



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 3

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CARROLLTON MANOR, ANNAPOLIS

## FATHER SEELOS IN ANNAPOLIS

Annapolis is the capital of the state of Maryland and was the capital of the Maryland colony. It is a lovely old town, kept in the style of the 1700's. It has charm, age, a great location and a long history. Father Seelos came to Annapolis in 1857 to be the novice master for the Redemptorists. After the grinding bustle of a large city parish in Baltimore, Annapolis seemed to be a bit of heaven. Because of circumstances his first stay was of short duration. He returned once again in the middle of the Civil War. By then he was the rector of the community, pastor of the parish, and prefect of students.

Annapolis would be the scene of his great humiliation, his dismissal from office. Seelos never showed any hurt or resentment. Immediately he set out on his career as a mission preacher.

There is a stained-glass window in St. Mary's Church dedicated to its former pastor and prefect of students. Carrollton Manor, pictured above, is part of the Redemptorist institution at Annapolis. Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born here. It is now being restored and will be opened as a museum of colonial history.

## LOVE OF GOD

When Francis Seelos was a little boy in Füssen, he felt drawn to the priesthood. His pastor, a Father Heim, was instrumental in fostering his vocation and even helped with the financing of his stay in the seminary. Father Seelos was in Augsburg when the news of his acceptance as a candidate for the Redemptorist Congregation in America reached him. He determined not to return to Füssen to say goodbye to his family. He knew it would be an emotional and heart-wrenching experience. He felt strongly that it was God's will that he was to go to America, and he did not want to weaken his resolve. Instead of bidding his beloved parents and his brothers and sisters farewell in person, he wrote them all several letters in which he was able to express the deep affection he held for each one of them.

Once in America and in the Redemptorist novitiate where he was caught up in the struggle with his own natural inclinations, he wrote to his family. "With the grace of God from now on I will not consult my likes and dislikes and natural inclinations but only the law of the love of God and His holy will."

In his youth Seelos had pictured America as a place of much religious strife. What he encountered in reality here seemed only to confirm his fears. He was not one given to public controversy, and he wrote home, "If I had followed my natural inclinations, I never would have come here." The fact that he was here because of God's will made his life in America livable.

When Father Seelos was pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore, he was kept so busy with the responsibility of a large congregation that his health broke. Blood was pouring out of his throat for three days; they feared for his life and he was told that he would have to remain in bed for a long time. As his biographer, Father Curley, writes, he calmly made an act of resignation to God's will and was ready for anything that might happen.

At the end of his life as he lay dying of the dread yellow fever in New Orleans, he was heard to say, "If God demands the sacrifice of my life, willingly will I make it. The will of God and my own soul are dearer to me than all the souls in the world."

Perfection or sanctity consists not in ecstasies and visions and many prayers and fastings, but, according to St. Alphonsus, in conforming oneself to God's will. Jesus had said to His apostles on the night before He died, "You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John, 15/14).

Doing God's will is the first act of one who professes to love God.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Chalmette, LA

For over 20 years I have been praying to Father Seelos for many serious problems. Through his intercession my prayers have always been heard. My son was in serious trouble. I prayed to Father Seelos and my prayer was heard. I thank God and Father Seelos for his intercession.

Hillcrest Heights, MD

My undying thanks to almighty God and Father Seelos for all the blessings that have come my way. His help will never be forgotten by me or my family. No words can convey my sincere and heartfelt appreciation. God bless this world torn by strife and discontent. We pray "No war," instead "Peace to all!"

Houma, LA

I really enjoy crocheting the mementos for you. Send me more. I enjoy working for Father Seelos. St. Mary's Church is so beautiful. The first time I walked in, I stood there with my mouth open. All those beautiful statues! When you look at the altar it just does something for you. Please allow me the thrill of crocheting more mementos for you.

Cumberland, R.I.

I requested a favor from Father Seelos. I asked for a happier life for a couple that had suffered much in the past few years. The man lost his eyesight, his wife was told that she had bone cancer, and their daughter died of an extremely rare complication of pregnancy. Also their son-in-law had removed their surviving grandchild from their care.

On September 19 I received a phone call informing me that their grandchild was being brought to visit them. Other things took place that improved their life. I don't know what else might happen but they have certainly had a happier few days thus far. We thank God for this favor granted through the prayers of Father Seelos.

Mandeville, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos for the recovery of a dear friend of mine. She is in her eighties and was unconscious for over a month. Her doctor held no hope for her, so I prayed to Father Seelos all through the day. To the amazement of her family and the doctors she began to recover and today is active and alert and teaching French to her beloved grandchild.

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Mail, November, 1990

Petitions: 620    Thanksgivings: 319    Other: 480    Total: 1419

Dial-a-message: 701

Volunteer Hours: 964

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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.

## 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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