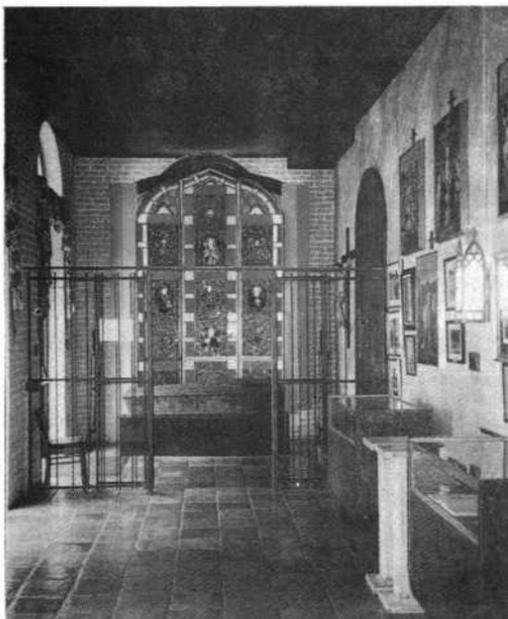




# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1998



## FATHER SEELOS MUSEUM

The museum of Father Seelos has been in existence since 1986. For almost a year now it has been undergoing a needed restoration. Just recently a stained-glass window, depicting four Redemptorists, St. Alphonsus, St. Clement, St. John Neumann, the Servant of God Francis Xavier Seelos, was placed behind the first casket of Father Seelos. Much of the glass came from the community chapel of the Redemptorists serving St. Alphonsus parish by way of the chapel of Holy Redeemer Seminary in Lacombe. The installation was done by the Sullivan Stained-Glass Studio of New Orleans. The window is dedicated to the memory of Anton and Muriel Convicka, long-time co-Redemptorists (1963-1996) of St. Louis.

## LITTLE CHILDREN

Charles Dickens, the very popular English novelist of the last century, created a long-remembered character named Uriah Heep. Uriah Heep was an almost loathsome creature who constantly and tiringly proclaimed his humility. He actually gave that virtue a bad press. His performance was such that he turned people's stomachs rather than inspired them.

Our Divine Savior outlined the difference between pride and humility in His parable of the Pharisee and the publican at prayer in the Temple. The Pharisee's prayer was full of himself; the prayer of the publican was an acknowledgement of reality — he was a sinner.

St. Paul has this advice to give to the Philippians: "Let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others' interests rather than to his own. Your attitude must be that of Christ: Though He was in the form of God, He did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, He emptied Himself, and took the form of a slave. He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!" (Phil. 2:3-9).

The question has often been asked, did Jesus ever smile? It is not mentioned

*(Continued on next page)*

in the Gospels. We know He wept, at the tomb of Lazarus and at the sight of Jerusalem gleaming in the sun but rejecting Him. There is nothing about smiling.

Would I be out of line in pointing out one occasion when Jesus must have smiled to Himself? it was the day Jesus learned that His apostles had been having what might be called a heated discussion about which one was the most important among them. It was a perfectly human occasion. Their idea of their leader was still based on their earthly conceptions. Talk of a kingdom brought them thoughts of kings and queens and courtiers.

Now was the time for the Savior to rechannel their thoughts and to tell his followers that His kingdom was not of this world. He would teach them a great lesson in their spiritual life. Who will be the most important in His kingdom?

For the answer to that question, Jesus called a little child over, and stood him in their midst and said, "I assure you, unless you change and become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God" (Matthew 18:1-4).

We must look at little children and find out what qualities we must have to become eligible for His kingdom. What we find endearing in children is their simplicity. They are not hypocritical. They point in only one direction. What you see in them is what they are, plain and out in the open. They have no hidden agenda.

Children are not bothered with a lot of preconceived notions. Their minds are not cluttered with a lot of useless and confusing baggage. They are open to learning new things. They are ready to absorb knowledge and to progress in their pursuit of growing up.

Children are not pretentious. They realize that at this moment in their lives they have achieved little, if anything. American missionaries in Brazil found learning a new language was eased by dealing with children who were understanding, and eager to help, not too prone to laugh at mistakes.

As little children, we can call God our Father, conscious of our dependence on Him, open to His inspirations, and with single-mindedness pursue our way to the "shepherd of our souls."

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, 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.

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## SPECIAL LETTERS

Harrisburg, PA

I wanted to make the very best Advent I could. I had already been doing the Divine Mercy chaplet every Sunday afternoon, attending Mass three times a week, more frequent confessions, more Scripture reading, more constant prayers. But I was the most happy and peaceful at Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist. So I promised the Lord I would attend daily Mass and I was very successful, only missing one day all Advent.

Well, it was Dec. 24th, confessions were 1-3 P.M. We were leaving to go out of town by 4 P.M. Christmas was the next day, and I wanted to leave as 'clean a slate' as possible to receive Communion on Jesus's birthday celebration. Confession was a must!

During the previous few days I had been studying the Divine Mercy chaplet booklet and read Blessed Faustina's writing on Reconciliation. My copy of the Catholic Digest had arrived (which I devour from cover to cover). During these few days the Lord helped me to see some very past serious sins that I had never confessed, only repressed. I wanted to go to confession, I wanted to receive and be as pure as I could be, and while being very motivated to confess, but very afraid to say those sins out loud! But I knew in my heart I must.

That is the exact time I read the article on Fr. Seelos, "A Blessed Blockhead?" on pg. 97. The article speaks of Father Seelos hearing confessions, and the quote — "No one ever was lost because his sin was too great, but because his trust was too small." The words leapt from the page at me! I did not trust the Lord enough to say my sins out loud!

I immediately got my coat and car keys and drove to church and made the best confession I ever made in my 40 years of going to confession! I desperately wanted the Lord to know how much I do trust Him.

My tears flowed freely and my confessor actually used the word "conversion." I left church so profoundly relieved and cleansed, I doubt if I could honestly describe it. In my mind's eye, I felt I saw Jesus' image smiling at me! Pure delight does not come close to being descriptive.

The reason I am writing is to request more information about Fr. Seelos. I feel he had a very direct impact on me this Advent season, and I would like to know more about him.

Terrytown, LA.

I prayed to Father Seelos asking for a special favor for my mother. She is in a wonderful nursing home and several months ago we were notified by them that she had a lump in her breast. She is 87 years old and her physician told us to leave it alone, as she also has Alzheimer's disease. We eventually changed doctors and with prayers to Father Seelos, another doctor, who is a friend of my husband, operated on her and removed a lump the size of a grapefruit from her breast (not without some risks). However, now with Father Seelos answering our prayers and the help of the employees of the nursing home, she is now doing well and looks wonderful. We all feel Father Seelos interceded for us and gave us this miracle. Thanks again, Father Seelos.

Metairie, LA

My husband and I prayed to Father Seelos that our son would see this doctor who specialized in his ailment. He had an appointment with his doctor, and two days later he was hospitalized for an emergency. He is now doing well with the right doctor and the right medication. Thanks to Father Seelos.

Also my friend who was diagnosed with cancer had to have surgery. He is now doing fine and there is no sign of cancer any more. Thanks to Father Seelos. We pray for his canonization.

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Mail: April, 1998

Petitions: 681

Thanksgivings: 254

Others: 583

Total: 1518

Dial-A-Messages: 782

Volunteer Hours: 1077

**FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)**

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by  
The Father Sealos 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

8/98

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Sealos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495. Fax: (504) 523-3734. Internet: [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org). 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. and Rev. John Vargas, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.