



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXIX, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1990

## FROM FÜSSEN TO NEW ORLEANS

From Füssen, Bavaria, to New Orleans, U.S.A., is roughly 5000 miles. In another sense it also signifies the beginning and end of a man's life. The man is Francis Xavier Seelos, currently a candidate for sainthood before the Congregation of the Causes of Saints in Rome. In his life's pilgrimage of just 48 years, Father Seelos touched down in a few other places, such as Augsburg and Munich in Europe, and here in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cumberland, Annapolis, and Detroit. Seelos spent nine years in Pittsburgh, only ten months in Detroit. On coming to New Orleans he said he would be there only a year and then he would die of yellow fever. He arrived in New Orleans in September of 1866. He died on October 4 of yellow fever in the following year.

He was buried in St. Mary's Assumption Church and his remains have rested there until the present day. When St. Mary's Church was closed temporarily for repairs after a hurricane in 1967, his body was moved across the street to St. Alphonsus Church. Every year on the first Sunday of October there is a memorial Mass for him. He left behind him no earthly monuments, only the enduring memory of his kindness and concern for the eternal welfare of all his brothers and sisters in Christ.

His great great-niece, Frau Lilly Neumaier-Aschenbrenner, who lives in Füssen, keeps in touch with New Orleans, and on several occasions has been a visitor and pilgrim to his tomb.



## MEEKNESS

The virtue of meekness tempers the emotion of anger, no matter what the cause. Anger rises in us when we feel we are unjustly put upon by others. It pushes us to defend ourselves. In His famous sermon on the mount Jesus recommended that we turn the other cheek on such occasions. But turning the other cheek is hardly considered the appropriate response to aggression in today's prevailing philosophy of "me-first."

No one is asked to be a "Mr. Milquetoast." Jesus was truly meek; He invited us to learn humility and meekness from Him (Matt. 11/29). But Jesus was far from being a pushover, as His enemies found out on more than one occasion. Before the Sanhedrin and their false accusations, Jesus remained silent. Before Herod, who tried to make a fool of Him, He kept His peace.

When His enemies tried to trip Him up by asking whether it was lawful to pay the tax to the emperor, Jesus asked them whose inscription was on the coin. When they answered, "Caesar's," He told them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's" (Luke, 20/25). Once again He confounded His adversaries when they confronted Him with the woman taken in adultery and demanded to know what He would do with such when the law said she must be stoned to death. Jesus did not at once reply, but stooped down and began to write in the sand. Finally He spoke, "Let the man among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone at her." (John, 8/7). No one dared to act on His challenge.

Modern technology has furnished us with many conveniences that make life more pleasant and housekeeping less drudgery, automatic dishwashers, washers and dryers for the laundry, vacuum sweepers for carpets. No modern invention has had such an influence on the daily living pattern of Americans than the automobile. People speak of the love-affair of the Americans with their cars. We go everywhere in the car. Driving a car today in our crowded cities and busy streets can easily become a source of irritation, if not of downright anger. When we are tempted to anger by someone's careless driving, we should resort to the practice of meekness. Instead of honking our horn, shaking our fist, or invoking the deity in condemnation, we can utter a prayer for the unthinking, selfish, "me-first" driver who cannot wait his or her turn, who grows impatient with our driving at the legal speed, who lets us know that he or she is more important than we are and we are in their way. This is a good time to remember the example of Jesus before the Sanhedrin, "He remained silent."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Plaquemine, LA

In January my son was diagnosed as having cancer in his foot. In Houston he was given the choice of amputation or radiation treatment. He chose the radiation treatment. I prayed and prayed and prayed — my Rosary was never out of my hands. I found a card with the name of Father and the address of the Center. I began to beg Father Seelos' intercession with God. The prayers were heard. My son has to have a check-up with the oncologist every month. Keep praying for us at the tomb of Father Seelos.

Metairie, LA

I am writing this letter to thank Father Seelos for answering our prayers. My husband lost his job and was out of work for six months. We kept our faith and continued to pray for Father's help. My husband has now found a job and I'm sure it was because of Father Seelos' intercession. We are very grateful.

Raceland, LA

This is a letter I promised to publish if my novena to Father Seelos helped. I was told by three doctors that I needed surgery for a lump on the side of my neck and there was a possibility that cancer would be there. My surgery was set for March 19th. For three Sundays I visited the Father Seelos museum, attended the prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos, burned a candle and placed it on the tomb with my petition. My prayers were answered. On March 16 my insurance called me and said my surgery was cancelled because I needed to go to Ochsner Clinic for further tests. The lump on my neck ended up being no more than fluid and the doctor said I did not need surgery. Praise to Father Seelos. This was a special favor because I was so scared.

New Orleans, LA

I want to say the FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY bulletin every month is a blessing to receive. My prayers are for continued service. Please include me and my family in your prayers.

Jefferson City, MO

I have called on Father Seelos to ask our Lord for many favors. The prayers are always answered. My husband has been through several operations and they were successful. Thanks to God.

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Mail, April, 1990:

Petitions: 490. Thanksgivings: 281. Other: 620. Total: 1391

Dial-a-messages: 781.

Volunteer hours: 858.

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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.

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## 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 Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
  - 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.

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