



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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MAY, 1997



OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Blessed Mother appeared to the three children of Fatima, Lucy, Jacinta, and Francisco 80 years ago. Since then millions of pilgrims have come to this peaceful spot 100 miles north of Portugal's capital, Lisbon. A year ago this month I was one of those pilgrims. Although I was the only passenger to get off the train from Lisbon, the basilica was filled to overflowing for the Sunday evening Mass. Jacinta and Francisco died young and are buried

in the basilica. Lucy is a nun and is still living, the only remaining witness of the apparitions.

THE WORLD AROUND US

To one who is not an inveterate shopper, a trip through one of the malls of any large city will be overwhelming. The mounds and mounds of clothes, toys, machines, food, furniture, the choices to be made, the money to be spent, can all contribute to the bewilderment of the novice shopper.

How much of our homes are filled to overflowing with goods, bought, paid for, used for a while and now discarded in the attic or basement and almost forgotten. Towns and cities are constantly searching for bigger landfills. We have 'things' galore.

There are places in the world today where possessions do not assume the same importance as they do in our affluent society. Decades ago I lived in the Amazon jungle, or should I say, rain forest, even before freighters from afar found a 'free port' a thousand miles from the ocean and began to sell their wares to people who had so few possessions.

It is surprising how much one can do without when necessity demands it. All people do not have access to shopping malls that we have here in America. People do live without many of the things that we would class as necessities, such as electricity, telephones, radios, newspapers, running water, washing machines, cars, busses, streetcars, five and dime stores, hardware stores, supermarkets, taxi cabs, and the list goes on. Yet life continues in many corners of the world. As a matter of fact, I have often thought that an enterprising man, let down in the midst of the Amazon forest, could fend well for himself with only a machete. With this tool he could build himself a crude hut, carve a canoe out of a tree trunk, fashion a bow and arrow, clothe himself with animal skins, find food in the jungle and in the many waterways around him.

We Americans have a reputation, earned or unearned, of splurging on 'things,' of being material-minded. This past Christmas shopping period was to be one

(Continued on next page)

of the biggest ever. It may come as surprise to learn that it was not. A man who claimed to be an expert in tracking present trends into the future said recently on the radio that younger Americans were shying away from accumulating possessions and instead were becoming conservators of the environment. This trend, he predicted, would continue well into the third millenium. Long ago, St. Francis de Sales recommended to his readers that they do as the passengers on a sinking ship do, throw their baggage overboard. For those seeking closer union with God, possessions and attachment to them can only be an obstacle.

Indeed all of us have a priceless possession in this world, this universe God the Creator has placed us in. What a wonderful place to spend our lives. Millions of stars and suns and moons fill the skies. Our earth, the gem of the universe, voyages serenely through space in its measured journey around the sun. We bask peacefully in the light and heat of the heavenly bodies. The beauty of sunrises and sunsets, moonlit nights, majestic snow-clad mountains, verdant hills and valleys, roaring waterfalls, quiet meandering streams, sturdy forests, fields and fields of waving grain, tells us how truly God has blessed us.

God made us masters of the earth. We will not be here forever. It should be the aim of our generation to leave it in better shape than ever.



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: 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.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Metuchen, N.J.

Five years ago I wrote to thank Father Seelos for helping my son find a job. I am writing once again, this time for prayers for my son who will undergo a serious operation. I clearly remember the kindness of the volunteers at the Seelos Center when I visited there many years ago, and will never forget the serene feeling of being there. I have experienced the intercession of Father Seelos and I continue to pray that he will be declared a saint.

Metairie, LA

I am writing this about my son. I am 88 years old and am not in good condition but forget about me. My son just had a birthday. He is 70 years old. In 1995 he had cancer and was operated on twice. He has been suffering very much. Today he went to the doctor with his cancer (bladder and prostate). The doctor said everything is fine and does not want to see him for six months. Thanks be to God and the intercession of Father Seelos.

Lake Mary, FL

I promised Father Seelos that I would write, if he would obtain for me the favor of a healed back. On November 14, I sprained my back so badly that I was unable to move an inch. I stayed in bed for a week. Finally, I placed a memento on my back and prayed that I would be walking again by Nov. 22. I was and by the time my family arrived on Nov. 24, I felt no pain any longer.

I know nothing about Father Francis Seelos. I received a memento of Father Seelos from a lady who placed it into my hands while I was on pilgrimage at the Monastery of the Angels (EWTN) in Irondale, Alabama, back in July.

While watching EWTN during the time of my injury, I heard Father Francis Seelos' name mentioned by a woman interviewed on "*Living the Abundant Life*" program. This interview inspired me to search for the memento given me and use it in faith. Now I'm back in the kitchen getting everything ready for Thanksgiving. I'll be feeding a family of ten for a week and that's a lot of cooking!

I'm grateful to Father Seelos for answering my prayer so quickly and I have so much to be thankful for at this Thanksgiving holiday.

Port Neches, TX

This letter is written in fulfillment of a promise made. A few weeks ago one of our children was planning a divorce. I prayed to Father Seelos and promised to acknowledge any positive results. A month later the couple decided to seek counseling instead and things are much better. As you can imagine it seems like a miracle to us.

Houston, TX

I want to make public my thanksgiving to Father Seelos for his intercession. I prayed that all the tests on my heart would come out O.K. All the exams have been normal. There are more tests to be made but the doctor thinks that there is nothing serious and that with medication everything will be O.K. I pray that Father Seelos will soon be recognized as a saint.

Mail: January, 1997

Petitions: 730

Thanksgivings: 351

Others: 599

Total: 1680

Dial-A-Messages: 747

Volunteer Hours: 1051

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