



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SAGA OF KAREN JOHNSON

In the fall of 1984, at the age of 19, Karen Johnson was having a sickle-cell anemia crisis, and for several hours was clinically dead. Through continued prayers for the intercession of Father Seelos and with the blessing of his missionary crucifix, she came back to good health with no brain damage as had been feared. Karen returned to college for two and a half years and is now teaching children in a day-care center.

In February of 1989 she married Jeffrey Jenkins. Her father, suffering from terminal cancer, gave her away in a wheelchair. He died two weeks later.

In 1991 Karen gave birth prematurely to a baby girl. The baby contracted spinal meningitis. Despite all these circumstances, she is now a very healthy baby girl - with help from our heavenly Father and through the prayers of Father Seelos.

“DOMINION OVER THE EARTH”

“Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.’ And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.’

“God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

"God blessed them, saying: 'Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth'" (Genesis, 1/24-31).

God who made the earth has thus turned over its dominion to the human race. We human beings are the apex of God's creation: the earth, the sea, the sky, all growing things. God has placed the works of His hands at our service.

In our time the world has indeed become a small world. Someone has called it the global village. Cultures that once had seldom met now have almost daily contact with each other. The veritable explosion of technology has brought us all closer together and at the same time has created problems for the universe that we never dreamt existed.

Almost all of a sudden we have been forced to think of these problems and solutions to them - before it is too late. Thanks to the resilience of the human spirit, campaigns are on foot to remind us of the vigilance that is ever needed to keep intact our precious heritage from the Lord. It is our fervent prayer that we keep in mind the hierarchy of creation. All things, material and living, were created for the benefit of the human race, and never again should we have to face the anomaly of seeing it declared illegal to waste eagles' eggs while at the same time allowing abortions, the killing of unborn children, our greatest human resource.

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. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - h. 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.
2. 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.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Terre Haute, IN

On October 30, 1991, my eight and a half month-old niece was diagnosed with the worst form of spinal meningitis. After being admitted to the hospital the doctors' hope for her survival was slim to none. And if she survived, they were certain there would be brain damage and/or physical disabilities.

On hearing the news, my thoughts turned immediately to Father Seelos, and I prayed for his intercession and for her full and complete recovery. As I prayed I felt a wave of warmth flow through my body from the top of my head to the soles of my feet and I knew right then my prayers for her had been answered. Less than an hour later my brother called and said Stephanie was responding to the medication real well and she would be all right. Follow-up testing proved to be positive. There is no damage to her at all and she has since become a toddler and just as happy and sweet as she has been since birth. Thank you, Father Seelos with all my heart and soul.

Baton Rouge, LA

I have been praying for Father Seelos' canonization each night for ten or so years. Our eldest son became ill and would not seek medical help. We tried, his friends tried, and his girl friend, but he refused to go. Last Wednesday I picked up the Father Seelos prayer card and asked him a favor that my son would let me take him to the doctor. He answered my prayer. By 6:30 that Wednesday night he told me he would go in the morning. He was admitted Thursday morning, completely dehydrated, with high fever, a massive infection in his lungs and whole body. I thought he was at death's door. I am happy to say he has responded to treatment, is eating; his fever is gone and he is showing improvement. I am very grateful to Father Seelos and will continue to pray and thank him and hope my son will make a complete recovery. I am also praying that my son will put God back in his life. He is a product of Catholic schools but has fallen by the wayside.

Metairie, LA

Thanks to Father Seelos for a very special favor granted. I was very ill for ten months with two tumors on the liver which required surgery. The doctors told me if they were cancerous, I would have only a 25 percent chance of making it through the surgery. Thanks to Father Seelos they were not cancerous, and today I am a healthy and happy person.

Kenner, LA

In 1969 I had to have surgery. Serious complications had set in and I was placed on the serious list. My family prayed to Father Seelos to intercede. Three weeks later I was well and able to leave the hospital.

Recently I had taken a test that showed positive. After another test was taken I had to wait a week to see if it was cancerous. We prayed to God through the intercession of Father Seelos. The test showed benign. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers. We hope he is declared a saint soon.

Mail, January, 1992

Petitions: 609 Thanksgivings: 292 Other: 427 Total: 1320

Dial-a-messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1071

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