



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1992

FATHER SEELOS' MUSEUM

Come next month the museum of Father Seelos will be marking the sixth year of its existence. Since then thousands of people, from all over the world, have viewed the memorabilia of his relative short existence on this earth. Among the more interesting exhibits is the casket in which he was originally buried. Father Seelos' body was exhumed in 1902 at the start of the process of canonization. His remains were then transferred to another casket and the body was reburied in the sanctuary of St. Mary's, where it now rests.



HUMILITY

Many years ago a poet prayed for the gift to "see ourselves as others see us." That is not a bad prayer, we must say. We would all be better off, if we knew what other people thought of us. However, to see ourselves as others see us is not the whole story. People can be fooled, even hoodwinked, and they can be prejudiced for or against us. To achieve true humility, our prayer should be to see ourselves as we stand in the eyes of God. Only God can read the human heart.

Centuries ago St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Name something that you have not received. If, then, you have received it, why are you boasting as if it were your own?" (I Cor., 4/7). Someone famous once said that all that he had and all that he was he owed to his mother. That was very nice of him, and I am sure, his mother accepted the compliment sweetly and probably blushed a bit, because she would have known how little really she had had to

do with her son's success. St. James tells us, "Make no mistake about this... Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Father" (James, 1/16-17).

We are what we are in God's sight, nothing more, nothing less. He created us, mortal body, immortal soul. He endowed us with intelligence and free will. He gave each one of us certain talents, certain abilities, a creativity, an artistic flair, athletic skill, bodily strength, and so on. Each one of us has his or her gifts. All we have to remember is where these gifts come from.

Scripture tells us that without the Lord we can do nothing. We have been taught that we cannot even pronounce the name of Jesus with profit for our soul without God's help. St. Paul expressed our dependence on God in another way. He could do all things in Him who strengthens him (Phil., 4/13).

Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the publican who both went up to the Temple to pray. The Pharisee forthwith proceeded to list his good qualities and his gratitude for not being like the rest of men, such as the publican. The publican, on the other hand, only too conscious of his human frailty, stood in the rear and without raising even his eyes, struck his breast and prayed, "Be merciful to me, O Lord, I am a sinner." How true it, the grace of God helps us to do what is right and virtuous. The only thing that we can honestly claim as our very own is our sins. (Luke, 18/9-14).

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, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, or Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591.
 - 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

Elmwood Park, N.J.

I just read the moving story of Angela Boudreaux' cure of cancer through the intercession of Father Seelos and I was very touched. My grandson who just turned six has been battling cancer since October 1990. He was diagnosed with Wilm's tumor and his chances of recovery with an operation and chemotherapy was 95%. But this was not to be. In February 1991 his chances dropped to 50%. They gave him radiation and intensive chemo. He was so sick the doctor thought the treatment might not work. He had a further recurrence in October, had a testicle removed. We were told that his only hope for a cure, and this was no guarantee, was a bone marrow transplant, which is the most horrifying ordeal a child should have to go through. Two days after his transplant we almost lost him because he filled up with fluid and his heart became enlarged. He was on a respirator for two weeks. Everything that could go wrong went wrong. Through many prayers he pulled through and I thank God every day. He is not yet out of the woods and that is why I need your prayers and those of Father Seelos for his permanent cure of cancer. It hurt me so to see the pain in his mother's eyes. She has been through so much and she's never left his side. I love them both so much and there is nothing that I could do but pray and ask the prayers of all the saints and the Blessed Mother to beg the Lord Jesus for my grandson. I will always be grateful.

Thibodaux, LA

I want to thank Father Seelos and all of you who came to Ochsner and Children's Hospital with the cross and prayed for my grandson. I firmly believe Father Seelos has intervened for us. My grandson came down with hemolytic uremia syndrome in September of 1991. Ten days later he had a brain hemorrhage which caused a stroke. He was left almost completely paralyzed. He had surgery in the middle of the night and did not have much going in his favor. For a few weeks he could not even see. He stayed in the hospital for fifteen weeks. It was during that time that you all took so much of your time and came many times with the cross and prayed with us. Now after six months he can see again, not perfectly, but his sight is getting better. His little mind has come back and he is beginning to say a few words and sit up. He still cannot move his right arm too well and cannot stand or walk. We feel certain and hope through our continued prayers to Father Seelos and therapy three days a week he will walk again and have the use of his right arm. Thanks to all of you.

Metairie, LA

I am writing this letter to thank Father Seelos for his prayers. My son was out of work for three and a half months. He was very depressed and had mounting bills. Through prayers he is now back at work, feeling better about himself. Thank you very much.

Mail, April, 1992

Petitions: 633 Thanksgivings: 277

Other: 567

Total: 1477

Dial-a-messages: 765

Volunteer Hours: 1083

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

8/92

Published monthly by the Redemptionists 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.

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