



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1997



Father Richard  
Thibodeau, C.S.S.R.

## FATHER SEELOS DAY IN NEW ORLEANS APRIL 27

On Sunday, April 27, there will be a special Mass offered in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A.M. Father Richard Thibodeau, C.S.S.R., newly elected provincial of the Redemptorist province of Denver, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. A dinner at the Jefferson-Orleans South, 2536 Edenborn Ave.,



Patricia Treece

Metairie, LA, will follow the Mass. Patricia Treece, noted author from Calabasas, CA, will be the featured speaker at the dinner. Tickets for the dinner are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street in New Orleans (telephone: 504-525-2495). The price of a ticket is \$20.00.

## "BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE WE"

If there is one word that dominates the news these days globally, nationally and locally, it is violence. Violence of all kinds assails us from every side. At this time there is an intense campaign to diminish the content of violence in movies and TV programs. Police departments are being beefed up to handle the crises in our cities. More and more attention is being called to the plight of abused children and women. Strategies are being developed to deal with the effects of violence on innocent people.

Early on in human history, brotherly love took a beating when brother Cain took a dislike to his brother Abel and, as jargon has it, did him in. Since then things have only gotten worse. Something happened there in the garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. That something left a scar on the human psyche, and it has never completely recovered from it. We call it original sin. The effect of original sin is put briefly by St. Paul when he wrote, *'that which I should do, I do not, that which I should not do, I do.'*

Violence has reached such a stage that the question can be legitimately asked how much has the prevailing attitude toward unborn life contributed to its spread. I refer, of course, to the callous disregard of human life in the womb. The euphemism calls it 'pro-choice.' In reality, it is called abortion. The partial-birth abortion is an especially barbaric act. It is so symptomatic of the times that the decision to have an abortion ignores the father of the baby, as though he had nothing to do with it. Abortion is the ultimate act of violence to a woman short of killing her. It robs her of the child she, as mother along with the father, was privileged to procreate.

*(Continued on next page)*

Love for neighbor is the God-given solution to the problem of violence. If we all loved each other, there would be no violence. The theory is that as we become more civilized, the wider our concept of neighbor becomes.

The first step in love is respect, respect for our neighbor for what he is, a creature of God, a potential member of His Church at least. Christ died on the cross to redeem all of us from our sins. He wants all of us to be with Him for all eternity.

We should respect our parents, after God, the source of our very existence on earth. Parents have to respect the children God has entrusted to their care. All life must be respected since it comes from God. We must respect the bodily integrity of ourselves as well as of others. We must respect their earthly goods, we must respect their good name.

To sum up briefly, to counter the violence that is devastating our world, we must live according to the Ten Commandments. It has been remarked more than once that they are not mere suggestions. They are the steps God has marked out for us to help us solve our problems.

It may be politically incorrect to suggest that keeping the Ten Commandments is the way to peace. So be it. Let those who think it politically incorrect, ignore them at their own peril.



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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, or Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957.
  - 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Liguori, MO

A dear friend of ours has been suffering from progressively failing breathing muscles for several years. His case has reached a crisis. Through the intercession of Father Seelos he has maintained good spirits all this time. Now we are asking for a miraculous instant cure and more years of quality life. We ask the devotees of Father Seelos to join us in this petition.

In J.M.J.A and FXS,  
Father Henry McKeever, C.S.S.R

Baton Rouge, LA

At the end of October when my mother went for her annual physical exam, the physician informed her that she had a cyst on her thyroid gland and referred her to her family doctor who subsequently ordered an ultrasound. The ultrasound indicated that the nodule was not a cyst but a solid mass and a thyroid uptake was ordered. Because the nodule failed to absorb the iodine from the pill she had taken, her family doctor told us that there was a 80% probability that the nodule was malignant and referred her to a surgeon. The surgeon was more optimistic and said that the probability of malignancy was 40-50%. However, he felt that the nodule was suspicious for several reasons which he enumerated to us.

I had written to you asking for prayers and you responded to that note. My whole family has long been devoted to Father Seelos and has asked for his intercession on many occasions. Once again, he did not fail us. There were in fact two nodules and they were both benign. She is recovering rapidly from the surgery and we all feel that her faith and the prayers of so many of our relatives and friends were a big factor in her healing. We are especially grateful on this eve of Thanksgiving.

Baton Rouge, LA

In October, I was diagnosed as having cancer in my mouth and possibly in other areas of my body. I immediately requested that my friends and family pray to Father Seelos to pray for healing and for him to be declared a saint. I attended the Mass here in Baton Rouge on Sunday, October 20 when the missionary crucifix of Father Seelos was brought here to Baton Rouge and prayed for healing. The next week I had CAT and Bone Scans to determine if the cancer was anywhere else in my body. Miraculously the only other questionable area in my body was the lymph nodes in the right side of my neck. On October 29 the tumor in my mouth and the lymph nodes were removed. Two days later I found out the lymph nodes were benign. It will be a while before I fully recover from the surgery, but I am well on my way. I did not even bruise on my face like the doctor said I would. Ten days after surgery, I was able to attend my twin sons' final football game where the seniors and their parents were honored. From the bottom of my heart, I feel that through Father Seelos' intercession, several miracles occurred. I will continue to spread the word about Father Seelos and plan to attend Mass at St. Mary's Church as soon as I possibly can.

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Mail: December, 1996

Petitions: 820

Thanksgivings: 241

Others: 373

Total: 1434

Dial-A-Messages: 731

Volunteer Hours: 1053

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