

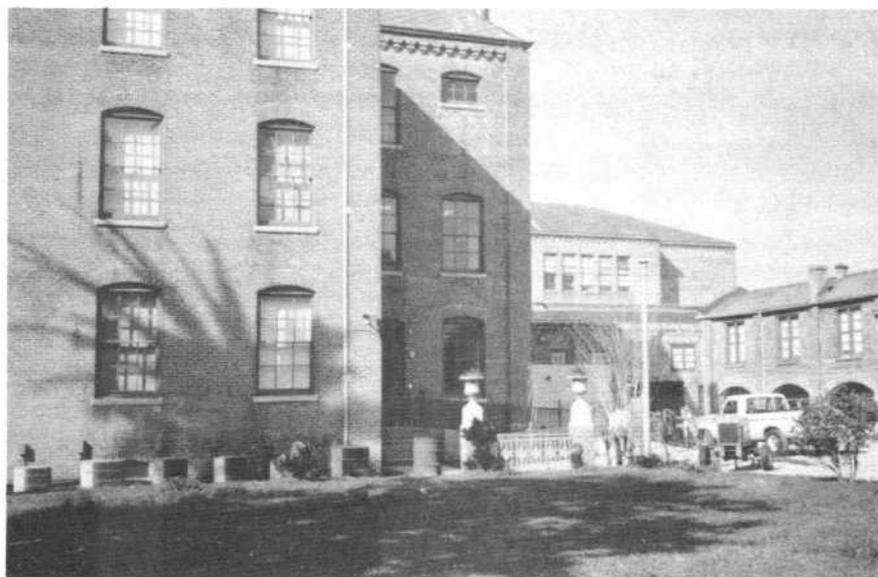


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXX, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1991

“REDEMPTORIST APARTMENTS”



For the past year the Father Seelos Center has been operating four blocks from its usual haunts near St. Mary's Church. Now we are moving back, after the conversion of five major buildings of the parish complex into apartments for the handicapped and the elderly poor. The five buildings amid the two churches, St. Alphonsus and St. Mary's, will be known as the "Redemptorist Apartments." One of the buildings converted into housing is the old rectory, pictured here at the left. On the right is the Father Seelos Center, and the three-story building in the background is the still functioning St. Alphonus elementary school.

“POSSESSIONS”

What is our attitude to “possessions”? As followers of Christ, what should be our attitude? What does Jesus say?

We get more than a hint from the story of the rich young man who came to Jesus seeking the secret of everlasting life. When Jesus told him to keep the commandments, he replied that he had kept all those since he was a boy. Jesus then challenged him: “If you seek perfection, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor. You will then have treasure in heaven. Afterward, come back and follow Me” (Matt., 19/20-21). At this, the young man grew sad indeed, for he had many possessions.

Then there was the occasion, related by St. Luke (12/15-21), when Jesus taught: “Avoid greed in all its forms. A man may be wealthy, but his possessions do not guarantee him life.” Then He told the crowd the parable of the rich man who had a good harvest. It was so good that he did not have the room to store all his crops. He resolved, therefore, to tear down his old barns and build bigger ones. Then the rich man said to himself, “You have blessings in reserve for years to come. Relax! Eat heartily, drink well. Enjoy yourself.” Then Jesus added, “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all this piled-up wealth of yours go?’”

How true it is, we came naked into the world and in the same fashion we return to our Creator.

Our Lord began His famous sermon on the mount with these words, “How blessed are the poor in spirit, the reign of God is theirs” (Matt., 5/3). He was announcing happiness to those who lacked material possessions and needed the spiritual blessings promised by God.

Jesus had much to say about material things, how moths and rust corrode them, how thieves break in and steal them. He wanted us very much to understand that as necessary as are food and drink, and clothes and housing, they are secondary in importance to our soul's salvation.

The secret to looking at our possessions in line with the thinking of Jesus is trust in providence. “Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they? Which of you by worrying can add a moment to his life-span? As for clothes, why be concerned? Learn a lesson from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work; they do not spin. Yet I assure you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was arrayed like one of these. If God can clothe in so much splendor the grass of the field, which blooms today and is thrown on the fire tomorrow, will He not provide much more for you, O weak in faith! Stop worrying, then, over questions like, ‘What are we to eat, or what are we to drink, or what are we to wear?’ The unbelievers are always running after these things. Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first his kingship over you, His way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides” (Matt., 6/26-34).

SPECIAL LETTERS

Chalmette, LA

Thanks to Fr. Seelos' intercessory prayers and the blessing with the missionary crucifix, my breast biopsy that Friday was found to be benign. I am so grateful to God. My mother, husband and I, attended the 11:30 Mass Sunday at St. Mary's in thanksgiving and are encouraging devotion to Fr. Seelos by distributing booklets, prayer cards and mementos that acquaint people with this holy priest.

He has helped me through surgery, chemotherapy, and this last frightening experience, and I will continue to pray through his intercession for a complete healing of cancer without spread or reoccurrence. Please pray that my faith may get stronger day by day.

Jesus told His apostles to have faith in God and not doubt. He said whatever we ask for in prayer and believe we shall receive, this shall be given to us. I believe Jesus can and has healed me and I hold on to this thought.

Pittsburgh, PA

I would like to acknowledge receiving a favor through the help of Father Francis Xavier Seelos. My son had terrific back pains. I promised to acknowledge any help that we would receive. I pinned a memento of Father Seelos on my son's clothing and on his back. Within a half hour there was some relief.

Two years ago my son suffered a broken back; at times the pain seemed unbearable. So today I spoke to Father Seelos and begged his intercession. I am grateful for his help. Since reading the life of Father Seelos, I find that we share a common birthday, January 11. On our birthday, I bade him a happy day. Once again thank you Father Seelos.

Chesapeake, VA

I am writing because I have a grandson who broke his elbow. The doctor said he needed a bone graft. I prayed to Father Seelos and when it was time for the operation, the doctor said he did not need it, the bone had healed. Thank God. Please let people know my prayers were answered.

Lafayette, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers. My daughter just moved to another city. She is newly married and needed a job right away to be able to pay her school education notes. She found a good job in her field and in walking distance from her home with good medical benefits. She is so grateful and so am I! Father Seelos never fails to come through! We know he is a saint!!

Mail, January, 1991

Petitions: 695 Thanksgivings: 303 Others: 580 Total: 1578

Dial-a-messages: 760

Volunteer Hours: 1182

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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: 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. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS; every Sunday morning at 11:00 A.M. in St. Mary's Church, 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 receiving 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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