



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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JUNE, 1995

FÜSSEN: FATHER'S BIRTHPLACE



Füssen, Bavaria, is just a short distance from the border of Austria, just a few kilometers from Oberammergau, where the historic Passion Play is presented, just a few kilometers from the town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen — beautiful vistas whatever the season of the year. Pictured above: two street scenes of Füssen. One is of Main Street with the church of St. Mang in the background where Father Seelos was baptized.

“FAMILY VALUES”

We all remember well what a to-do there was several years ago when our then vice-president happened to mention in passing the name of a character in a popular situation comedy. He mentioned the name of “Murphy Brown” as a possible example of what he was talking about, the need to return to family values. “Murphy Brown” was going to have a baby out of wedlock and even in the script of the show was being applauded by colleagues in the entertainment industry as a brave and forward-looking woman. From the subsequent uproar and the scorn heaped upon the speaker he had indeed touched a very sensitive nerve in the purveyors of the so-called up-to-date outlook on the world. He had scored a direct hit on the false philosophy underlying their promotion.

Shortly after this speech a priest friend of mine told me that he had brought up in his Sunday sermon the need for renewing our family values and had praised the remark of the vice-president as well-taken. He received an ovation from his congregation. This, I believe, indicates how far television is removed from the family

(Continued on next page)

life that does exist in our midst, if not perfectly, at least in the ideal.

Recently, I heard a rather well-known journalist, recalling the flap of several years ago, say, "Of course, we all knew then the need to return to family values." So now it is fashionable and politically correct to acknowledge the need to think about the core values that underlie our moral lives. I'm afraid that only Einstein could understand this kind of relativity.

In the book of Genesis, we read that God created man in His own image, male and female He created them, and enjoined on them to increase and multiply and fill the earth. By reason of the covenant they have made with each other, they raise their families and foster the close and intimate union of love existing between them (Genesis 5: 1-2).

To protect the institution of marriage, God gave us the sixth and ninth commandments, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife." Jesus restored marriage to its primitive state when He forbade divorce. "Therefore, let no man separate what God has joined" (Matthew 19: 6). "Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery. The man who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery" (Luke 16: 18).

How sad it is to see the terrifying effect divorce has on the moral fabric of our lives here in America. Broken homes, broken children! Pray for an end to this evil.



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 _____

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Crowley, LA

When our son, Charles, was two years old, we learned he was about 65% deaf. For most of his life he has suffered severe infection in both ears. At age 16 and 19 he had extensive surgery, but there was little improvement. The doctor said he had done all that he could do, and Charles would most likely go completely deaf.

We had never heard of Father Seelos. One day a friend gave me a prayer card and said, "*Why don't you pray to Father Seelos for Charles?*" The infection was so bad at that time that both ears were bleeding. I took the card home and began to pray for a healing (this was about ten weeks ago). About three weeks ago, after not hearing him complain about the ear, I asked about it. He looked strangely at me and said, "*I just realized I haven't been bleeding for some time, but I'm getting wax out.*" He had never had ear wax before. I feel I had an answer to my prayer and I thank God for Father Seelos. I continue to pray to him every day. My mother has bone cancer and I pray for a healing for her. Please recommend my intention at Father Seelos' tomb. I pray that he will soon be declared a saint.

Padasdena, TX

A couple of months ago I requested you to pray for my child who was very suicidal and had lost faith in God's goodness. Since then she has changed like night to day — very religious now and declares no suicide for her forever. Thanks to you, Father Seelos and all those at the Center who remembered her in their prayers.

Oklahoma City, OK

This letter is in response to the request for acknowledgement of favors granted through prayers to Father Seelos. My mother left a memento of Father Seelos among her personal affects after her death. It may have been given her by the sisters at the hospital. I carried the memento on my person, asking Father Seelos for two favors. One favor was the grace to overcome depression and anger brought on by my mother's death. I would hold the memento in my hand and say over and over again, "*Jesus, Mary, Joseph.*" I felt a calmness come over me and the anger and depression would leave. I felt I was in control again.

The second favor was for a lost object. I had lost or misplaced a very valuable ring. Six or eight weeks had gone by and one day on driving to work, my memory brought to mind the place where I had hidden the ring. Thanks to Father Seelos my memory has improved. I am deeply grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession.

Mail: February, 1995

Petitions: 587

Thanksgivings: 260

Others: 315

Total: 1162

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