



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FEBRUARY, 1993

A SEELOS RELATIVE FROM FÜSSEN

The last member of the Seelos family to live in Füssen, Bavaria, is Mrs. Lilly Neumaier-Aschenbrenner, a great-great niece of Father Seelos. Mrs. Neumaier-Aschenbrenner came from her home in Europe to attend the 125th anniversary of her great-great uncle's death on October of this past year. Fussen is a much-visited town in the Tyrolean Alps and it has, thanks to this relative, a museum to promote the cause of canonization of the Servant of God.



MRS. LILLY NEUMAIER-ASCHENBRENNER (R)

HOPE

The saddest thing about hell is that there is no hope. Dante put this inscription above the gates of hell, Abandon hope, all ye who enter here.

As this is being written (in the last days of 1992), much of the news we hear is discouraging. The skies are falling, the earth is warming up, the economy is on the skids, nobody is doing anything about the senseless killing in Bosnia, nothing is being done for the starving children in Somalia, too many babies are being brought into the world, we are running out of space, out of food, out of resources. . . . What the people of the world need more than anything else is a pair of rose-colored glasses.

Most of us have learned to conquer the dread feeling of despair that afflicts us at one time or another. There is in each of us naturally a certain

resilience, a willingness to rise to the challenges of life, and a pugnacious instinct to survive. Only despair, the antithesis of hope, can stifle the human spirit.

The virtue of faith points out to us and lights up for us the goal of our lives here on earth: eternal life with God in heaven. The virtue of hope gives us the basis for courage in the pursuit of that goal. God has promised us life everlasting and He is faithful to His promises. God is all-powerful and He can do all things. Nothing is impossible to God.

If it is the memory of past sins that discourages you, then think of God's promise to forgive you. Jesus painted a beautiful picture of the willingness of the Father to forgive the sinner in parable of the prodigal son. All the son had to do was to show a desire to repent of his foolishness and the father was more than eager to restore him to his family.

If it is the possible falling into sin in the future that perturbs you, then remember the promise of Jesus to hear your every prayer. Jesus forgave sinners and bade them to sin no more, but He counseled them to ask and they would receive. And who were his hearers? The weak, the humble, the poor, the sick. It was for them that He came to give His life.

If it is the prospect of a long life and the sinking feeling that the great prize is slipping out of your hands that discourage you, then think of the parable of the last judgment. The king will welcome the sheep on his right who have done his will and who have loved their neighbors, Come, you blessed of my Father. Receive the reward of your love.

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

Marrero, LA

I wish to thank Father Seelos for my eyesight. A few months back I wrote in thanksgiving for a growth disappearing behind my eye. The doctor at that time thought I had a cancer growing with my cataract. I finally had my cataract and implant surgery on Wednesday, September 16, 1992. My doctor said he had never seen a cataract as bad or as large as mine. He feels true success as a doctor because I can see! He is proud of me and himself. I told him as I am telling you, it was Father Seelos' intercession that made it happen!

The doctor believes that I might be able to receive another implanted lens in my right eye after about six weeks. I am doing so well that I am seriously considering going through with a second surgery. By the way, as a reminder to you from my last writing, I am an 83 year old widow.

I have a new lease on life with my eyesight. I no longer feel useless and alone in a world of darkness. The whole world is open to me now. Just think what will happen when both of my eyes work well!

Thank you, Father Seelos, for your intercession to our Lord. Your influence must be powerfully spectacular to grant an 83 year old woman the gift of good eyesight for her few remaining years. I know I will see God's face very clearly when He decides to call me home.

People say the road to heaven is rocky and rough. Well, that may be, but I know, it is not dark anymore! I've had some rocky times in my life and was always able to see each rock in my path. I would stumble and fall and pick myself up and start all over again. Then, with age and poor eyesight, I felt I could not pick myself up after falling. I was creeping on the road to my Creator. Now, with my new gift, I will start picking up speed because I can see those rocks in front of me. So excited am I now that I feel that I will be able to jump over them instead of stumbling and falling! I will see a smooth as silk road all the way up to my Creator's Image!!!!

Thanks again, to Father Seelos!

College Station, TX

In April I requested prayer prior to surgery to remove a mass in my breast that could have been malignant. I have had the surgery and I am pleased to report that the mass, though very large, was benign. I am sure that Father Seelos' intercession was responsible for this favorable report. I am so grateful. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Mail, October, 1992

Petitions: 646 Thanksgivings: 303 Other: 512 Total: 1461

Dial-a-messages: 781

Volunteer Hours: 1109

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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.