

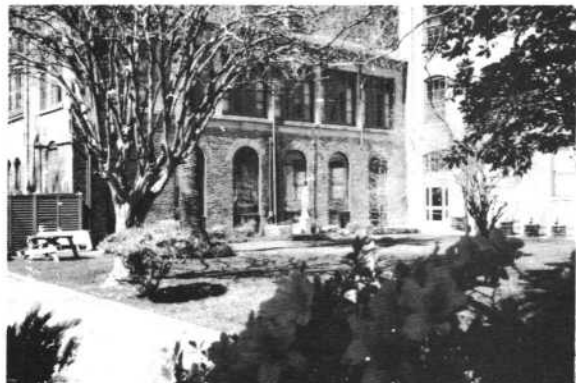


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1994

WHERE HE DIED



There is a beautiful garden behind the sacristies of St. Mary's Assumption Church, as these photos indicate. Between 1855 and 1882 the first Redemptorist rectory stood in the middle of this plot of ground. Father Seelos lived in this building from September, 1866 until October 4, 1867, the date of his death. No picture of this rectory has ever been found.

PURITY

Given the strong sexual instinct with which our human nature has been endowed and the weakness of our moral sense corrupted by sin, the practice of purity, or chastity, has never been easy. Certainly in these days of the sexual revolution the battle has only been intensified. To see the equal of our time we have to go far back in history, all the way to the decline and fall of ancient Rome.

This past summer it had to be a comforting development for us to see 400,000 teen-agers from all over the world come to Denver to see the Holy Father and to

have them complimented by the local authorities as remarkably free of the excesses so often tied to other gatherings of the young. It is also encouraging to learn of young men and women talking and practising abstinence from sexual activity because they believe that sex is for married people and they choose to wait for marriage before they exercise this faculty. They so act from the conviction that sex was instituted by God for the furtherance of the family and of the love that binds spouses together. If history moves in cycles it is good news to know that maybe the worst part of the revolution is over and the natural reaction has set in.

Difficult as the practice of purity can be, we can rely on the God-given means to preserve it. First and foremost in the defensive arsenal is flight from the occasions of sin, that is, any person, place or thing that lead one into sin as proved by experience. In this case, victory comes to the cowardly.

Of the seven sacraments of the Church, two are especially adapted to the rhythms and needs of our daily lives. Daily is the struggle and daily we can receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist to gain the spiritual courage to do battle. The sacrament of reconciliation can restore grace when lost and strengthen the soul to meet the challenges of chastity.

Prayer is the universal means of salvation. We can always pray no matter where we are or in what conditions we are placed. With practice prayer can become a habit. We can pray before, during and after temptation. St. Alphonsus comforts us with the assurance that if we can remember that we prayed while being tempted, we can rest assured that we did not fall into sin.

Especially powerful is prayer to our Blessed Mother. She is the Mother most pure. She understands our human nature and she is ready to intercede for us before the throne of God.

Maybe the revolution is not over, but the world will know that with God's grace, purity can be achieved.

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

Fajardo, P. R.

Terribly worried because the ophthalmologist had me as a glaucoma suspect and aware that the pressure kept on rising, I turned to Father Seelos imploring his powerful prayers before the Lord in my behalf. Every day I recited the Father Seelos prayer. I felt confident that he would know better than I, when and how to pray, and that through his prayers my petition would be granted. So it was. One more visit to the eye doctor revealed the pressure was lower and on the following visit last December the pressure was normal. How relieved and thankful I felt! Father Seelos had come to my aid. The Lord heard our prayers.

Shortly after I started praying to Father Seelos I asked for another favor. A very dear friend of mine was in intensive care with very little hope for her recovery. Three weeks later she was out of the hospital and recovering nicely.

I feel so certain of the power of Father Seelos' prayers that I wish that everyone in need would come to him for help. I pray that he be canonized soon. To me he is a saint. I praise God for His mercy and I thank Father Seelos for his prayers.

Gaithersburg, MD

My children and I were leaving St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, after adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament when my daughter spotted a piece of gold paper in the snow. Mary is very curious, and, of course, she went to investigate. You can't imagine how surprised I was when she showed me a Father Seelos memento. It had a crocheted border around it and was not soiled by the snow.

Though I live in Maryland, I was born and raised in New Orleans. My family is from the Irish Channel, and often asked Father Seelos to intercede for us. I told my children what I could remember of Father Seelos but I would like to have more information. I'm not sure how the memento came to Gaithersburg. However it came, its appearance inspired me to teach my children about this holy man who ministered to my ancestors. Please send me whatever information is available.

New Orleans, LA

On November 19, 1993, I had a shunt put in my arm for dialysis. I would soon have to go on dialysis. Two weeks ago my arm looked as though it was infected. I prayed to Father Seelos and the dear Lord not to let my arm become infected and keep me off dialysis. Today my arm is healed. I am not on dialysis yet. Thanks to God and Father Seelos' prayers.

Metairie, LA

First I would like to congratulate Ms. Addie Buhler on her achievements. She gave so much to the Center with her patience and hard work. I will remember her in my prayers. She was a very special person.

Mail, February, 1994

Petitions: 577 Thanksgivings: 225 Other: 434 Total: 1236

Dial-a-messages: 747

Volunteer Hours: 1066

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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.