



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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BISHOP CLARENCE J. DUHART, C.S.S.R.

On September 21 of this past year, Bishop Duhart, born in New Orleans, died in Bangkok, Thailand. Long devoted to the cause of Father Seelos, he was a missionary in Thailand for fifty years. There he had been the superior of the founding community of Redemptorists and later on was the founding bishop of the diocese of Udonthani. Although blind and crippled by a stroke, he continued his missionary apostolate even in his last years... We commend his soul to your prayers.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

It is an anomaly in these modern times for us to have this motto engraved on our money, "In God We Trust." Currently we live under a warped interpretation of the First Amendment to our Constitution which forbids all mention of God or

religion. We know the First Amendment does not. I remember seeing in a shop this sign: "In God we trust - all others pay cash."

Seriously though, the word *trust* is a very important one in our vocabulary. Trust is the very bedrock of all our human relationships, and no more so than in our relationship with God our Creator and Savior. Trust on our part speaks more for the one who is trusted than it does for us. Trust is a compliment we pay to those in whom we place our confidence.

As I write this, a commercial is being shown on television. A young boy is pictured on a dock poised to jump into the water below. To give him confidence his father is standing waist-deep in the water with his arms open to catch him when he jumps. Great trust!

In the act of hope, we pray: "O my God, I hope in You. Trusting in Your promises, and because You are faithful, powerful and merciful, I hope for heaven, pardon of my sins, final perseverance and the glory of Paradise."

Who better than the Lord Himself to trust in? The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes St. Teresa of Avila: "Hope, O my soul, hope, You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one. Dream that the more you struggle, the more you prove the love that you bear your God, and the more you will rejoice with your Beloved in a happiness and rapture that can never end."

(Continued on next page)

Jesus assures us of eternal life with God. He said: "You are My friends, if you do what I command you" (John 15:14). At the grave of Lazarus, Our Lord said: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life, and whoever is alive and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:25-26).

Whatever we need for our gaining eternal life, the Savior consoled us: "I give you My assurance, whatever you ask the Father, He will give you in My name" (John 16:23).

In the 15th chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke, we read that Jesus related this parable to His hearers: "Who among you, if he has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wasteland and follow the lost one until he finds it? Once arrived home he invites friends and neighbors in and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent" (Luke 15:4-7).

The Prodigal Son! Who can ever forget the picture of the mercy and love and forgiveness of God for the repentant sinner painted in that masterful parable! The father rushes to welcome home the repentant prodigal and command a feast for him, because he was lost and now he was back home. (Luke 15:11-32).

St. Peter sums up for us the consolation of our hope: "Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, He who in His great mercy gave us new birth; a birth unto hope which draws its life from the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; a birth to an imperishable inheritance, incapable of fading or defilement, which is kept in heaven for you who are guarded with God's power through faith; a birth to a salvation which stands ready to be revealed in the last days" (I St. Peter 1:3-5).

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: Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-3591, 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

San Francisco, CA

I thought you might be interested in my miracle. About the middle of June, 1998, I was diagnosed as having liver cancer. I was very ill. A little over three months later I had another scan of my liver. My doctor told me the tumor was gone, so I have no more cancer. Needless to say, I was very surprised and happy.

I will always believe all the prayers said for me and my prayers to Father Seelos made this miracle possible. Thank you, Father Seelos.

San Antonio, TX

I want to thank Father Seelos for answering my prayers. I want to thank him publicly because the doctor had diagnosed my grandson as having lupus. I started praying to Father Seelos for my grandson's health. After several months of praying my grandson went for another test and lab work. The doctors told my daughter they could not find any lupus. It has been ten months already and the doctors find no trace of lupus. I know my prayers have been answered.

... I want to give thanks to Father Seelos and my Lord for answering my prayers. In the month of May my prayers were answered. I prayed to Father Seelos for peace between two of my children. It has been four years since they spoke to each other. I prayed to Father Seelos and my prayers were answered.

... I also had some grandchildren who were not married in the Church. My prayers were answered...

... Thanks, Father Seelos, for praying for me. I'm on my ninth year in remission from breast cancer.

Metairie, LA

I would like to thank Father Seelos for a favor received. I had a lump removed from my breast and it was not cancer.

I have a very strong family history of breast cancer. So I prayed to Father Seelos and promised to write a letter if everything came out all right. NO CANCER – thanks to Father Seelos.

Baton Rouge, LA

Several years ago I was given a cloth (touched to something belonging to the Servant of God, Francis Xavier Seelos) by a stranger. Being of the Catholic faith, I accepted the item and have kept it with me since 1991. I now write you letting you know of the many favors that were granted to me while praying to Father. He has definitely interceded on my behalf and has helped me through a difficult period of my life.

Metairie, LA

We do enjoy reading the bulletin. Thank you for your prayers for us, family and friends, and please continue as many of us have need of God's help. We are very thankful that we escaped the hard blow of the hurricane. We are sure Father Seelos was one of our "helpers." We do pray for his canonization.

Metairie, LA

This is a letter of thanks to Father Seelos for a favor granted. I suffer from deep depression and osteoporosis and arthritis. I applied for disability and I had a hearing before a judge on June 30. I prayed to Father Seelos every day that the judge would approve my claim. He did. Thanks to Father Seelos. I pray that he will be declared a saint. Now I must pray again to Father Seelos about my left eye. The doctor thinks I may have glaucoma.

Mail: October, 1998

Petitions: 708

Thanksgivings: 406

Others: 714

Total: 1828

Dial-A-Messages: 745

Volunteer Hours: 1062

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