



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 6

JUNE 1989

## THANK YOU, FATHER SEELOS!

This Lent the first two visitors to St. Mary's Church and the tomb and museum of Father Seelos were Kathleen and Bill Grempe, and they came over a thousand miles from Oscada, Michigan. The reason for their pilgrimage was to thank Father Seelos for his intercession with God in their behalf. Both of them were in the USAF, and suddenly Kathleen was stricken with cancer of the liver and just a short time to live.

While she was undergoing therapy, the couple and their families were storming heaven with prayers. At this time they read about the healing powers of Father Seelos in the book, "Nothing Short of A Miracle," by Patricia Treece. As directed in the book they dialed the number of the Father Seelos Center in New Orleans, and by chance they spoke to Mrs. Angela Boudreaux, an executive assistant at the Center, who had been mentioned in the book and who had gone through the same experience as Kathleen twenty-three years before. Kathleen and Bill both feel that her improvement in health borders on the miraculous.



BILL AND KATHLEEN GREMP

## TODAY'S, TOMORROW'S CHALLENGE C H A S T I T Y

God's sixth and ninth commandments: "You shall not commit adultery . . . You shall not covet your neighbor's wife." (Ex. 20/14) . . . break through the clutter of immorality, euphemisms, and so-called modern standards of morality, so common in our world today. The bombardments of sex and its pleasures would seduce too many of us, if we did not maintain the Christian morality of sex in thought, word and deed.

In the gospel according to St. Matthew (19/8-10), our Lord puts it this way: "If your hand or your foot is your undoing, cut it off and throw it from you. Better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than be thrown with two hands and two feet into endless fire."

St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, in chapter seven, extols the Christian values of marriage and virginity. Please read it and recognize his practical counsel for Christians of all ages.

Moreover, should we not see and recognize God's love and justice for all who would accept His challenge to purity? Purity or chastity, the virtue of Christian discipline of the pleasures of sex, is the paramount need for today, tomorrow and always — for the young, the married as well as the unmarried, and all of us. It demands a daily use of prayer, mortification, charity and true devotion to Mary our Mother.

Temptations of the flesh will assault us throughout our lives. A thousand temptations, however, do not make one sin. If we do fail and fall, we are assured that with contrite hearts our souls will be cleansed of sin and will be made whiter than snow.

POSTSCRIPT . . . Celibacy — the unmarried state — "for the sake of the Kingdom of God" (Matt. 19/12) holds an honored place in the teaching of Christ and His Church. Pope John Paul II expresses this beautifully: "Virginity or celibacy for the sake of the kingdom of God does not contradict the dignity of marriage but presupposes it and confirms it." The celibate person anticipates in his or her flesh the new world of the future resurrection.

So do all of us who keep the faith and fight the good fight!

John A. Hensgen, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, LA

We wish to thank you for your prayers offered for the successful kidney transplant of the head of our family. The transplant was performed on January 20, 1989. After being on the national organ list for one year, he now enjoys good health five weeks after surgery. Your prayers, devotion and faith were an important part of his recovery. Thank you!

New Orleans, LA

In October my husband underwent an operation for colon cancer. It was successful, but a week later he developed a huge blood clot in his lung and his condition was critical. The doctors gave him 72 hours to pass this crisis. If he made it, he would have a chance to live. Well, my family and I all prayed to St. Theresa, the Blessed Mother and numerous saints. I found a memento of Father Seelos that my mother had before she died. I prayed hard to Father Seelos and promised a letter of thanksgiving. My husband is now doing well and is on his way to complete recovery. He is now taking a blood thinner, and I hope, will soon be completely well. Thanks to Father Seelos and all the saints.

Baton Rouge, LA

I was at St. Mary's Church on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1988. Someone took us through the Father Seelos Museum. I said a prayer for my mother-in-law who was very ill. That same evening I brought her a package. That night they rushed her to x-ray because they thought she might have a blockage in her right knee. It was very swollen and red. I told her where I had been that day and put the memento of Father Seelos under her pillow. The family was very upset because she had taken a turn for the worse. In the morning we were astonished at her miraculous improvement. She said she slept all night for the first time in months. The swelling and redness were gone. The doctors were amazed at her recovery. I know it was a healing through the prayers of Father Seelos. My family and I are very grateful for this healing and we wanted to share it with you and your readers.

New Iberia, LA

My niece had to have a hysterectomy. I prayed to Father Seelos for her and promised to publish the good news. Thanks to Father Seelos there was no malignancy and she is doing great.

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Mail for February, 1989:

Petitions: 573      Thanksgivings: 304      Other: 341      Total: 1218

Volunteer hours: 634      Dial-a-message: 577

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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.

## 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 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.

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