



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1999



## MUSEUM OF FATHER SEELOS

His museum was dedicated on September 6, 1986. Most Reverend Nicholas D'Antonio, O.F.M., auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of New Orleans, gave the blessing. Two or three hundred friends of Father Seelos attended the ceremony. During the past months extensive improvements have been made. Besides the memorabilia of Father Seelos, on display is the Way of the Cross, painted by the noted ecclesiastical artist of Germany in the eighteenth

century, Brother Max Schmalzl, C.S.S.R. Previously these paintings had hung in the chapels of Redemptorist seminaries in Kirkwood, Missouri and Lacombe, Louisiana.

## HIS WORD – OUR COMMAND

As fashions go, old traditions, old customs, old habits are shuffled off into oblivion. Sometimes these old and forgotten things rise again and come into a new way of being and of prominence. Take the word "obey." That word did not figure in the agenda of emancipated women, so out it went in the marriage vows.

Independence is in our American bones ever since July 4, 1776. We don't like to take orders, we like to do it our way, "Who does he think he is, giving orders." "Nobody tells me what to do." These and many other sayings are used every day, shall I say, to show our disdain for obedience.

I am sure we all smile at our blind obedience. For example, just driving an automobile. We use unleaded gas. We strap the children in a certain way and then, ourselves. We enter the highway in the proper way. We get our state license. We renew our brake tag. We take care not to drive over the speed limit, we use care especially in school zones. And we think of ourselves as independent!

Jesus told us, "You are My friends if you do the things I command you" (John 15:14). He who was the infinite Son of God made man became one with us and was obedient even to death. His whole purpose on earth was to do the will of His Father in heaven. Jesus meticulously fulfilled all the prophecies that had been made of Him in the Old Testament. How else after His rising from the dead could He have told the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, "How slow you are to believe all that the prophets

*(Continued on next page)*

have announced! Did not the Messiah have to undergo all this so as to enter into His glory?" (Luke 24:25-26).

"Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, designated by God as high priest according to the order Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:8-10).

Brother Louis Kenning was a member of the founding Redemptorist community of St. Mary's in New Orleans. As Father Seelos lay dying in late September, 1867, he asked Father Seelos to tell him the ways and means of acquiring personal sanctification and the pleasures of God. The sick priest told him, "I think the best way is to accept the Will of God, to obey faithfully the orders of one's superiors and to do the work assigned him... It is not necessary to accomplish extraordinary deeds."

Father Seelos thought it was the will of God calling him to the missionary life and he went directly to the port from which he would depart for America. He did not return to Füssen to say goodbye to his family. Instead he wrote them a beautiful letter of farewell.

He saw God's will being done to him when he was dismissed from his office as superior, due not so much to the ill-will of others but to a difference of temperament and previous training.

No doubt it was the same when he was faced with his last illness. He felt it was God's will that he should die. He told Brother Louis, "If God demands the sacrifice of my life, willingly will I make it. The Will of God and my own soul are dearer to me than all the souls in the world."

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: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

### Metairie, LA

My father had been ill for several years and was now in the hospital for the last time. My mother was admitted two days after. Being an only child I was at wits' end, seeing my family dwindle before my eyes.

My dad died and my mother was released from the hospital two days before. She became a different person.

From the stress of this I awoke one morning feeling strange: I went on to a Saints' game, but at the game I noticed I could not see good. We called a neurologist (suggested by a friend) and he saw me immediately. The diagnosis was "Bell's Palsey of the Face." It was like a stroke. I could not close my left eye nor could I hold food in my mouth. He said it might be six months to a year before the face and mouth would go back, if at all.

That Sunday I went to the 11:30 Mass at St. Mary's and asked Father Gerard LaPorte if he could bless me with the cross of Father Seelos after Mass. When he blessed me and said a prayer I began to feel better about my face and not so depressed. Only three weeks after my face went back to normal.

I know in my heart Father Seelos' intercession helped me. Father LaPorte has a way of making everyone feel at ease. This is my thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession. He has won many favors for me. St. Mary's is where I feel closest to God.

### Covington, LA

Just a note to tell you I have been praying to Father Seelos for a number of years (over 25). The past four or five I have been praying for his intercession for my husband and daughter who both have glaucoma. All is going well, the pressure is staying down.

Last year, rather Dec. 1997, my husband was diagnosed to have lymphoma. He had surgery, chemo and radiation and was doing fine until this year when it returned. He is again having chemo, had a bone marrow test and, thank God, it was clear. This past Monday they did a spinal tap. I prayed to Father Seelos to please let the fluid be clear, no cancer cells. Thanks to his intercession again, the report Wednesday was good, no cancer cells. I promise to pray for Father's canonization. I do believe my husband is going to beat the cancer. He's a good man, friend, dad (seven children) and loving husband of 50 years.

### Olmsted Falls, OH

I read the article in SOUL magazine about Father Seelos. Our grandson was going through intense psychological therapy and I had asked for prayers from many. On the tenth day of treatment I included prayers to Father Seelos for this intention that night. Next day there was a break-through, but I did not know it for four more days.

### Natchitoches, LA

Please renew my subscription.

I really look forward to the arrival of the bulletin each month.

The articles you write are so beautiful and interesting.

Thanks to the volunteers for their work and kindness.

God bless each one of you.

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Mail: March, 1999

Petitions: 688

Thanksgivings: 390

Others: 761

Total: 1839

Dial-A-Messages: 758

Volunteer Hours: 1061

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

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by

The Father Seeelos 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

7/99

Published monthly by the Redemptionists at the Father Seeelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 523-3734. Internet: [www.seeelos.org](http://www.seeelos.org). Email: [DEworthy@aol.com](mailto:DEworthy@aol.com). 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.