



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1990

## THIRD ANNUAL "FATHER SEELOS DAY"

Sunday, April 29, is the date of the third annual "Father Seeelos Day in New Orleans." A Mass of thanksgiving will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A.M. Father Carl Hoegerl, a Redemptorist of the Baltimore province, will be the main concelebrant of the Mass and will also give the homily. Father Hoegerl is not only the archivist of his province, but is also engaged in the process of the cause of canonization of Father Seeelos in Rome.

Immediately following the Mass a dinner will be held at the Jefferson-Orleans North Restaurant at 2600 Edenborn Avenue in Metairie. The time of the dinner is one thirty p.m. The Redemptorist vice-provincial of New Orleans will give the invocation. Dr. David Weilbaecher will be the principal speaker. Mr. J.C. Albarado will be the master of ceremonies. Mrs. Norma Albarado and Mr. Lloyd Celentano will lead the sing-a-long. Door prizes will be awarded. The ticket for the dinner will be \$20.00 each. Write or call the Center: (504) 525-2495.



St. Mary's Assumption Church on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets.

## THE SANCTIFIED BODY

Patricia Treece has written another book about the saints. This time she delves into the physical phenomena that accompany the people who are close to God. The price is \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for handling.

## AS CHRIST LOVED US

Jesus called the commandment to love our neighbor *His* commandment. Our observance of this commandment would be the sign by which we would be known to others as His followers. Jesus also gave us a yardstick, as it were, by which to measure our love for neighbor. "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22/39). It makes the decision to act so much easier when we follow the Golden Rule: do to others as you want them to do to you.

Jesus went far beyond this yardstick when He offered Himself and His love for us as the ideal. He said, "Love your neighbor as I have loved you" (John, 15/12). What a challenge! What goal so sublime!

There are two things to note about the love of Jesus for us. One, His love for us was *self-sacrificing*. St. Paul said it so well, Jesus emptied Himself and became man." (Phil., 2/9). The author of Hebrews adds, one with us in all things save sin (Heb., 4/15). In doing so He accepted the human condition with its joys and sorrows.

As a child He was completely at the mercy of those around Him. He suffered the privations of poverty whether in Bethlehem, in exile in Egypt, or in the rough frontier town of Galilee. In His public life He was at the beck and call of anyone who wanted to be near Him. He was opportuned from all sides, and often into the night. To preach the Good News of His kingdom, He moved up and down the hard and dusty roads of Judea and Galilee. He never tired in laying His hands on as many of the sick that were brought to Him. He went hungry, He was thirsty, He had no place to lay His head. All this is as nothing in comparison to the complete giving of Himself in His passion and death on the cross.

His love for us was also *forgiving*. He established forgiveness of injuries as the prime requisite for our own forgiveness from God when He taught us to pray in the Our Father, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, the woman taken in adultery, the good thief, His executioners, all were forgiven by Jesus. Even Judas was not repelled in his moment of treason. Jesus called him 'friend.'

Love for neighbor that is self-sacrificing and forgiving gives us work sufficient for a lifetime.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Slidell, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos that the law-suit against me would be settled out of court. On the ninth day of my novena, my prayers to God through the intercession of Father Seelos were answered.

Arabi, LA

I have to let you know that I was a smoker for 30 years. I prayed for Father Seelos' help. He did help me. I have quit smoking now for five months. I hope I never smoke again. Thanks, Father Seelos.

Slidell, LA

I am very grateful to those who prayed for my intentions. I want to thank God, the Blessed Mother, and Father Seelos for favors granted. I received my Social Security check and much to my surprise I was paid for the first time I filed and was refused in 1988. I feel this had to come from all these prayers.

My 105-year old mother-in-law was dying and was praying to see her son once again. The son was sick at the time and could not come to his mother's side. When he was finally able to visit her, she closed her eyes and very peacefully passed away. I am sure God answered her prayers.

Gretna, LA

I am writing this letter to thank you for introducing me to Father Seelos. I introduced Father Seelos to a friend of mine who had been diagnosed as having a brain tumor last October. It was not malignant, but he lost his job, went through chemotherapy, lost his wife and was very unhappy. Although he is not a Catholic, I explained to him how to talk to Father just as I do. I met this friend last week; in fact, he was looking for me. He wanted to tell me that he had just gotten back from the doctor's office and the tumor was gone. The damage that it did to his brain cannot be corrected, but the tumor is no more. Thanks, Father Seelos, for your intercession.

New Iberia, LA

Dear Volunteers at the Father Seelos Center:

All of you looked so wonderful in your picture. I want to thank all of the people who work at the Center. Otherwise we would not appreciate everything Father Seelos is doing for those who pray to him. God love you all.

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Mail, December, 1989:

Petitions: 503      Thanksgivings: 313

Other: 529

Total: 1345

Dial-a-message: 815.

Volunteer hours: 809.

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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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