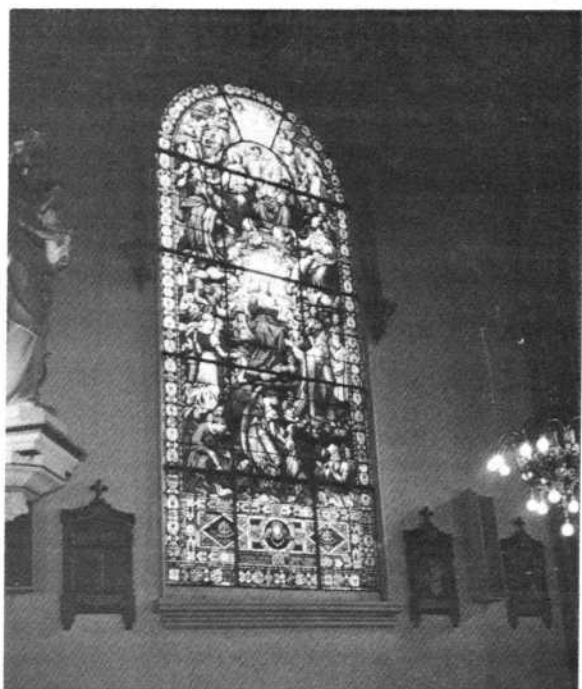




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1989



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION

It must have been a source of joy to Father Seelos to spend his last year on earth as acting pastor of a church dedicated to the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Father Michael Curley in his book, *The Cheerful Ascetic*, writes, "Father Seelos believed the doctrine of the Assumption of Our Lady as well as the Infallibility of the Pope even before these were declared dogmas of faith. In 1859, as Father Zimmer relates, when any of his students expressed some doubt or hinted at a doubt concerning the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady into heaven, the prefect, who was naturally meek at all times, showed concern and corrected the young man, saying, 'This is the common teaching of the Church. Do you have to wait until you are threatened with excommunication to believe it?'" (p. 272).

Whether this glass-window (picture above) was in place in the time of Father Seelos, we can only guess. It does beautifully express Father Seelos' faith in Mary and the power of her intercession.

JESUS AND THE VIRTUE OF HUMILITY

"They (the apostles) returned to Capernaum and Jesus, once inside the house, began to ask them, 'What were you discussing on the way home?' At this they fell silent, for on the way they had been arguing about who was the most important" (Mark, 9/33-34). Jesus had frequently spoken to them of humility. Just recently He had foretold His passion with its humiliations. His words seemed to be in vain. Jesus read their thoughts and said to them, "If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last one of all and the servant of all" (Mark, 9/35).

There was another occasion. "Just then the disciples came up to Jesus with the question, 'Who is of greatest importance in the kingdom of God? He called a little child over and stood him in their midst and said, 'I assure you, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God'" (Matt. 18/1-3).

It is so often said, humility is truth. It is down to earth. Humility comes from the Latin word, *humus*, meaning earth. No matter what age or career in life, no matter what honors, no matter what we claim to be or have, we should rightly be children of God. We must recognize that at all times we can be wayward children, tempted to forget God's goodness and care, that we can lose our way, fall into despair and fail His everlasting love.

Humility is really the foundation of all the Christian virtues. How can we believe and esteem our faith, if we cannot recognize the infinite wisdom and love of God! How can we have any hope for life everlasting, if we do not understand our sinfulness and His infinite mercy! How can we return His love if we do not see His infinite goodness to us and to our neighbor!

Indeed, the undying root of all sin is pride. Like Adam we would forget God's law in our inner nature and wish to have things our way, right or wrong. We might compromise His law in marriage. We might think we can get along without God, as makers of our own lives and destinies. Pride is nothing but the will to be free of God and His love. It is the beginning of hell, as was the fate of Lucifer.

May we ever seek the last place. May we never forget the example of our divine Lord. O Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner. Mary, humble handmaid of the Lord, pray for me.

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

SPECIAL LETTERS

Oscoda, MI

I was twenty-three years old, married six months, and in the military when I was diagnosed to have cancer of the liver. Serious surgery had to be performed. It was scheduled for November 1. My parents joined my husband and me. While they waited for the operation to be completed, they prayed the rosary after rosary. After an hour and a half the surgeon had completed what he could. The diagnosis was cancer of the liver. The cancer had spread through my abdomen. The news was devastating to my husband and parents.

My father had read the book, *Nothing Short of a Miracle*, and the wonderful cures that Father Seelos had obtained through his prayers. That evening my father called the Father Seelos Center and explained how his youngest daughter was afflicted with cancer. The lady who answered the phone gave us all so much faith and hope, we shall always be grateful to her. The lady was Angela Boudreaux.

When the news of my condition was broken to me, my first reaction was shock, then disbelief. My father then told me about Father Seelos and the wonders of his life. A strange feeling came over me. I was no longer scared or in disbelief. I had accepted my burden.

After twelve weeks of chemotherapy and endless prayers, I weighed only seventy-five pounds and had lost all my hair. A CAT scan revealed that the cancer had disappeared. The doctors were impressed with my recovery. A few months before they had not expected me to live. In February my husband and I visited the tomb of Father Seelos to thank him for his intercession. At this same time we saw St. Mary's Church, the museum and the Father Seelos Center. I was also able to thank Angela for the love, support and strength, and most of all, the faith she had given me.

Kathleen Grempe

Metairie, LA

What a privilege and joy it was to visit St. Mary's last week and to be able to go in and pray at Father Seelos' tomb! It was so quiet and peaceful. I felt I had stepped back in time. I brought my mother who is suffering with Alzheimer's disease, praying that God would touch her in some way through the intercession of Father Seelos.

Mail, April 1989:

Petitions: 560

Thanksgivings: 271

Other: 723

Total: 1554

Volunteer hours: 653

Dial-a-message: 544

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.

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