



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

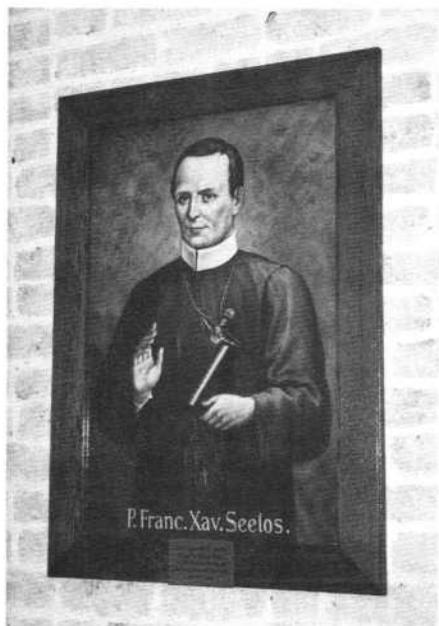
VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1999

FATHER SEELOS DAY IN NEW ORLEANS - APRIL 25

"Father Seelos Day in New Orleans" will be celebrated on April 25. A memorial Mass will be celebrated in St. Mary's Assumption Church at 11:30 A.M. Very Reverend Vien The Nguyen, the judicial vicar of the archdiocese of New Orleans, will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass. St. Patrick's choir under the direction of Mr. Joe Hoppe will provide the music.

Immediately following the Mass a dinner will be held at the Jefferson Orleans South, 2536 Edenborn Avenue, Metairie, beginning at 2 P.M. The main speaker will be Michael A. Maloz, grand knight of the Father Seelos Council, Knights of Columbus. Door prizes will be awarded. Tickets for the dinner are \$20 per person. They may be obtained at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. Tel: 525-2495.



This picture of unknown origin hung in the Rectory of St. Alphonsus, St. Louis, MO for many years.

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE

The great English churchman of the 18th century, Cardinal Wiseman, after a distinguished career, lay dying. A close friend asked him how he felt, and the reply was, "I feel like a schoolboy going home for the holidays."

That remark of the Cardinal's brings back memories of our seminary days. Spring was in the air, the windows in our studyhall were open to the warming breezes carrying the scent of blooming lilacs. To our ears came the plaintive sound of steam-produced whistles on the Frisco and MoPac trains hurrying to and from the big city. June was coming and we were going home.

Years later, in 1966 to be exact, I wanted to congratulate a friend of mine from those seminary days who had been named bishop of a diocese in the mission land of Thailand. I would call him on the telephone. This was the middle of January. The international operator told me I could place my call at the end of February. Those were the Vietnam years and our soldiers were standing in line to call, what else, home. Wasn't it World War II that produced the seasonal song, "I'll be home for Christmas - if only in my dreams"?

Home is many things, a place to hang one's hat and kick one's shoes off and be

(Continued on next page)

oneself. Charity, it is said, begins at home. I don't think that it is limited to money. Charity means love for one another. Home is the school of that love.

A family comes into being because a young man and a young woman pledge before God their undying love for one another and the children born to that union are the visible signs of that love. In their life together the only possession that the parents have on a 50-50 level will be their children. Almost everything else will be on a his-hers basis.

It is the home of loving parents that the bonds of love are born and nurtured through the very atmosphere of caring created by the parents and transmitted to their offspring. It is most refreshing to see young families initiate their "traditions." Memories are made of these.

Recalling the loving deeds of our childhood is not too difficult. The quiet but often heroic lives of our parents in the face of sickness and poverty and tragedy cannot be minimized. No matter how high their personal ideals, they, as we all, had to deal with personality differences. They knew all human beings were not cast in the same mold. Through all the give and take there was an underlying bond of love and trust not easily severed.

It is in the bosom of a loving family that we learn to widen the range of love for our neighbor. Love begins at home and goes out in ever greater concentric circles to embrace all in our hearts and practice charity toward them in the degree appropriate to their proximity and need.

The family is the domestic church which radiates its heaven-inspired love to the world immediately around it. The family may live in a palace or a hut, but if God is present there in the souls of its dwellers, it is indeed a house of God.

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, 524-6591, 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

Beaumont, TX

Thank you very much for taking the time to show my family your Father Seelos Center and St. Mary Church last November. My wife, three daughters, and my parents enjoyed your informal tour and sharing some of the knowledge concerning Fr. Seelos and your beautiful church.

Covington, LA

I'm grateful for many favors granted through my prayers to Father Seelos, particularly for my sister's surgery which could have been very complicated. Thank you for the bulletin which is very inspirational.

Baton Rouge, LA

For many years I've prayed for Father Seelos to be declared a saint and I have worn one of his mementos every day.

I promised a letter of thanksgiving to Father Seelos Center if the retina surgery was a success and the sight in my other eye would be stabilized. My happiness is the retina surgery was a success, and the sight in my other eye is good.

Chalmette, LA

We enjoy reading the FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY bulletin. Thanks for sending it.

We prayed to Father Seelos for my nephews to pass all their grades. One was in danger of failing a subject. But they all passed with good grades. Thanks to Father Seelos for this and many favors.

New Orleans, LA

I am writing in thanksgiving for prayers answered. It has been ten years since my cancer operation. I feel that my prayer to Father Seelos is my answer. I continue to pray for his canonization.

On October 13 I sent a letter of petition to be placed on the altar. I am joyfully writing to tell you that the petition was granted. I have great faith in Father Seelos and will continue to pray for and to him. The petition requested was of a very important nature to my family and I could not fail to offer thanksgiving to Father Seelos. I look forward to the newsletters and find them all very interesting.

Metairie, LA

... I have been praying to Father Seelos since 1970 when my husband (since deceased) was at Ochsner where he was recovering from open heart surgery. After being there for five weeks and anxious to return home, a cleaning lady saw my distress and anxiety to leave and she gave me a prayer card of Father Seelos. I immediately started praying for his discharge. Within a few days my prayers were answered.

On another stay at Ochsner, my husband shared a room with a patient from Texas who was having an angiogram and the family was quite worried. I presented them with a prayer card of Father Seelos. They began to pray before the family member left for his test. The results were favorable. I was so happy Father Seelos answered their prayer.

I know the feeling of joy when he has come to my aid during 20 years of my husband's many, many years of serious illnesses.

I wear a memento and pray to him daily. Many thanks to our future saint.

Mail: December, 1998

Petitions: 601

Thanksgivings: 259

Others: 541

Total: 1401

Dial-A-Messages: 739

Volunteer Hours: 1055

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approval.

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