



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1994

FATHER SEELOS DAY, APRIL 24

"The Father Seeelos Day in New Orleans" will be observed on Sunday, April 24. A Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church (on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in the Irish Channel in New Orleans) at 11:30 A.M. Father John Vargas, formerly of New Orleans and now assistant treasurer of the Redemptorists in Rome, will be the main celebrant and homilist at the Mass. St. Patrick's Choir will perform.

Following the Mass a dinner will be held at the Jefferson-Orleans North at 2600 Edenborn Avenue, Metairie at 1:30 P.M. The Hon. Lindy Boggs, former Congresswoman of Louisiana, will be the featured speaker at the dinner. Door prizes will be awarded. Tickets for the dinner are available at the Father

Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130; our telephone is 524-2495. The price of a ticket is \$20.00.



JUDGE DENNIS WALDRON
WAS THE SPEAKER ON APRIL 25, 1993.

Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130; our telephone is 524-2495. The price of a ticket is \$20.00.

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

Surely it has not escaped any of us that Jesus had a special predilection for the second command of the Lord, the love of neighbor. He called it His commandment. He identified Himself with the neighbor: "As long as you did it for one of My least brothers, you did it for Me" (Matthew, 24/40). At the Last Supper Jesus said: "I give you a new commandment: love one another" (John, 13/34). He then proceeded to tell His apostles that it would be by this love for one another that they would be recognized as His disciples (John, 13/35).

When Jesus, asked by a Pharisee which was the greatest commandment, He replied: "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew,

22/35-39). Again at the Last Supper Jesus said to His apostles: "This is My commandment: love one another as I have loved you" (John, 15/12). The first measure of our love for neighbor is ourselves. Love them as you love yourself. The second measure is we should love our neighbor as Jesus loved us. We know how much He loved us. He gave His life for us on the cross. He reminded us: "There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John, 15/13).

And whom should we love? First of all, we should love our enemies. Jesus said: "Love your enemies, pray for your persecutors" (Matthew, 5/44). If you love those only who love you, what merit is there in that? Tax collectors do as much. If you say hello to your brothers only, what is so great about that. Even unbelievers do as much.

One time Jesus was asked by a Pharisee, "Who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus told him the story of the Good Samaritan, a story so familiar to us all. The Savior, instead of emphasizing the man in need, chose to underscore the neighbor in deed, the good Samaritan.

An old Redemptorist missionary in his talk on charity used to say that we are bound to love everyone, even our relatives. He always got a few snickers, but made his point. We are all too conscious that in families there are tragedies of hate, rancor, deep-seated resentments, years of unforgiving silence, all because of some fancied slight, some underhanded action, some jealous intrigue, some ill-conceived will that left more than money behind, division and loads of ill-will. Such a pity because such conduct ruptures not only the bonds of blood but also of grace!

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Calhoun, GA

I am writing to tell you about more good news in our family and to say thanks to Father Seelos for his help. My son who was out of work and with no place to live is working now and has his own apartment. He is a new man with hope and courage for the future, thanks be to God and Father Seelos for his prayers. Also a granddaughter who had never met her father spoke with him at last. Now they will exchange letters and pictures, and a healing will take place, with God's help.

Pontchartrain, LA

My petitions to Father Seelos were answered twice: once for my great grandson who had S C I D and was to die. He is now nine years old and off medication. My grandson was in a motorcycle accident. The doctors said it would be a year before he would fully recover. In three months he was back to work. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession.

New Orleans, LA

Hi everyone! We can't remember everyone by name, but we left the Center with the feeling that we had made new friends. Many thanks to Father Seelos for letting us find our way to the Father Seelos Center and St. Mary's Church and especially for the blessing with his mission cross. We really enjoyed the visit.

Metairie, LA

Please send me the FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY bulletin and a cloth memento. Thanks be to God and Father Seelos for his intercession in behalf of my mother who had a massive heart attack at the age of 83. Three times in one day the doctor came to prepare me for her possible death. I pinned one of Father Seelos' mementos to her pillow, and I put her in God's hands. His will be done, not mine. My mother has had many special blessings through the prayers of Father.

Metairie, LA

My son Andrew was born last September with some bone anomalies. Since that time he has undergone two surgeries to improve the use of his hand and leg. He was in a body cast for two months and has been in a hip brace for the last two months. Our friend and neighbor, Theresa Lacour (and her group), have been praying for Andrew and have asked Father Seelos for his help. She told me how Father Seelos had helped her in the past when she had problems in her family and we are asking for his help now.

The doctors were extremely pleased with Andrew's progress; so much, in fact, that they said that the bone graft was doing so well that they didn't think they could take credit for it. I credited the prayers of family, friends, and Father Seelos for the great news. The last visit with the doctors wasn't that encouraging. They are going to perform another test to see what has happened to his hip. We are hoping for good news and trust Father Seelos will answer our prayers.

Mail, December, 1993

Petitions: 612 Thanksgivings: 250 Other: 620 Total: 1482

Dial-a-messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1086

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