



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1996

## REDEMPTORISTS IN THAILAND



*Bishop Clarence J. Duhart, C.S.S.R.*

In 1948 a group of American Redemptorists, with Father Clarence Duhart, C.S.S.R., as superior, set sail for Thailand. In 48 years there are foundations in Bangkok, Khonkaen, Nongkhai, Sriracha, Pattaya, Udonthani. Over 40 Redemptorists, mostly Thais, staff the mission. Father Duhart was named the first bishop of the diocese of Udonthani. When he retired, a Thai Redemptorist, Father George Phimphisan, C.S.S.R., was named in his place. Despite the limitations of age, Bishop Duhart carries on an active apostolate in Bangkok. He follows the cause of Father Seelos with great interest.

## 'OF ALL SAD WORDS'

As the Hubbell telescope carries us vicariously through the endless vistas of space, we are overwhelmed with the countless other galaxies "out there." Our minds are teased with the possibility of other earths such as ours that could be on a par with our civilization or even exceed it. That could be idle dreaming on our part. It is practical for us to look more closely at the planet we do inhabit.

The book of Genesis tells us how God created the heavens and the earth and how He saw it was good: light, air, water, plants, animals, and lastly human creatures. He gave us the earth and all it holds. He put it all in our hands, in our stewardship, not our ownership. Each generation must give an account of its stewardship to the one that follows. No one has the right to waste the earth.

In our day we have become more than ever environment-conscious. Some may have gone overboard, but, in general, most of the activity in that direction has been sane. We all want clean air, clean water, clean fuel. We want the earth to be able to grow enough food to feed all of us and to be there for

*(Continued on next page)*

those who come after us. Wanton destruction of our resources must stop.

People have gone to great lengths to preserve life in its various forms, plant and animal alike. It is not an unusual occurrence to read of efforts made to restore to open water a whale that has beached itself, or a dolphin that has strayed from familiar haunts, or just a kitten that has climbed a tree and is afraid to come down, and piteously calls for help. Human hearts are touched.

Some day the history of our times will be written and judgment will be passed on the actions of otherwise intelligent and kind and well-meaning people who destroy the greatest human resource that God gave them, their own young.

It is estimated that the lives of 30 million unborn babies have been taken by abortion since 1973 — in our country alone. Future generations will shudder as they read of this benighted time in history, just as we have shuddered at the history of the barbarians of the dark ages who blindly raped and pillaged the civilized world and even tore the infants from out their mothers' wombs — the ultimate indignity and cruelty to battered women.

30 million people could well be the population of a mid-size country. There could be millions of families with children going to school, to church, becoming doctors, priests, scientists, business-men, teachers, artists, entertainers, fathers and mothers of families, and grandparents too, good citizens, taxpayers, soldiers, sailors, merchant marines, bricklayers, architects, philosophers, writers, bankers, loving people, joyful people, industrious people, living people

Alas, this is not to be. It is an impossible dream. "Of all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, it might have been."



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 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.

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## SPECIAL LETTERS

Post Falls, ID

In September of 1994 I suffered a mild heart attack. After a short hospital stay, I returned home to recuperate. I was intent on my exercise program, physical therapy, and determined to lose weight. Of course, I continued seeing my heart specialist on a regular basis and everything seemed to be progressing as it should. Then in December of 1995 during a routine visit to the doctor, as I was taking my treadmill stress test, my pulse suddenly elevated from about 125 beats per minute to over 175 beats per minute, which, of course, caused the doctor some major concern. After checking my heart with the ultra sound machine, he decided it was necessary for me to enter the hospital again for another angiogram test, which I had undergone shortly after my heart attack the previous year. In that test the doctor had found that one of the valves in my heart was completely blocked and two others were partially blocked. With this knowledge and what he was seeing from my tests in December, he informed me of the probability of either an angioplasty or even a triple bypass surgery. It was a frightening thing even to think about indeed. On returning home and waiting the five days for my scheduled angiogram at Kootenai Medical Center in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, I and my entire family did a lot of praying and begging God for the graces I would surely need in the days ahead.

Some years ago some dear friends of ours who live in St. Bernard, Louisiana, had sent us a holy card of Father Francis Xavier Seelos with a cloth memento of the servant of God. I must confess that I had put it in a desk drawer and never thought about it again. As I was looking in my desk the day that I returned from my doctor's appointment, there was the above-mentioned holy card. Needless to say, I felt that God intended me to find it and use it now. I began immediately saying the prayer on the holy card and touching the memento to my heart. I knew that Father Seelos would hear me and intercede for me before the throne of God.

On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th, 1995, I entered the medical center for my scheduled angiogram. My dear husband and two of my older sons were by my side until I was taken away for the procedure. After the test was finished, it was about three hours before the doctor and assistants completed their diagnosis of my angiogram and the doctor came into my room with the results. He was smiling and seemed happy as he informed that what he could see from the test that nothing looked worse than the test he had given me in September of 1994 —, in fact, one valve looked somewhat improved. The doctor informed me that there was nothing he felt had to be done to my heart at this time. I am convinced that Father Seelos' prayers before the throne of God were powerful. I am grateful and pray that he will soon be declared a saint of the Church.

My son had difficulty in selling his house. I turned to Father Seelos to help find a buyer for his house. After three days someone made an offer on the house and they are in the process of signing the final papers in a few days. Praise God and thanks again to Father Seelos for his prayers.

P.S. We have been members of St. Thomas parish in Coeur d'Alene, for about seven years. Our parish is serviced by the Redemptorists. This makes Father Seelos more special to all of us.

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Mail: January, 1996

Petitions: 704

Thanksgivings: 250

Others: 452

Total: 1406

Dial-A-Messages: 761

Volunteer Hours: 1031

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