



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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“GRATEFUL MEMORY”

Seven years ago this past September the Father Seelos museum was opened to the public. It is located in the rear of the sacristies of St. Mary's Assumption Church and is available to visitors not only coming through the sanctuary of the church but directly from Constance Street. It is open after the weekend Masses and by appointment (call 504 525-2495).

PRAYER

If we were ever caught up in the book of Genesis of the Old Testament by the story of Joseph, his escape from his would-be assassins and his rise to second place in the kingdom of Egypt, we should be in admiration with the story of Moses in the book of Exodus. As an infant Moses was rescued from the banks of the Nile and grew up as a ward of Pharaoh's daughter. He fled from Pharaoh after he had killed an Egyptian in defense of a fellow Hebrew. As he was tend-

ing his father-in-law's flocks of sheep, he came to Mount Horeb.

There he saw a bush burning without being consumed. As he approached it to investigate, he heard God telling him to take off his shoes first for it was sacred ground. God commanded Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses demurred. Moses asked God "who should I say who You are?" God answered, "Tell him I AM sent you" (Exodus, Ch. 1-3).

Thus began a dialogue between God and Moses which lasted through the 40 years that the Hebrews wandered in the desert and lasted until Moses died and the children of Israel entered into the promised land. The story of God's

dealings with Moses is unique in the annals of the Jews and the Church.

In chapter 33 of the book of Exodus we read that Moses said to God "... You have said, 'You are My intimate friend,' ..." Moses then asked God, "Do let me see Your glory!" "My face you cannot see, for no man sees Me and still lives," God told him. He placed Moses in the hollow of a rock so that he could see, not the face of God, but just His back (Exodus, 33/1-23.)

In Chapter 34 of this book of Exodus, Moses received from God the ten commandments in dialogue with Him over 40 days and nights. When he came down from the mountain, Moses did not realize that the skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the Lord. Unfortunately, when Moses' brother, Aaron, and the other members of the camp saw the radiance of Moses' face they were afraid to approach him. So after he had communicated to them what the Lord had commanded him to say, he put a veil over his face. When he entered the tent to talk to God, he removed the veil, and when he left the tent he would put the veil back on his face.

Prayer is a dialogue, a conversation with God. Should we be overcome with the majesty of God and find ourselves murmuring inanities, we should recall that God is not only our Creator, but He sent His Son to become a man and live among us, so that we could address Him not only as my God, but also as my Brother. Prayer should bring us the peace that He promised to give those who are restless and unquiet. Rather than hide the radiance that shines on our face, let it appear as the love we bear to those with whom we come in contact each day.

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 - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. 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.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - 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. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
 - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
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

Hayward, CA

Thanks be to God. Prayers for the intercession of Father Seelos helped to heal my grandma last year when she was dying. Four times they told us she would die and she is still here with us. I put the memento I had of Father Seelos on her and she just got better little by little. She is 85 years old and none of the doctors gave us any hope. They told us to tell her what we wanted before she dies. They even called a priest to tell us to let her go in peace. They did not want us to do any more for her. She was on every machine and also hemorrhaging. They said she was too old to do any surgery on her because of her heart. She would die from surgery to stop the hemorrhaging. So as I watched the blood drain from this beautiful woman who has been mother to me, I talked to her and thanked her for all the rosaries she had said for me and my family, and I knew she was in God's hands.

I pinned my memento of Father Seelos on her scapular and asked that it not be removed. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for me with the Lord and ask Him to keep her here with us if that would be His will. I prayed every day to Father Seelos for her and when I left Hawaii to come home, I put her in Father Seelos' charge. My grandma has just gotten better and better. She is home now and I can talk to her on the phone. I longed to hear her voice again. I had not heard it since Assumption day last year. When she was in the hospital she never knew I was there. I was in Hawaii for two weeks and then I had to come home. This past October I heard her voice again, very weak, but I heard her. My prayer now is that I can see her once more and she will know I am there. Thanks be to God and the intercession of Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

A few months ago someone came into the office where I work and left behind a memento of Father Seelos. I kept it for the woman in case she would come back for it. She never did. At that time my son was having trouble in school. His grades had fallen and it looked as though he would be failing the seventh grade. I began praying to Father Seelos every night, asking that he would help my son in his school work.

Immediately I noticed my son studying harder, filled with more confidence and wanting to do better. On the last day of school we were very happy to see he had passed every subject and was promoted to the eighth grade. Thanks to God and the prayers of Father Seelos.

New Orleans, LA

I owe so much to dear Father Seelos. When I don't feel well I stop and say a prayer to Father Seelos and in a little while I feel better. I am 92 years old and am grateful to be able to do volunteer work at our hospital and Senior Center. It is so good to be able to get out every day.

Mail, July, 1993

Petitions: 597 Thanksgivings: 226 Other: 599 Total: 1422

Dial-a-messages: 741

Volunteer Hours: 1115

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