



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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JUNE, 1996

'ALPINE WAYSIDE SHRINE'



This crucifix in the garden of St. Mary's Assumption Church was blessed on April 28 this year. It marks the site of the first Redemptorist rectory in New Orleans. Father Seelos died here in the yellow fever epidemic of 1868 on October 14.

FATHER GERALD BASS, R.I.P.

On March 12, Father Gerald Bass, C.S.S.R., passed from this life into eternity. He was a priest with many talents, an extremely well-

organized individual and an expert in many fields. The Father Seelos Center will remember him for his confidence in the intercession of Father Seelos, for the artifacts that came to the Center from his carpenter shop and his leading the sing-along at the annual Father Seelos dinner. We ask your prayers for his eternal rest.



THE FAMILY

In the nineteenth century, Cardinal Wiseman became the first Cardinal in the Catholic Church in England since the Reformation. He had an illustrious career. He was on his death bed and a close associate wondered if he knew how close to death he was. He asked the Cardinal how he felt, and the Cardinal, clear in mind, said with a smile, *"I feel like a school boy going home for the holidays."*

What comes to the mind of young people, men and women, who are far from home for one reason or another, school, work, service in the military, the Peace Corps? It is the thought of home, the familiar, the source of the happy memories of their childhood, the place where they truly belong.

Some years ago, Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical letter on the family, the basis of society. He was concerned because in our times the family, although it is the sign of the salvation of Christ operating in the world, has become also a sign of the refusal that man gives to the love of God.

Christian revelation, writes Pope John Paul, recognizes only two ways of realizing our human vocation to love, marriage or virginity or celibacy. Sexuality is something more than biological; it is the means by which a man and a woman

(Continued on next page)

give themselves to one another through the acts which are proper and exclusive to spouses. Inherent in this giving is the note of fidelity unto death. Without the note of total commitment until death, total self-giving would be a lie.

The Holy Father goes on to stress that another note is linked irrevocably to the totality of conjugal love, and it is the demand of responsible fertility. Since fertility is directed toward the generation of another human being, it is eminently more than purely biological. It involves a whole set of personal values. For this reason the cooperation of the two parents becomes absolutely necessary. This can be found only in marriage. Marriage is not just a piece of paper, an external form, nor is it unjust interference on the part of society. Pope John Paul insists that it comes from the covenant of conjugal love in order to live in complete fidelity to the plan of God, the Creator. This is solid bed-rock teaching.

It was years ago that I first read that there were people who would like to change the concept of marriage and family, and were determined to undermine what nature and nature's God had so firmly established. When I read of this intended change, I did not think much of it. The effort to change the concept of family and marriage has not died out, but I still think that nothing so fundamental to the welfare of the human race can successfully be tinkered with.

Did not the Communists in Russia try something to "improve" the family by taking away the children and raising them in communes away from home influence? I am willing to bet nothing but woe ever came from that experiment, and if there has been any success, they probably regret it all now.

As to the present attempt to change the concept of marriage and family, we must hold fast to the idea that nothing, unproductive in itself, can assure the future of the human race. After all, God said of marriage, "*What God has joined together, let no man put assunder.*"



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.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, LA

Several months ago a co-worker was diagnosed with a malignancy that was rapidly spreading and not responding to already tried treatments. This cancer had been found in her lung and the physician offered her intensive chemotherapy to retard its progress. He did not feel that a cure was in the offing, but rather, he felt that he could give her a little more time. This courageous woman continued to work as a nurse caring for the ill, as she was battling for her own life. She began a support group with others who, doctors believed, were terminal.

She was not a Catholic, so I was hesitant about offering her the Father Seelos prayer and memento, but I was confident that he could help her. She accepted the prayer and I promised to say it for her as well. Not long after she accepted the prayer, I saw her at work and, much to my delight, she informed me that she was in remission, the tumor was gone. When she told her physician she was not sure whom to thank, him or God, he replied, "Thank God."

I am sure that through the intercession of Father Seelos this cure was possible, and I will continue to pray for his canonization.

Iota, LA

We would like to thank the Father Seelos staff and the intercession of Father Seelos for the following:

A young child from the Iota area was rushed to a New Orleans hospital with a high fever and in critical condition. The prognosis was grim. His mother accompanied him in spite of her health problems connected with her pregnancy. We phoned the staff to have both blessed with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Slowly the child came out of the coma and at this time both the child and his mother are recovering at home. God bless us all.

Crowley, LA

I am writing to report a favor that was received. On January 10, this year, My niece, who is 35 years old, had brain surgery for epilepsy. She has been having seizures since she was 17 years old. I had been praying to Father Seelos for a successful surgery. Everything came out just fine. She is doing well; from all indications the surgery was a success. I wish to thank God and Father Seelos' prayers for making this possible.

Golden Meadows, LA

After praying for many months for Father Seelos to be declared a saint of the Church and asking Our Lord through the intercession of Father Seelos to grant me the favor of the special needs of my children and their friends, I added a more specific request while in the hospital for surgery. I spent five weeks there always nauseated and unable to keep anything down. It was diagnosed as a reflux problem.

I decided to pray to Father Seelos and to him only so that I would know that the favor, if granted, came through his prayers in Jesus' name and according to His will. From the moment I prayed for the favor, not once did I experience the reflux problem. I believe Father Seelos interceded!

Mail: February, 1996

Petitions: 608 Thanksgivings: 254

Others: 430

Total: 1292

Dial-A-Messages: 743

Volunteer Hours: 1028

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Rev. Albert Babin, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.