



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXi, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1992



THE CEMETERY AT FÜSSEN, BAVARIA WHERE MEMBERS OF THE SEELOS FAMILY ARE BURIED.

## COMMUNION OF SAINTS

In the Apostles' Creed we pray, "I believe in the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints." On November 1 and 2 we celebrate the feast of All Saints and remember all the souls in Purgatory. At the end of November we Americans celebrate Thanksgiving Day. There is a hymn we sing at times, "Give thanks and remember." This month let us thank the good God for the wonderful people He surrounded us with as we grew up and until this present day. There is a bond that connects us all and one that will never be severed, God's everlasting love for each one of us and for all of us together.

## PRAYER

During this summer the Gospel for one of the Sundays was the parable of the importunate man who had finished his journey late at night and knocked on the door of a friend of his and asked him for help. The homeowner, at first annoyed at his friend, finally gave in and acceded to his request. Jesus added these well-known words to the parable: "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted" (Luke, 11/9-10).

What can be said of prayer that has not been already said in a better way by all the saints in heaven? In July an appeal was made for financial help to continue to produce this bulletin. One respondent told us the story of the priest whose parish was operating in the red. Before correcting the imbalance, he wanted to erect a statue, 60 feet high, in honor of our Blessed Mother. Knowing how pointless it would be to ask for money, he requested checks

made out to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The currency was: fasting, hours before the Eucharist, Masses attended, rosaries, novenas. The writer of the letter adds: "As the spiritual currency rose so did the monetary and the priest was able to build the statue."

We thank the writer of this letter, Mary Anne Ferguson, of Mobile, for reminding us of our roots. In the early sixties when the Father Seelos Center was begun, people were asked not only to pray to Father Seelos in their need, but were encouraged to pray for his canonization, if that was God's will.

People were also asked at that time to make holy hours in St. Mary's Church where Father Seelos is buried. For many years a public holy hour was made just before the Sunday evening Mass. A later development was a special prayer service before the last Sunday morning Mass. Now because of the circumstances involving St. Mary's Church, the last Mass on Sunday mornings is offered for the intentions of those who invoke the intercession of Father Seelos.

The conclusion of all this? In your prayers for and to Father Seelos, in your petitions for health, grace and spiritual and temporal well-being, pray that the Center will be able to continue informing you of the progress of his cause, encouraging you to persevere in prayer, helping you to follow the example of Father Seelos in loving God and the neighbor, and helping you to lead a more perfect life, one more pleasing to almighty God.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Note: Our heartfelt thanks to all of our readers who have responded and are responding to our plea for financial help.

---

### SPECIAL NOTES

- The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
  - "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. Price: \$10.00.
  - "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos. VHS Cassette only: \$45.00.
  - "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.
  - Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803
  - Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, or Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591.
  - Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
  - The 11:30 A.M. SUNDAY 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.
- A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS THREE 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Venice, FL

My husband and I were given a pamphlet by our friend, Father Charles Mallen. I noticed the picture on the cover of the pamphlet, Father Francis Seelos, C.S.S.R., and to me it looked very much like my husband. Father Mallen said that if we ever wanted something from God, pray to Father Seelos for help. Two or three weeks later Jim was in the hospital with a severe case of pancreatitis and ended up in ICU at Doctors Hospital. Soon Jim's kidneys shut down, he was in respiratory failure, his blood pressure out of control. Nothing was working. My mother-in-law began to say the rosary; after each decade we said, Father Seelos, pray for us. The priest came to anoint my husband. The doctors said his chances to live were slim indeed.

It was a long night. I rested but kept praying. I thought if he would live through the night, he would get better. At 7 in the morning the nurse told me there was an improvement, his kidneys were beginning to function. Later the doctor gave us good news. All the lab tests were negative. Jim came home. The first night he did not sleep too well. On the next night as I let the dog out, I heard Jim snoring - that was music to my ears. I thank God for His glorious gift to me through Father Seelos' prayers. God is so good to me.

Jefferson, LA

In August of 1991 my husband was told he had cancer of the lining of the left lung. He had been exposed to asbestos in his work. He was given 14 months to live. He underwent surgery and afterwards four cycles of chemotherapy. During this time we became acquainted with Father Seelos and efforts to have him canonized a saint of the Church.

After the last chemo treatment, my husband was forced back into the hospital. To keep him alive he was put on a ventilator. I prayed to Father Seelos for a miracle. My husband remained on the ventilator for 15 days. He was not expected to live through the night of April 5, and yet 15 days later they removed him from the ventilator, and from ICU. Later on he was transferred to a rehab hospital; four days later on May 4, his birthday, the most wonderful person in my life died.

I recognize now that the miracle I prayed for was different from the actual miracle that took place. My husband was not to be granted "good health"; however, he was granted time to come back to see and speak to his family and friends, tell us all how he loved us and make sure things were handled. I believe in my heart that Father Seelos interceded with our Lord to help my husband overcome the obstacles in the last month of his life and to give us what we needed to "let him go."

---

Mail, July, 1992

Petitions: 709

Thanksgivings: 377

Other: 581

Total: 1667

Dial-a-messages: 761

Volunteer Hours: 1075

**FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)**

is published monthly for \$3.00 per year, by

The Father Seelos Center

2030 Constance Street

New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

**Second class postage paid at New Orleans, LA.**

**Postmaster:** send address changes to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

2030 Constance St., New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

11/92

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$3.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. Joseph Buhler, CSS R, Vice-Populitor; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, CSS R, Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.