



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1991



## VISITORS FROM CORPUS CHRISTI

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Martinez of Corpus Christi, Texas, recently visited St. Mary's Church and the museum of Father Seelos. The trip was a gift of their daughter and son-in-law on the occasion of the celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. For Mr. Martinez the trip was the fulfillment of a promise he had made when asking the intercession of Father Seelos. He seized the opportunity to express his thanks to God for his cure with the help of the prayers of our Servant of God. Corpus Christi is over 500 miles from New Orleans.

## HOPE AND HEAVEN

Without faith there can be no hope. Based on the promises of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are confident that we shall one day be united with Him in the bliss of eternity. Jesus has promised happiness in the next life to those who do His will, keep His commandments, love God and their neighbor. In the parable of the last judgment, our Redeemer and Judge made it clear that eternal life was the reward for seeing Him in the neighbor. It was Jesus whom we fed and clothed and visited and consoled when we gave food and drink to the hungry and thirsty and clothes to the naked and visited them when they were ill or in prison. "The king will say to those on his right, 'Come. You have my Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.'" (Matt. 26, 31-46).

Father Curley writes in "The Cheerful Ascetic," that from the lively faith of Father Seelos came a firm confidence in God. He never had any doubts that he was going to heaven and that he would enjoy a happy hereafter. This virtue came out in his sermons and letters.

"To those souls tormented by past sins, unnerved by the good they never did, discouraged by their heedlessness of God's warning and neglect of His graces, he pleaded eloquently for trust in God:

It is not your justice but His mercy which is the motive of your trust. He is the God of all consolations and the Father of mercies. He does not wish the death of the sinner but that he be converted and live. He came to heal the sick and to seek those who were lost. He spared the woman taken in adultery. He showed mercy to the thief crucified with Him. He took upon Himself our punishment. He prayed for His murderers. He now intercedes for us at the right hand of God. None of the damned was ever lost because his sin was too great, but because his trust was too small!

He wrote these words to his mother, who was still deep in sorrow after the death of her husband, Mang Seelos:

The gate of heaven is nearer, therefore, daily take up difficulties and crosses with a good will and complete resignation. For to those who love God all things work together unto good. You have already suffered, dearest mother, hard and bitter things: will you weep over this? By no means! This will be turned to our consolation when we have walked the same road that the Savior walked, the narrow road, the way of the cross. Particularly since we have a certain knowledge that we and all our steps are written in the book of life so that these our tribulations become treasures of great value. Therefore, dearest mother, continue to live for God and turn all graces given to you to your advantage.

To a couple who had lost a child he wrote: "You have not lost your child, no, you have given an angel to heaven. Your child is not lost to you - your child is saved for you and for all eternity."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Lakeland, FL

We are writing this letter to thank Father Seelos for answering our prayers. My husband had no alternative but to have surgery. He became gravely ill and the doctor told us that the cancer and the infection would soon take his life unless he had the surgery. After a lengthy operation of eight hours, my husband came out of it with flying colors. We thank God that the cancer had not spread to other organs. It is a little over a month since the surgery and he is doing beautifully – getting stronger, driving the car, doing whatever he feels able to. We are so grateful to Father Seelos. We've been praying to him for over a year and now we are praying in thanksgiving.

Glendale, CA

My son was married in the Church over eight years ago. He and his wife both wanted children but apparently they could not have any. My son was very discouraged and stopped attending Mass. But last Easter he went to Mass and has continued to do so. Shortly after Easter they discovered his wife was pregnant. Now X-rays show that she is carrying triplet boys. We ask your prayers that no problems will arise. The babies are due in November.

Lafayette, LA

I visited your church and museum in September. It is a beautiful church and the museum is very interesting. I am a nurse, working in a hospital caring for stroke, brain tumor, spinal-cord injured, trauma and meningitis patients. There are, of course, many who could benefit from Father Seelos' intercession with God.

I touched a cloth relic to a two-year old with bacterial meningitis who could not speak, was paralyzed on his right side and was very irritable. This child made a remarkable recovery in a very short period, both in language, understanding and movement.

My father had a huge kidney stone which required three ultrasonic fracturing treatments over a seven month period. At the last one the surgeon said he would have to do surgery if he could not successfully remove it. My mother and I prayed to Father Seelos and the stone was removed without surgery. He has done very well since.

My mother's cousin, a nun, had a large ovarian tumor. I gave her a cloth memento of Father Seelos. After surgery and chemotherapy she is doing well. She, too, relies, on Father Seelos.

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Mail, October, 1990

Petitions: 834    Thanksgivings: 492    Other: 463    Total: 1789

Dial-a-message: 791

Volunteer Hours: 1095

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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.

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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 The Father Seelos Center at 525-2495.
  - 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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