



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1994

## IRISH CHANNEL HONORS FATHER SEELOS

This past March 12 Father Seelos was honored by the Corner Club of the Irish Channel in their annual parade through the Channel for the feast of St. Patrick. Pictured above are the medallions worn by the crew members and the cups that were distributed by them on their way. While here in New Orleans for just one year, Father Seelos ministered to all the parishioners whether in St. Mary's, St. Alphonsus, or Notre Dame de Bon Secours. He is the best known resident of the Irish Channel because of his cause of canonization.



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## OBEDIENCE

Should I write these words, "religious vow obedience to their superiors," I can almost hear the cries of disbelief and horror coming from a segment of our present population. "Obedience" and "superiors" are not "in-words" today even in some Catholic circles. The submission of one's will to another, as unpopular as this idea may be to the modern mind, is really not anything so unusual. Witness the many signs that dot the landscape, "No parking," "Keep off the grass," "Keep off the median," and one that is becoming more and more controversial at the moment, "No smoking." In the main, no matter how irksome these signs may be, they are paid plenty of attention. Every civil jurisdiction in the land, be it city, township, county or state has volumes of laws and

statutes that maintain the peace within their boundaries. These jurisdictions not only enact laws but have the power to enforce them with fines and imprisonment.

Now we Catholics here in America as elsewhere in the world are often chided by those outside our faith that we have to obey the Pope, the bishops and the priests. Let us be clear about one thing: no one has to do anything that he or she doesn't want to. We are human beings endowed by our Creator with intelligence and free will. Once we choose to be Catholics, we thereby submit our will and judgment to the body of revealed truths that the Catholic Church presents to us as the revealed word of God. To pick and choose among these truths is not open to us. We buy the whole package.

We read in the document of the II Vatican Council on "The Church": "They are fully incorporated into the society of the Church who, possessing the spirit of Christ, accept her entire system and all the means of salvation given to her, and through union with the visible structure are joined to Christ, who rules her through the supreme pontiff and the bishops."

God has revealed truths that our mind could never arrive at unaided and has entrusted these truths to the teaching authority of His Church. Again the document of the II Vatican Council on the Church says, "For, by this sense of faith which is aroused and sustained by the Spirit of truth, God's people accepts not the word of men but the very word of God (Cf. 1 Th. 2/13). It clings without fail to the faith once delivered to the saints (Cf. Jude, 3), penetrates it more deeply by accurate insights, and applies it more thoroughly to life. All this it does under the lead of a sacred teaching authority to which it loyally defers." (Emphasis added).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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### 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

Waveland, MS

This "thank-you" note is at least three years late. I knew I had to quit smoking, but I just couldn't do it alone. After receiving my monthly newsletter, I prayed, "Dear Father Seelos, please help me!" I set the date and every time I had the urge to smoke, I'd say the Father Seelos prayer.

It has been three years now and even though I get the desire at times, I say my prayer and he still helps me. I always knew that after smoking for 40 years, it would take a miracle. I promised this letter and pray that he will help others who will call on him. Father Seelos has saved my life. Praise God!

Napoleonville, LA

This letter is in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for a wonderful favor. I was not well and dreaded going to the doctor as I feared the answer. I finally decided to go and after many tests I was told it was only a bacterial infection which required only medication. Father Seelos has never once failed to come to my aid. I say the daily for his canonization.

Beaumont, TX

I am not a Catholic. However I have many kinfolk and friends who are. One friend had your little prayer sent to me about 15 years ago. My friend is now with God and at rest. She was a true Christian. I felt I must do something, even a little, to help you spread the Word and the faith to so many.

Harahan, LA

I have prayed to Father Seelos for many years. He has always been there for me. My son was in an automobile accident over a year ago. He had two crushed discs in his neck causing nerve damage. He tried every kind of remedy but pain was always there. He had to decide what to do. An operation would be serious. We all prayed for an answer.

On October 27 he had a long and very serious operation. We all knew what could go wrong. I prayed to Father Seelos and pinned a memento on him which he wore during the surgery. After the operation the doctor told us everything went fine. The discs were fused and pins placed in them. We had to wait now to see if his neck would heal. We prayed to Father Seelos and he was there.

On November 30 the doctor was amazed at his progress. He was so impressed that he called the nurses to show them. He told my son it was like a miracle. He had done many operations like this but few had ever healed this quickly and well. We pray that my son will soon be back at work. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession.

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Mail, March, 1994

Petitions: 590      Thanksgivings: 230      Other: 636      Total: 1456

Dial-a-messages: 751

Volunteer Hours: 1037

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