsome, silent, the quint-essential hero of the "Westerns." Late in life Gary became a Catholic. I believe his wife was already one. Once in a serious conversation with the famous writer, Ernest Hemingway, Gary confided that perhaps he had made a mistake in becoming a Catholic. I do not recall the reasons he put forth for his doubt. Some years later Gary was stricken with cancer, and in learning to cope with it, he told Hemingway, "Becoming a Catholic was the best thing I ever did."

I don't know of anybody who actively seeks to be sick, loaded down with discomfort and pain. Sickness comes to us very much as a part of the human condition. Sickness is a time for depression and anxiety. We easily become annoyed. When pain is excessive, we find praying most difficult. This is the time when we must enter the school of the crucified. Becoming man Jesus accepted the human condition. He did not flee the suffering that came with this state.

O what a pitiable sight He must have been on that first Good Friday! The Son of God, attacked in His human flesh, scourged, crowned with thorns, covered with spittle, His hands and feet pierced with nails. He was upbraided by the two criminals crucified with Him, blasphemed and derided by the mob. His only response was to pray for those who dealt Him this death, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do." His prayer in the garden the night before had been, "Not My will, Father, but Thine be done."

Our Lord told Juliana of Norwich, "Suddenly you will be taken from all your pain, all your sickness, all your discomfort. You will come up above, with Me as your reward . . . Never again will there be any sort of suffering or unhappiness . . . Why should it grieve you to suffer a little while, seeing that this is My will and My glory?" (Cited in BRINGING BACK CHRIST, by Robert Nash, S.J.)

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, LA

On March 26 of this year I discovered through a bone-marrow test that I had multiple myeloma (bone-marrow cancer, a form of leukemia). I was told to see an oncologist. He prescribed chemo-therapy immediately, and my dentist in Lafayette suggested that I receive a blessing with Father Seelos' cross. Father Steffes gave me the blessing.

Then I began to pray in earnest for the intercessory prayers of Father Seelos that God would cure my cancer. I asked that my intention be recommended to the prayers of those praying before the tomb of Father Seelos.

At my first appointment with the oncologist, I asked him how long I had to live. His reply was "one year if you do not respond to the treatment; more, if you do." About a month and a half ago, one night before I retired I heard an internal voice (not audible), very gentle, like the gentle breeze mentioned in the Scriptures, say "Your cancer has left."

Yesterday, Thursday, August 24, the oncologist informed me that I have improved *dramatically* since March 26. I am still under his care.

New Orleans, LA

My niece recently underwent by-pass heart surgery and a heart valve replacement. Our prayers to Father Seelos were heard and she is well on her way to complete recovery. In grateful thanksgiving.

Houston, TX

I am writing this letter with tears of joy and much thanksgiving in my heart. There is a history of arthritis in my family; my grandfather, my father, and I were all afflicted. I had tried most everything and all the medications on the market. Nothing relieved my pain.

I began to pray to Father Seelos every day. With much difficulty I came to New Orleans to be blessed with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos and to pray at his tomb in St. Mary's. I could almost feel his presence. I knew that I would be healed.

I can now bend over without pain. I can stand up straight up on my feet and walk upright again. I really believe there is hope for those who suffer from arthritis through the intercession of Father Seelos. God be praised. May he be declared a saint soon.

Mail, August, 1989:

Petitions: 695 Thanksgivings: 312 Other: 988 Total: 1995
Dial-a-message: 692.
Volunteer hours: 889.

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$2.00 per year.

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.

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 of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: \$45.00
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos. Price: \$7.95 plus postage. Available at the Center.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and the museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - h. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS: every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We do appreciate your letting us know you want to continue to receive the bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Please return the lower portion of this page to us.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130-5099
2030 CONSTANCE ST.

FATHER SEELOS CENTER (USPS 488-660)

12/89
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.