



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1990

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS



CEMETERY IN FÜSSEN

Graying skies, nippy winds, falling leaves, blackened limbs of trees or as Shakespeare called them, "bare ruined choirs where late the sweet birds sang", remind us of the dying year and our common destiny, death. Melancholy thoughts for melancholy weather.

Our faith in Jesus Christ teaches us that life does not end with the grave, that our souls are immortal and that we live forever. We have the assurance that we shall all rise again, as Jesus did after His death on the cross. We are bound to those who have preceded us in death by the grace of almighty God. In heaven the saints already enjoy the beatific vision, in purgatory the souls detained there have the greatest assurance that they too shall be in permanent possession of the happiness that never ends.

Father Seelos left his home without saying farewell in person to his family. It was not that he did not love them, but tried to spare them and himself the wrenching sorrow of parting. In America he did not forget them; he often wrote them and they were constantly in his thoughts and prayers.

The mortal remains of the members of the Seelos family lie in this cemetery at Füssen. We thank them for their gift of their son and brother to us in America.

PRAYER

Much has been written on the subject of prayer over the centuries and especially the last few decades. As followers of Christ we could not help developing our own thoughts on this subject. For sure we have developed our own practice of prayer.

St. Alphonsus has been called the "Doctor of Prayer." In his writings he stressed prayer as the necessary and universal means of salvation. He wrote that in whatever circumstances we find ourselves we can always pray. We may be unable to frequent the sacraments, at times we may be unable to flee the occasions of sin, but we can always pray.

Prayer is communion with God. God is present everywhere, around us and within us. By telephone and radio we can communicate with our next-door neighbor or with someone as far away as Bangkok or even on the moon. Even more of a miracle, we can speak to God when or where ever we please. We need no instrument. There is no number to dial, there is no busy signal, and God is always at home.

Prayer is a sign of spiritual life in the soul. What breath is to the physical body, prayer is to the spiritual life of the soul. When we cease breathing, we are dead. In regard to prayer, St. Alphonsus was the one who put it so succinctly: if you pray, you will be saved; if you do not pray, you will be lost.

Prayer is our armor in the battle of life. Today in the cities of our fair land, citizens are finding out what it takes to protect themselves and their possessions. Violence in our streets, invasions of homes by thieves and murderers have made us only too conscious of the fragile protection we are afforded by society today. We need protection, too, in our spiritual life. There are many enemies looking for our defeat. Prayer is our protection, our suit of armor, in this battle. On the night before He died Jesus warned His disciples, "Pray that you may not be put to the test" (Luke, 22/40). Many of us will remember the prayer to St. Michael that we used to say after Mass: "St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protector against the wiles and snares of the devil. Drive into hell all the evil spirits who roam the world seeking the ruin of souls."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Virginia

This is a letter of thanksgiving to Father Seelos for his intercession that I did not have AIDS. My life will be devoted to assisting those with AIDS and giving my complete life to Christ and in what He wants me to do for Him.

Kenner, LA

We were first introduced to the wonderful work of the Center when a family member arranged for the missionary crucifix of Father Seelos to be brought to my husband at Doctors Hospital. He was undergoing radical face and neck surgery for a second occurrence of melanoma. This was two years ago. He prays daily and touches a memento to his neck. There has been no reoccurrence of cancer.

La Place, LA

I have been praying to Father Seelos for only a short time. He has never failed me. A few months ago my doctor told me I had a serious health problem. Once again I asked for Father's intercession, and if it was God's will, that I might be heard. After further tests in the hospital, the doctor could not find anything wrong with me.

Baton Rouge, LA

Many, many thanks for the blessing of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos for my sister after open heart surgery. She is doing very well, thanks be to God. She said she felt a warm pleasant feeling during the blessing. The doctors were surprised to see how well she went through the whole thing, since she had been so ill for such a long time.

New Orleans, LA

Please continue my subscription to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY bulletin. I look forward to receiving it each month. Also thanks for your daily spiritual message. Thanks to the intercession of Father Seelos for my health.

Houma, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos. My daughter who graduated in 1986 with a master's degree in art, was never able to find a permanent position. I have been praying for her for the past few years. Through Jesus and Father Seelos our prayers were answered yesterday. She received a full-time job teaching art. That is hard to do and it is here in Louisiana, in fact, in New Orleans. Once before Father Seelos interceded for us when this same daughter was very sick in the hospital in N.O. I called the Center and a priest came and blessed her. Thank you, Father Seelos.

Mail, July, 1990

Petitions: 612 Thanksgivings: 274 Other: 470 Total: 1356

Dial-a-message: 767

Volunteer hours: 705

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 of Father Seelos. 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: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. "The Sanctified Body," by Patricia Treece, a study of the physical phenomena that accompany people who are close to God. Price: \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage.
 - e. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call The Father Seelos Center at 525-2495.
 - h. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - i. 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 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 _____
