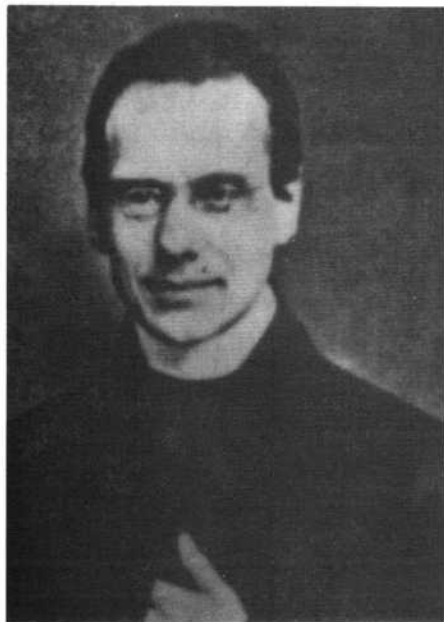




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1999



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 churches he served during his priestly life in America and the people who have reported cures through his intercession.

Because of the constraints of time, it will be a limited edition of 1,000. We ask our readers to reserve their calendar by writing us immediately. The price per calendar is \$10.00.

COURAGE, YOU MEEK!

Some may remember a comic strip of several decades ago, called Mr. Milquetoast, a gentleman who was so flabby a

creature that he bent with the slightest wind and had no will of his own. Naturally, we all pitied him as we laughed at the predicaments he found himself in.

I suppose if we would define his character, somehow or other we would think of him as meek. Do we have the right idea of meekness? I wonder. Meekness is not weakness, it is not a lack of courage. It is a virtue. It is a measured response to what is usually an aggravating situation.

One day on their way to Jerusalem Jesus and His apostles came to a Samaritan town. The townspeople refused them hospitality because they were on their way to Jerusalem and hence their enemies. James and John were disturbed by this treatment of their Master. On the other hand, Jesus did not show any reaction; instead he reprimanded James and John for their intemperate display.

St. Clement Hofbauer was the first non-Italian to become a Redemptorist. He was from Central Europe and spent many years trying to establish the Redemptorists permanently in that region. At one time he was maintaining an orphanage. He asked one man for money to help with this project. The man spit in his face. Clement calmly wiped the spittle from his face, and said, "That was for me; now give me something for my orphans." To me this was meekness with courage.

One of the great trials of Seelos' life came about because of his mild manner and his patient and attractive way of meeting and treating those he came in contact with.

(Continued on next page)

This was noticed especially in his dealing with the seminarians whose director he was. Several of his confreres, trained in a more militaristic mode, thought his easy manner with his students was detrimental to their proper development as future priests.

Father Seelos said, "A long experience has taught me the great lesson that God leads men in a human manner by other men who He has appointed to be in His place and who should be of the same kindness as He Himself was while among men.

"Many a soul might be gained to the true faith and for eternal life if sometimes a little more charity, a little more self-denial would be evinced, and if persons would be treated as their personal dispositions and human nature would require it. It is true (that) it requires great virtue and experience to find always the right measure in these things, but we cannot fail much if our intention remains pure."

A young mother told me this story. She was at the mall with her three teen-age girls when she saw a man severely slap his woman companion. The woman wanted to drive the car because the man seemed inebriated. The mother remonstrated with the man and he told her to mind her own business. She insisted this was her business, she did not want her children to think that they could be slapped in public by any man. The man then said, "Here are the keys to the car. You give them to my companion. She won't take them from me."

How true! Meekness is not weakness. It's courage under fire!

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, LA

You may remember us. We were there in January. My granddaughter from Texas was going to have a brain operation. Well, it is over. She is doing remarkably well. She still needs more therapy for her arm, but she gave up the wheelchair two weeks ago. I think they will be going back to Wichita Falls next week. Thanks for all your prayers. Thanks especially to Father Seelos.

Houma, LA

When the January-February 1999 issue of SOUL magazine was delivered, I immediately saw the name Father Seelos and turned directly to the story. I remember his name because, growing up in New Orleans, my mother used to tell us children to pray to Father Seelos when we were in need.

I had occasion to take her advice years later as well. In 1985 I suffered a miscarriage very early in my second pregnancy. I required hospitalization where a chest xray was routinely done. It revealed a suspicious area in my lung which required further tests, including needle biopsies, more xrays and CAT scans. I prayed to Father Seelos during the approximately six months of studying the area in question. The end result was that I was told that the spot had been progressively shrinking and was most likely simply a consequence of my earlier miscarriage. Thanks to God and the intercession of Father Seelos.

When my mother was found to have cancer of the esophagus, I went to Father Seelos again. I simply asked him to take care of his special devotee, that she would suffer not too greatly and for God's will to be done.

When she died in May 1998, I saw it as a blessing because she did not suffer the conditions which she feared or we, her family, feared would be a consequence of her cancer.

Yet again in December of 1998 I discovered a small "bulge" in my neck area, near the throat. Father Seelos was called upon again. I immediately made arrangements to have the area checked out. I eventually underwent thyroid surgery which was pronounced successful. The nodule was examined and found to be non-malignant. Father Seelos has been a great friend in need.

In honor of my mother, I would like to spread devotion to Father Seelos to my children, as she did to hers. Is there any other information available on Father Seelos that has not appeared in SOUL magazine? I want very much to share it with my children and friends.

I will pray that his cause for canonization will progress favorably, that this virtue and holiness will be an example for all.

Houston, TX

I wrote you in March and asked you to pray for me. I was coming out of an abusive relationship. I have also prayed and asked Father Seelos for help and protection. So far things are okay. I managed to have the strength to complete my contract at my job this year. I feel this is through the help of prayer. I have started to rebuild and reshape my life.

The physical abuse I endured took away what little confidence I had... I am afraid to fail.

I want to be in God's grace again... I believe with all my heart that Father Seelos and the Lord will help me...

Please pray for me that I will have the courage to do what I have to do in order to reach my goal... Thank you for continuing the cause of canonization of Father Seelos. He truly has helped me... his prayers will help me now.

Mail: April, 1999

Petitions: 703

Thanksgivings: 381

Others: 786

Total: 1870

Dial-A-Messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1063

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approval.

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