



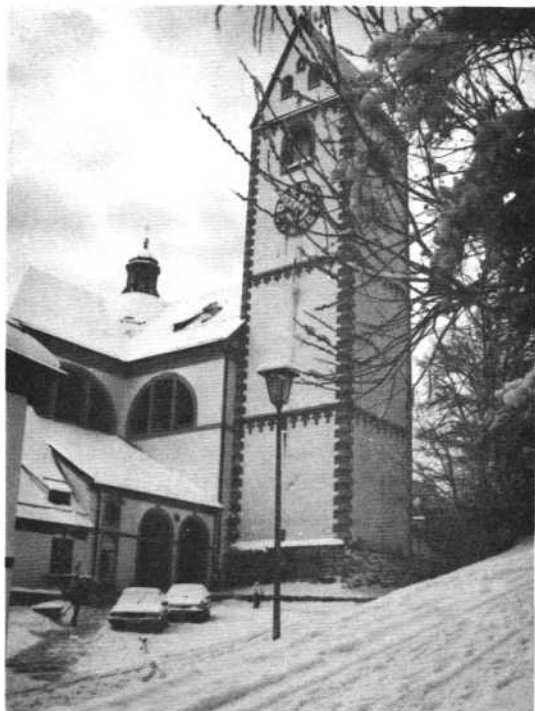
FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1991

DECEMBER MEMORIES

December is a memorable month in the life of Father Seeelos. He was ordained on December 22 in St. James Church in Baltimore and offered his first Mass on Christmas, 1844. The pity was he was never able to return to the church of his baptism to celebrate Mass.



"ST. MANG'S IN THE WINTER
WONDERLAND OF FÜSSEN"

SELFLESSNESS

If the definition of selflessness means something like giving oneself second place or preferring another or others to oneself, it is doubtful that the idea will ever be popular. However unpopular the idea may be, it is certain that the giving of oneself was not foreign to the practice of Jesus Christ nor was it absent from His teaching. In regard to the second Person of the Holy Trinity becoming man, St. Paul put it so trenchantly, "Though He was in the form of God, He did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!" (Phil. 2, 6-8).

What Jesus preached about selflessness is found in the fifteenth chapter of the gospel according to John, "There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15/14). St. Mark tells us that "Jesus

summoned the crowd with His disciples and said to them: 'If a man wishes to come after Me, he must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in My steps. Whoever would preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will preserve it' (Mark, 8/34-35).

Selflessness has certainly been a part of the Christian tradition from its earliest days, from the days of St. Stephen, the deacon-martyr, from the time of the apostles to the time of the church in the catacombs, and to our own day. The world itself applauds unselfish actions, the fireman who rescues an infant from a burning house, the sailor who gives his place to another in the lifeboat, the mother who perishes protecting her young one.

We admire the saints and make them our heroes because they knew how to sacrifice themselves for others. How many people owe their faith to the unselfishness of St. Francis Xavier, who turned his back on a worldly career to bring the word of God to the east. What selflessness there was in the soul of the Little Flower, St. Therese of Lisieux, who offered up her suffering for the conversion of the world! We have the example of St. Maximillian Kolbe who changed places with a man condemned to death in Auschwitz.

Let us not forget the hidden heroes of our lives who without headlines have given of themselves for the spiritual and temporal good of those they loved!

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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 persons 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: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404.
 - 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. The 11:30 A.M. PARISH MASS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH IS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER. Veneration of the mission crucifix of Father Seelos after the Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. Please let us know you want to continue receiving this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us. Include your old address.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, LA

On the weekend of May 18-19, 1991, I was suffering so terribly from pain in the right eye, which had been aching for a week. Medication did not stop the pain. Sunday night I prayed to Father Francis Xavier Seelos, asking him to intercede with God to stop the pain and give me better sight. Monday morning the pain was gone. On Tuesday I saw my eye doctor and related the above. After an examination the doctor stated my eyes looked better than he had ever seen them. I have glaucoma and this is great news to me. Thanks to our dear Lord and Father Seelos' prayers.

Chalmette, LA

I have been praying to Father Seelos for over twenty years. Ever since Father Grangell blessed my son - who was very seriously injured in an accident - with the cross of Father Seelos. My son lived, and although he has a slight handicap, he has been able to overcome his problem very well. Thanks to everyone's prayers and Father Grangell, and of course, Father Seelos. Please join me in your prayers for someone very dear to me who needs his help so much.

Lafitte, LA

This is a very special thanks to Father Seelos. Last month I had to have a cat-scan done on my stomach. The purpose of the scan was to see if I still had Hodgkins disease. I prayed to God and asked the intercession of Father Seelos. My doctor gave me the results of the scan: no lymph nodes or even the two tumors.

Metairie, LA

My mom passed away June 7. She was 87 and had been blessed at the hospital. She had her memento of Father Seelos on her at all times during her illness from pancreatic cancer and her death. She remained comfortable and left us very peacefully. We feel our prayers were answered in this way.

Lafitte, LA

I am writing to thank Father Seelos for his intercession with our heavenly Father for a favor that was granted. My daughter had cancer of the stomach and was in very bad shape. But the intercession of Father Seelos has helped put the cancer in complete remission. Thanks, Father Seelos, for your intercession.

New Orleans, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos for a favor granted. My husband is a diabetic; he had a heart attack while driving his car. He had to have a quadruple by-pass in June 1989 and in November had to have his leg amputated below the knee due to infection. I had two eye surgeries for glaucoma and one for a cataract. We are both doing fine now. During all this I prayed to Father Seelos and now I write in thanks.

Mail, August, 1991

Petitions: 584 Thanksgivings: 299 Other: 402 Total: 1285

Dial-a-messages: 767

Volunteer Hours: 1024

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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.