



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1999

## FATHER JOSEPH ELWORTHY, C.Ss.R.

Last summer when most of the rest of us Redemptorists were celebrating ordination anniversaries of ten, twenty-five, forty and fifty years Father Joseph Elworthy celebrated sixty years as priest. That's 60! And a good half of those years were dedicated to the cause of Father Seelos' beatification and canonization, on and off as director of the Seelos Center and editor of its bulletin, and always promoter of its operation. Although he would be the last to sing his praises, it is only fitting that we devotees of Father Seelos dedicate this issue of *FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY* to this remarkable Redemptorist.

Father Elworthy was ordained on June 29, 1939, received a Master of Arts degree in religious education from Catholic University of America in 1942, and in 1943 became one of the six pioneer Redemptorist missionaries sent to the

Amazon valley in Brazil. In 1953 he returned to the United States to be involved in the Catholic Press at Liguori, Missouri as business manager of the Liguorian magazine and editor of the magazine *Redemptorist Missions* for five years.

From 1963 until 1967 he was pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Wichita, Kansas; from 1967 to 1970, pastor of St. Gerard's parish in San Antonio, Texas. In 1970 until 1975 he was local superior of the vice provincial community in New Orleans. From 1975 to 1978 he was an associate in St. Alphonsus parish, New Orleans, and director of the Seelos Center from 1970 to 1978.

In 1978 he became pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Corpus Christi, Texas, and in 1981 associate pastor of Holy Redeemer parish in Odessa, Texas. In 1984 he returned to St. Alphonsus, New Orleans once again to be director of the Father Seelos Center. In 1990 he joined the Biloxi community but remained director of the Center until September 1, 1999, when he honorably became director emeritus.

We offer our warm congratulations to Father Elworthy for his most worthy years of priesthood, and especially for his dedication to the cause of his saintly confrere, Father Francis X. Seelos.

# FATHER SEELOS CALENDAR FOR YEAR 2000

The Center has commissioned the printing of a commemorative calendar for the year 2000. It will feature Father Seelos and the places he touched in his life and persons who have reported cures through his intercession. Since it will be a limited edition of 1000, please reserve your calendar by writing us immediately. The price per calendar is \$10.00.

## SEELOS AND CHRISTMAS

Father Seelos loved Christmas. In 1858 as pastor in Cumberland, Maryland he reestablished Midnight Mass which had been discontinued for some years because of "raucous revelers". Far away from his beloved homeland of Fussen, Germany he wrote to his sister, "I wish you could be here to witness my joy in the House of the Lord". At this Christmas may we all capture the joy that was always his.

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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: 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, Marie Callahan, 525-1775, or Elaine Freeman, 341-2213.
  - 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

Fajardo, Puerto Rico

I am writing to tell you of a wonderful favor I have received and am receiving through the intercession of Father Seelos. In April of this year I learned through my yearly mammogram that I had breast cancer. I had a lumpectomy and biopsy of the lymph nodes and everything went well and the tumor was removed. I am in remission. However, it was very aggressive cancer and chemotherapy was recommended. I think it was the most frightened I have ever been in my life.

During this time I saw the news clip on TV about Father Seelos and the work that was being done at St. Alphonsus. A woman was interviewed who had cancer and was cured through the intercession of Father Seelos. I was greatly moved by this ... and prayed to Father Seelos for help. During the first two chemo visits, we had trouble starting with the IV and it was upsetting. I remembered the spot on TV about Father Seelos and again began to pray to Father Seelos that we would be able to get the IV started on the first try – and after that the nurse made a good insertion and she could start the IV on the first try **every time**.

I had (and have) a tremendous sense of peace and calm. I know everything is going to be fine. I have done extremely well. People cannot believe how well I am doing. I have to keep reminding myself that I am in treatment. I feel wonderful, only a little tired – sometimes more than others, and everyone says how fantastic I look – not sick at all. They call me a miracle patient. I can see the difference myself. I look and feel much better, younger and stronger, like I felt years ago. I have been able to go to my ballet class and take my three-mile 45 minute walks through most of these treatments. In addition I still have my hair. It has thinned slightly, but that will come back. None of the worse things I have feared have happened.

I am now in radiation at the Yenni Center. While there I saw a priest who was receiving radiation after me. We started talking in the mornings and this morning the priest gave me a holy picture and a cloth memento of Father Seelos. The other day while I was praying and thanking God for all the great blessings He has sent me I was saying that I really wished I could feel Him. I knew He was with me and very close to me, but I would really love to be able to hug Him, which, of course, is impossible. Then this morning when the priest gave me the memento it was so marvelous. I felt like God had reached out and touched me in a very physical way – through Father Seelos – and I have had the most lovely warm feeling – I can't really describe it – but I feel I have been touched by the hand of God. I am so very grateful, so humbled and so at peace – it is beautiful. There is not one ounce of fear in me.

New Orleans, LA

Years ago (about 15) I had an obsessive compulsive condition and a psychiatrist denied my request to be declared incompetent (mentally). As a result of the awkwardness of my predicament I denied reality ... I am of German-Irish descent and about six years ago went to Father Seelos' feast day Mass at St. Alphonsus. About three weeks ago I went to Mass and prayed before Father Seelos' tomb and was blessed by his crucifix ... and my mental condition has begun to improve. I am not totally well, but the grace of God remains with me and my mental condition continues to improve. I have been sick for forty years ... and now seek Father Seelos' intercession for others and myself.

Carencro, LA

Recently my landlady gave me a piece of cloth which was touched to the relic of Father Seelos. I have since carried it on my person and can feel the spiritual power it holds! I have been praying for Father Seelos' canonization and have also been asking for Father Seelos to intercede in particular matters ... This very morning I mentally said to Father Seelos, "I am so intent on your becoming a saint, Father, that I am going to ask you to please pray for me that this very day, if it is God's Will, I will receive a call about a used car for sale at a reasonable price, and when I get that call I'll write in on your behalf" ... Within an hour I received a call that a particular car was for sale at my price range!

Mail: August, 1999

Petitions: 663

Thanksgivings: 377

Others: 1481

Total: 2521

Dial-A-Messages: 757

Volunteer Hours: 1066

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