



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1990

VISITORS FROM MICHIGAN

Janice and her husband, Pete Genovich, recently visited the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. They made the long trip from Mt. Clements, Michigan, to say thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession in her behalf when she went through a bout with cancer. They are pictured in the museum, conversing with Angela Boudreaux, secretary of the Father Seelos Center and much beholden also to the prayers of the Servant of God.



FATHER STEFFES, FIFTY YEARS A PRIEST

Father Joseph Steffes, of Detroit, Michigan, was ordained fifty years ago on June 29, 1940. He is a familiar figure in the Irish Channel of New Orleans as he visits the sick and the elderly of the parish and carries with him the crucifix of Father Seelos to bless them. Father Steffes served two terms as chaplain in the armed forces during World War II and the Korean conflict. He was the pastor of parishes in Carlyle and Versailles, Kentucky and also pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in San Antonio. We congratulate him on reaching fifty years of service in the priesthood and pray that the good Lord will reward him with long life and good health to continue zealously his priestly labors.



FATHER JOSEPH STEFFES, C.S.S.R.

STEWARDS OF CREATION

In the first book of the Bible, the book of Genesis, we read: "God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fertile, and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth'" (Gen. 1/27-28).

God made us and placed His creation at our disposal. Mind, however, we are not the owners. None of us lives forever. We come into this world by the will of our Creator and we leave it at His word. We are the stewards of His creation. Like the steward in the Gospel, we will one day give an account of our stewardship.

How beautiful this earth really is we have learned from pictures from space. As we walk this earth how often we are moved by its marvels. Then how often we weep when we see the wanton destruction of vandalism and the ugliness of irresponsible neglect.

God gave us the breath of life. He planted into our very being the instinct to preserve our life – at times no matter what the cost. He expects us to take reasonable care of our health, to use ordinary means, at least, when our health is in danger. He expects us to take no unnecessary risks.

God has also made us stewards of the lives of others. We know that it is against the commandment of the Lord to take the life of another directly. We must promote the well-being of those towards whom we have some responsibility, the members of our family, the people who live around us, those who work for us, our relatives and friends. Our responsibility towards others, while diminishing the farther we get from the center of the circle, that is ourselves, goes out in ever widening lines to embrace our fellow-townpeople, the fellow citizens of our own country and indeed the world.

Furthermore, as responsible users of God's creation, we should be mindful of the generations yet to come. We have no right to squander its riches. We should endeavor to improve the air we breathe, the water we drink and use for varied purposes, the land we till and occupy, the fauna and flora that God furnished us with to make our pilgrimage here an easier one.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Hillcrest Heights, MD

I would love to have this letter entered in your special letters section of your grand newsletter, I call it. If you see fit, of course.

My sister has been ill for several months now, but so improved after asking Father Seelos for his prayerful help, and he has done just that.

Our sincere prayers and heartfelt thanks to Father Seelos. He will be rewarded for his great help to all. God bless you.

New Orleans, LA

I promised to make it publicly known. I prayed for my son's test to come back negative. It did and I am so thankful to Father Seelos for his intercession with almighty God.

Alexandria, LA

I would like to report a special favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos with God.

My husband had triple by-pass surgery in February, 1989. He has only one kidney (the other one was lost to cancer some years ago). While in intensive care, his one kidney failed and his whole body became swollen. The kidney specialist said my husband would have to be put on the dialysis machine and that he could have a stroke or might die. This was at ten o'clock at night. My daughter prayed earnestly to God and asked Mary's and Father Seelos' help. The very next morning the swelling was gone from his body and he began to improve.

We did not need to put him on the dialysis machine. The doctor was amazed and could offer no explanation. We knew it was because of our faith and prayers.

Bremershaven, Germany

I want to give thanks for the intercession of Father Seelos. My son was diagnosed to have a brain tumor close to his ear. We were very afflicted and thought he could not survive the operation. I sent him a memento of Father Seelos to wear and told him to give thanks if he came safely through the operation.

He was operated on July 26. They found the tumor was behind his nose. The operation was successful and the doctors were amazed at his rapid recovery. Thanks to the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos.

Jefferson, LA

Our case was resolved by a very close margin. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Mail, January, 1990:

Petitions: 773. Thanksgivings: 362. Other: 617. Total: 1752

Dial-a-message: 820.

Volunteer hours: 781.

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: \$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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

5/96

FATHER SEELOS CENTER (USPS 488-660)
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130-5099