



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIII, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1994



FATHER SEELOS DINNER, APRIL 24, 1994

The seventh annual "Father Seelos Day in New Orleans" was observed on the last Sunday of April. Father John Vargas, C.S.S.R., came from Rome to be the main celebrant and homilist at the Mass. The featured speaker at the dinner which followed the Mass was the Hon. Lindy Boggs, formerly a member of the U. S. Congress from the state of Louisiana. Pictured above at the head table are (left to right), Father Vargas, Mrs. Lindy Boggs, and the master of ceremonies, Mr. Jay Albarado of New Orleans. It was a great day for Father Seelos and his friends.

MEEKNESS

All of a sudden, it seems, Americans have become a nation of litigators; suing one another has become a way of life. Many Americans are angry, angry with whatever or whoever gets in their way, the government, the media, the neighbors. We have become supersensitive about our rights and real or imagined violations of them. If you happen on an altercation, almost invariably you will hear these words. "I am going to sue you." You notice this supersensitivity in crowds, in traffic, in long lines waiting to be attended to or served. No longer are we able to look at our foibles and laugh.

To all of us who find ourselves more angry than usual at the little or big aggravations that creep into our lives at inconvenient moments, I suggest the

practice of the virtue of meekness. I make this suggestion, well aware of the connotation that the word, meekness, conveys. I assure you, meekness is not the word you think it is.

You may remember a cartoon in the comic pages of some years ago. It was called "Mr. Milquetoast." The cartoon was often funny and even ridiculous, even though it gave us a skewed caricature of meekness. "Mr. Milquetoast" was a sorry excuse for a man. He stood for nothing, he was a jelly fish, he had no principle, he let himself be walked on by all and sundry. He was not meek. He was a fool.

The role of meekness is to control the passion of anger, to soften it, to bring other virtues, such as humility and charity to bear upon it. Anger is an emotion of the sensitive part of our being and it is aroused when we feel threatened by violence and when we feel our rights are being violated. Anger is also accompanied with a desire for revenge; we must get even with whoever has perpetrated violence against us. Anger is a blind emotion; it comes upon us without our thinking about it. At times anger is justified, as in the case of Jesus when He threw the money-changers out of the Temple, because they were making His Father's house a den of thieves.

Humility will help us to suppress the desire for revenge over trivial slights. Charity will help us to turn a soft answer to the accusations made against us in the heat of anger. Meekness will help us to calm the heavy seas of hatred. The example of Jesus will help us to breathe His prayer, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do."

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

Houston, TX

Thank you for repeating the article by Father Grangell. I consider that my 69th birthday present and I shall remember his holy motto: "M G I L Y- My God, I Love You." My grandmother was born and raised in New Orleans and I am very fond of your fair city.

Baton Rouge, LA

I am writing to report several answers to prayers to Father Seelos. Several months ago a dear lady became paralyzed on one side of her face and lost her vision in that eye. The doctors thought it might be Lyme disease, but also told her the condition might leave as soon as it came. The night before her complete recovery, I prayed to Father Seelos for her. I felt so wonderful when I was told the next day, and knew she had recovered through Father Seelos' intercession with the Lord.

Just recently two petitions were sent in my sister's name to come through open heart surgery. She did come through safely, but we were told that she had a tumor on her heart and we would have to wait for 72 hours. That was a long 72 hours, but you know what? - the "tumor" was only scar tissue, and of no harm to her heart or her. Wonderful news! And I feel sure Fr. Seelos was a main force in getting us a good biopsy report.

In January this same sister was in critical condition. When I called the Center, a lovely lady, Rosary, came and prayed with her in I C U. My sister was anointed three times, but has recovered, except for dialysis three times a week. We're told this is only temporary.

Sykesville, PA

I enjoy the newsletter that is published monthly. I pray for the cause of Father, that he will soon be declared a saint. I wear or have with me at all times a memento or prayer card. I know he has interceded for me many times.

Grand Chenier, LA

I wish to record a personal favor received through the intercession of Father Seelos. Some months ago I asked for prayers for my mom, because she was in need of surgeries, but could not have them because of her critical condition. Today my mom has almost completely recovered. She is now at home on her own. She did not have any surgeries. The doctor said it was a miracle. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Metairie, LA

I called the Father Seelos Center to have my husband blessed before his surgery. I don't know the name of the lady who came to the hospital with the crucifix and mementos, but I wish to thank her for her kindness. My husband had a very successful six-bypass surgery, and I thank Father Seelos for his intercession.

Mail, April, 1994

Petitions: 590 Thanksgivings: 263 Other: 506 Total: 1359

Dial-a-messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1091

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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.