



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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JUNE, 1999



PROGRESS IN THE CAUSE

Father Seelos died on October 4, 1867. A Bavarian wayside shrine marks the spot of the rectory in which he died. It was torn down in 1882. Father's body was buried in St. Mary's Assumption Church. His body was first exhumed in 1902 when the diocesan inquiry was made into his life.

Father Antonio Marrazzo, who was here for the anniversary Mass in October returned to be present for another exhumation of the earthly remains of Father Seelos. This private ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Archbishop Francis Bible Schulte, the ordinary of the archdiocese of New

Orleans. The examination of his remains was made by Vatican officials, a hopeful sign that the parish and missionary priest might be beatified early in the new millennium by the Pope. His remains were placed in a new child-size casket and returned to St. Mary's.

"O THE TIMES! O THE CUSTOMS!"

If we go back in time and read the editorial pages of the newspapers, we would come away with one impression that the times were always bad. There is always something going wrong. The great Roman orator, Cicero, lived a hundred years or so before Christ, and he thought the times in which he lived to be deplorable. "O tempora! O mores!", he exclaimed, "O what times!" We can think otherwise even of our own times since we inherited from our first parents the tendency to evil.

In the waning moments of this century, of this millennium, mankind can look back with a certain amount of pride at its accomplishments in so many fields. What progress has been made in the field of medicine, in technology, in the production of food, to mention a few. When I was young, the automobile was still just taking over from the horse and buggy and now we are exploring outer space. We are living longer because of the advances made in health care, food and living conditions in general.

Charles Dickens, great English novelist of the eighteenth century, wrote a novel about the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*. The opening words of that novel were, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Today as we recall the days of the French Revolution, we shudder to think of the traumatic days when the guillotine was poised over the heads of so many innocent people and pure hatred drove its partisans to stop at nothing to satisfy their lust for blood.

Great as are the material accomplishments of the twentieth century and as proud of

(Continued on next page)

them as we are, we should not be surprised if future historians class the twentieth century as the bloodiest of all times. Just think of the wars we have seen in our lifetime: two World Wars, war in Korea and Vietnam. Just the other day I heard someone say that right now there are 120 armed conflicts going on. Think of the slaughter that went on in the gulags of Russia under Stalin and the Holocaust by the Nazis under Hitler. Add to these the genocide in Cambodia, the revolutions in Africa, in Indonesia. Think of the millions of abortions in our own country. For all the achievements in science, medicine, technology, computer science, and all the other advances, and then place them against the 200 million lives and more that have been sacrificed wantonly to the selfish interests of misguided so-called intelligentsia and arrangers of utopian heavens-on-earth.

The judges of our times - 100 years from now - will be appalled, as we are, at the extravagances of our day in the sun. Besides the sexual revolution of the sixties, the collapse of family life and the increase in single parents homes, out-of-wedlock pregnancies, 50% of marriages ending in divorce, the drug scene - what more do we need to feel humble?

For a balance to this melancholic view and grim foreboding of the years to come in the third millennium, we must thank our good Pope John Paul II. By his encyclical on the Splendor Veritatis, he has called us to recognize that there is such a thing as absolute truth. In his encyclical on the sanctity of human life, he stresses for us the uniqueness of human life given us by Almighty God. Thus we are encouraged to combat abortion and euthanasia. In his book, On the Threshold of Hope, he inspires us to begin the third millennium filled with certain expectation of the fulfillment of the promises made to us by our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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, 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.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Slidell, LA

We, my husband and I, have been in a state of continuous prayer for some time because of our son's drug addiction.

For several weeks we had not heard from him or known where he might be. It was a very distressing time for us. At this time I sent a request for prayers at the tomb of Father Seelos. In a very short time, three days maybe, before Christmas, we heard from him. He needed medical attention due to a serious problem that was drug related.

It was then he acknowledged his state and asked for help voluntarily. He went to a drug treatment facility and has since indicated his sincerity in getting his life back on track. I thank Father Seelos for his prompt intercession. It was a miracle that the serious infection cleared and he wanted help for the drug problem. We continue to pray God's will be done, with the intercession of Father Seelos.

Jefferson, LA

Since praying to my "Dutch uncle," I have found peace, and the courage to face my pain and problems with a feeling of complete hope. He had renewed my faith in myself, as well as my life, and I will be eternally grateful to God for allowing Father Seelos to help me in my time of dire need.

It is such a joy to instruct friends and relatives in the ways of Father Seelos, and I have a strong feeling that my bond with him will forever remain strong and light. It is my desire to inform everyone of his kindness and protection when called on to assist me with my worldly problems, and although many remained for me to solve on my own, my energy and thinking are strong and vital, allowing me to do whatever God intended.

Father Seelos is my companion and my friend, allowing me to call on him whenever there is need to do so. Thank you, Father Seelos, for bringing me closer to God, and thank you, God, for the precious gift of Father Seelos.

San Antonio, TX

My grandmother told me about Father Seelos and how when she prayed she asked him to help her, he did. She had lost her hearing in one ear and she rubbed a small memento of Father Seelos on the ear and within an hour or so, her hearing returned; not 100%, but she could hear, where the day before she had been deaf. The doctor had told her there was no hope of hearing again. She did not lose heart. Her love of God is too strong for that. Father Seelos helped her prove Jesus' healing powers.

I will and have included Father Seelos in my prayers for his prospective canonization. I also pray to him to intercede to Jesus for my own intentions. I would like to subscribe to the FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN, so that I can spread the word about Father Seelos to all my friends.

Belle Chasse, LA

I had major surgery in late January this year. A week later complications set in. After three days of x-rays, my doctor told me I had to have another operation to correct the problem. That evening my wife gave me the prayer to Father Seelos which I said several times during the night.

Next morning I had more x-rays. After my doctor looked over the x-rays, he asked me what did I do. He said the pictures were the opposite of what they had been and that I would not need another surgery.

I told him I prayed to Father Seelos. He said something worked. I would like to thank Father Seelos and will continue to pray to him.

Mail: February, 1999

Petitions: 679

Thanksgivings: 258

Others: 911

Total: 1849

Dial-A-Messages: 761

Volunteer Hours: 1049

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