



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1998



IN MEMORIAM

Father Matthew Kerschen, C.S.S.R., entered into eternal life at St. Clement's Health Care Center, Liguori, Missouri on February 27 of this year. On January 6 he completed fifty years of priesthood and was able to celebrate a jubilee Mass with his family in Wichita, Kansas. He had been pastor in Houston, and Corpus Christi, Texas, and also in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For nine years he was the vice-provincial of the Redemptorists in the south. Always a friend and devotee of Father Seelos we commend his soul to your good prayers.

DOWN, DOWN...

Life is full of unexplainable happenings. For instance, in the midst of the computer revolution we no longer find it extraordinary that large corporations are 'downsizing.' It is not surprising to learn that in one week three or four companies are giving pink

slips to as many as 400,000 workers. What is surprising is to learn that the rate of unemployment continues to dip below five percent. The skeptic in me wonders who is keeping score.

It hasn't been too many years ago that we used to 'dress up' for special occasions for church, for Sundays, for traveling or conducting business, for an appearance on television. Today we dress down. Nowhere is this more evident than in traveling. As a frequent traveler in the pursuit of my vocation as a priest, I noticed three distinct modes of dress, one for airplane, one for train, one for bus. Today, that is no longer a matter of fact. With the new wrinkle-proof and washable materials available, just about any fashion goes.

Good people who work with me have suggested that I tell church-goers how to dress. I am not a fashion expert and I would not relish being told to mind my own business. I would like to think that adults should know what is decent for the worship of the Lord. Common sense tells us the church is not the playground nor the beach nor the gymnasium.

(Continued on next page)

There are other trends in modern life that are more indicative of the decay that is beginning to pervade the moral fiber of our lives. Innocently enough it is in education that we see a lowering of our customary standards. Instead of smartening up our children, we are dumbing them down. Instead of challenging them to do and be better, we are allowing them to find comfort in their weaknesses. Children are smarter than we think. They learn quickly how to play the game. Unfortunately, we are not competing with the rest of the world in this field. To our shame!

The lowering of the old standards in dress and education has, to our confusion, spread into the realm of morality. Sin is no longer sin. The difference between right and wrong has been dulled. Adultery is a private affair. Tell that to the two families involved and the children so often condemned to living in broken homes. "It's nobody's business." "Everybody does it and everybody lies about it," so we hear. Is it fair to list all of us in the same free-wheeling group?

We are all sinners and we are all redeemed by the suffering, death and resurrection of our divine Savior. As Jesus did, the Church of Jesus offers mercy and forgiveness in the confessional. As often as we fall into sin, we can rise again and resolve to live up to the standards outlined by God in the Ten Commandments. It is true, Jesus forgave the woman taken in adultery. It is true He challenged the one without sin to cast the first stone. But He told the woman to go and sin no more. He insisted that adultery was still a sin.

The so-called wall of separation of church and state would seem to forbid any appeal to common decency or common values. How are we going to get back to the decency and morality that years ago was our face as a nation to the world, despite our multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religious environment? In the spiritual vacuum that exists in our society, we who believe in God and have expectations of good can insist and insist again that common standards are possible. There is no need to appeal always and everywhere to the baser instincts of our citizens and thus enshrine the least common denominator.

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, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423, Jim Howard, 277-7949 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
 - 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

Ingleside, MD

Please send me information about Fr. Seelos for our parish library. As a child growing up near Baltimore city, I am very much acquainted with St. Alphonsus Church. I have personally attended Mass there many times. I was excited to learn that Fr. Seelos was a parish priest there at one time. Though my roots have always been rooted in Anglo-Catholicism, the Catholic faith in Baltimore has always been deeply rooted with the spirit of ecumenism (Anglo-Catholic and Roman Catholic) long before the ecumenical movement was ever thought of. Today Anglo-Catholics have more in common with Rome than their Episcopal Mother Church in England. Perhaps this is simply a sign of the times which we're told in the scriptures of those who will reject the true faith of Christ and preach other gospels.

Sincerely yours in the name of Christ,
Fr. Dean A. Arcoraci

Loved your article in the Catholic Digest.

Kingston Ont., Canada

Thank you so much for the literature re: Father Seelos. I immediately started the prayer through his intercession for my 44-year old son... He lives in central B.C. and is trying to come back here to Ont. I don't believe we could ever be able to visit Father's tomb. However, I am wondering if maybe someone there could proxy on his behalf at the tomb and during the veneration of the mission crucifix...

I will truly be grateful for your prayers for my son... He is a very seriously ill young man. I have prayed and others also have for years. I describe him when I proxy for him at healing Masses as being "physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually shattered." We need a miracle. I have placed him in the hands of God years ago... Keep praying...

Abbeville, LA

Again my wonderful friend has come to my aid. I was on blood pressure pills for one month. I was so sick I was beside myself. Weak, nauseated, and shaky. Finally I told the doctor that I had gotten off and was feeling better. He then put me on another. I was again at Father Seelos' mercy. He helped me again. I'm feeling pretty good and I am able to do my little housework and run my errands again. I am praying for a boy that has a problem with a vein in his brain that can cause a stroke at any time or he could just drop dead at the drop of a hat. He is undergoing all kinds of tests at this time in New Orleans.

Bloomville, OH

Some years ago we visited Ruth Ferrato of Metairie. She has passed away but we still remember her taking us to the Father Seelos Center. She was so proud to be a part of your church.

I am a Methodist but I use the stories for devotions many times. We enjoy reading the FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY bulletin.

Louisiana

I want to thank Father Seelos for answering my prayers so quickly. My fiancé and I were both laid off last year just before Christmas. Even though there are lots of employment ads in the paper, no one really wanted to be involved with a new employee during the holidays. He had lots of promises of interviews and "I'll call you tomorrow." But nothing came through. I wrote my petitions to Father Seelos asking for his help.

On Sunday, January 11, I prayed extremely hard to Father Seelos and kept rereading the prayer for his canonization. First thing Monday morning my fiancé received a phone call to start a job the next day. He didn't even need an interview. Thank you, Father Seelos, for your help.

Mail: February, 1998

Petitions: 717

Thanksgivings: 314

Others: 409

Total: 1440

Dial-A-Messages: 771

Volunteer Hours: 1068

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by

The Father Seeelos Center
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

Periodical postage paid at New Orleans, LA.

Postmaster: send address changes to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY
2030 Constance St., New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

6/98

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seeelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 523-3734. Subscription is \$4.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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.