

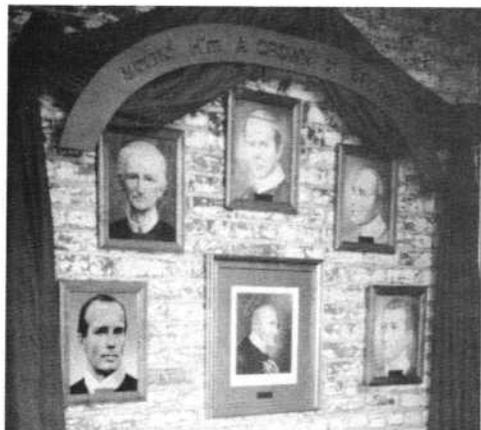


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1995

'AROUND HIM, A CROWN OF BROTHERS'



In the Father Seelos Museum at St. Mary's Assumption Church there is a section devoted to pictures of St. Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists, surrounded by his fellow Redemptorists who have been accorded the honors of the altar: St. Gerard Majella, St. Clement Hofbauer, St. John Neumann, Blessed Peter Donders, Blessed Gaspar Stangassinger. Recent word from Rome tells us that in the early part of 1996, the Venerable Januarius Sarnelli, C.S.S.R., one of the first Redemptorists and close friend and cooperator of St. Alphonsus, will be

declared blessed. In the section of the museum pictured above there is room for two more pictures: one for Sarnelli and, we hope, one for Father Seelos.

SELF-DENIAL

When St. Paul was intent on teaching the Philippians the virtue of humility and love for others, he wrote on his own or quoted what seems to be a hymn to the mysteries of the Divine Redeemer. St. Paul pointed out that Jesus, though He was God, did not cling to His divinity. He was willing to empty Himself, as it were; He took the form of a creature. As we ourselves, He took upon Himself our human nature. In contrast to the infinite majesty which is His as God, He humbled Himself to our human estate and accepted our humanity with all its limitations.

We all well know what is the human condition. It means joy, satisfaction, the warmth of human companionship, love, friendship, and so many others. It also means hunger, thirst, cold, heat, colds, aches, pains, sweat, tears, anguish, sorrow, hurts, hatred, threats. Yes, and death.

After His birth in Bethlehem, He began His acceptance of the trials that beset human beings. He was hungry, He was cold. He knew only too well the discomfort and helplessness of the displaced people. He knew what so many have experienced in our time, living on the dole in a country not one's own.

He learned carpentry from his adoptive father, St. Joseph. Carpentry, though always necessary, was not one of the top professions in His time and country. He lived in a small village, a frontier town, with its mixture of ethnic groups and faiths. There was none of the amenities that today we take for granted.

(Continued on next page)

He spent time in the desert. He told His followers He had no place to lay His head. He had Peter catch a fish with money in its mouth in order to pay the tax. He asked for a drink of water from the woman at the well. He was refused entrance into a Samaritan town. He was told to leave another town when the evil spirits entered into a herd of pigs and the pigs drowned in the lake.

He was angry with the money-changers in the temple and He drove them out because they made of His Father's house a den of thieves. He was often confronted by the scribes and Pharisees who demanded to know by what authority He did and said the things He did. He was questioned imperiously by Annas and Caiaphas, by Herod, and by Pilate. He felt the weight of the sufferings He was to undergo in the garden of Gethsemane the night before He died.

Jesus was treated shamefully by His captors; He was scourged, crowned with thorns, spit upon, derided by the soldiers, He was scorned by the crowd when Pilate tried to get them to choose between Him and Barabbas. He was condemned to walk the streets of Jerusalem carrying the heavy cross. He was stripped of His clothes, nailed to the hard wood of the cross and left to die before an ungrateful mob.

He was given a decent burial through the kindness of His friends. When He rose from the dead, His enemies gave Him no credit. They said His followers had taken the body away. Even in His moment of victory and triumph they still refused to believe in Him.

This is but a brief and incomplete sketch of the treatment Jesus received from the hands of His fellow human beings. Believing in His divinity as we do, we have to cringe at the insensitivity of those who surrounded Him in His days on earth.

Remember Him in the time of your trial.



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 SANCITY BULLETIN IS FOUR 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 _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Covington, LA

My daughter was out of work for almost two years. I prayed so hard to Father Seelos for help and to pray for me to the Lord, too. A few months ago she found a job and we were very thankful. She had been working only a couple of weeks when she began having terrible pain in the stomach and was scheduled to have surgery the next day. Three specialists agreed that the mass would have to be removed. She refused because of the job. After the people in the office found out, the lady who was training her stayed for six weeks longer to help her keep her job. I thanked Father Seelos.

The operation was successful. The mass was not malignant and she was back at work in four weeks. She is doing fine and working again. I pray that she will be able to remain in good health and keep her job. It all happened so quickly that I know it was through the intercession of Father Seelos. While all this was going on, I developed breast cancer for the second time and now am doing fine. Once again I did not have to have chemotherapy. I am in pretty good health for my age of 74.

Plattsmouth, NE

Thanks to all the people at the Seelos Center. I had colon surgery. No cancer was found. Thank you, Father Seelos, you have touched my life in a powerful way. I will be 75 in August. I tell so many people about the Father Seelos Center and St. Mary's Church.

Metairie, LA

I have been praying to Fr. Francis X. Seelos, unceasingly, for a few months, asking him to intercede for my business. I am a hair dresser and sole proprietor of a hair shop. Since I have prayed to Fr. Seelos for a successful business and to fill all of the stations in my shop, my prayers have been answered.

I am really grateful to Father Seelos and give thanks to God for his prayers for me. God bless you in your efforts to have him declared a saint of the Church. I pray that his canonization comes as soon as possible.

Harvey, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos a few months ago because my mother was very ill with an infection that was complicated due to the fact that she is a diabetic. There was a very strong chance that she could lose her foot. I asked Father Seelos to please intercede for her and also for God's help that she be spared of this. She is now getting care from a wound care center and is doing much better. There are still some complications but no decision has been made to go further than treatment at this time. I thank God and His good servant, Fr. Seelos.

Mail: August, 1995

Petitions: 596

Thanksgivings: 279

Others: 407

Total: 1282

Dial-A-Messages: 755

Volunteer Hours: 1023

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