



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS AT ST. MARY'S, DETROIT



"PHOTO OF CHRIST IN A GROTTTO, ST MARY'S, DETROIT"

Father Seeelos spent but ten months in St. Mary's, Detroit. He came in November of 1865 and left for New Orleans in September of 1866. Although he was absent often from the parish giving retreats and other spiritual exercises, his name is still found frequently in the baptismal and marriage records. On his leaving, his superior was astounded to see the long list of sick calls to the sick poor. Bishop Lefevere said, "I am sorry Father Seeelos must leave my diocese, for one has only to look at him to know he is a saint."

THIRD ANNUAL "FATHER SEELOS DAY IN NEW ORLEANS"

We ask those who live in the New Orleans area to mark their calendars for the third annual "Father Seeelos Day in New Orleans": April 29. A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A.M. A dinner will follow in one of the local restaurants at 1:30 P.M. Tickets for the dinner are \$20.00 and are available at the Center, 504 525-2495.

PATRICIA TREECE'S NEW BOOK

Patricia Treece has written another book, called *The Sanctified Body*. The author argues that the mystical phenomena of mysticism reflect the body's share in extraordinary holiness and are relevant to today's believers and searchers for wholeness. It is available at the Center, priced \$17.95.

GOD FIRST LOVED US

"On one occasion a lawyer stood up to pose this problem: 'Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?' Jesus answered him: 'What is written in the law? How do you read it?' He replied: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself'" (Luke, 10/25-27).

We should love God because God has first loved us. St. John says, "Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God but that He has loved us, and has sent us His own Son as an offering for our sins" (I John, 4/10).

Out of the billions and billions of creatures God could have created, from all eternity He has chosen each one of us to live here on earth. He has willed us to be born at this time in history. He has surrounded us with family and friends.

God fills us with His grace. By baptism we become His adopted children. Through His grace we become temples of the Holy spirit. We live now with a share of His own divine life. We are given the opportunity to grow in His love, to aspire to eternal union with Him.

God loves us even when we are sinners and forgives us our sins. Jesus told us the parable of the prodigal son so that we might have some idea of the mercy of God. Jesus put that theory into practice. When Mary Magdalen, the sinner, came to Him and washed His feet, He forgave her her sins because she loved much. St. Peter, after boasting that he would not fail the Lord, fell miserably and on three occasions denied he even knew Jesus. One sorrowful glance from the Lord brought tears to Peter's eyes. The thief, crucified on the right of Jesus, reprimanded his fellow criminal on the left for the abuse He leveled at Jesus. And then, turning to Jesus, he whispered a prayer, "Remember me, Lord, when you enter upon Your reign." He got the answer we would all love to hear at the end of our days, "This day you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke, 23/39-43). Even Judas at the moment of his treason could have received pardon and mercy from the Lord. As he came forward in the garden that night to plant the kiss that would indicate the Redeemer, Jesus did not repel him but greeted him with the words, "Friend, do what you are here for" (Matt. 26/50).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

St. Clair Shores, MI

My mother introduced me to Father Seelos and his cause about ten years ago. Her brother was a Redemptorist. I have prayed to him through the years, but after learning recently that I had a large tumor and would need surgery, I prayed very fervently to him.

My doctor calls me his miracle patient because there have been only 75 cases like mine reported in the medical books. This was the first removal of a pancreatic tumor my doctor performed that was *not* cancerous. I am indeed a very lucky lady.

Chicago, IL

God does hear the prayers of Father Seelos. I had been praying for a car for seven years through the intercession of Father Seelos. Last Memorial Day my daughter drove in from Minnesota and gave me her car. I had no idea she was going to do this. I feel my prayers through Father Seelos were heard. I now have a good running car.

Metairie, LA

I am writing this to give thanks to Father Seelos for favors granted through him and very touching visit to the Father Seelos Center. About a month ago I was diagnosed as having two ovarian cysts which most probably would have to be removed surgically. These cysts showed up in an ultrasound screening. At that time I was unemployed after 13 years and very worried about the surgery and possibility of cancer.

I prayed to Father Seelos and also St. John Neumann. I prayed to God with great faith in the intercession of His holy ones. A miracle was granted to me. On May 9 I went for another examination and ultrasound and there were no cysts to be found. I am still unemployed but I feel that this prayer will be answered, too.

God bless all at the Center. They are very warm and loving people who make you want to know even more about Father Seelos. I came away with such a good feeling after my visit. Thanks, Father Seelos.

Baton Rouge, LA

I am writing this in thanksgiving for a favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. The doctor confirmed that I had a lump in my breast. Although he said it was nothing to be concerned about, he did order a mammogram. Since both my grandmother and my aunt had breast cancer, I am considered to be in a high-risk category. I immediately began praying to Father Seelos and began wearing a memento on a daily basis. The mammogram results were negative.

Mail, November, 1989:

Petitions: 535 Thanksgivings: 326 Other: 543 Total: 1404
Volunteer hours: 719.
Dial-a-message: 743.

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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 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. 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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