



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIX, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 2000

BLESSED FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS

Beatification in Rome, April 9th, 2000

Prayers Answered



Father John Vargas, C.Ss.R., Vice-Postulator in Rome; Angela Boudreaux, miraculously cured of cancer through the intercession of Father Seelos, and Father Antonio Marrazzo, C.Ss.R., Postulator General of the Redemptorists.

From the time of his death on October 4th, 1867 people have been praying and working for the church to officially recognize Father Seelos what they believed him to be: a saint. On April 9th, 2000 Pope John Paul will declare him "Blessed", the final step in the process before canonization. Father Seelos was among the early Redemptorists that came to North America beginning in 1832, and although he died in New Orleans he was a member of the American Province of Redemptorists. That is why Redemptorists throughout North America are justly proud and point to him along with another confrere, St. John Neumann, as one of their own. He is an inspiration to us to continue the work of evangelization, proclaiming God's good news especially to those most in need, and in spite of difficulty remaining joyful and loving through it all. Praise God for

giving us such a *Cheerful Ascetic* as our model. And may the joy he had and the holiness he lived be with all of us who will now honor him as Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.

PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO ROME FOR BEATIFICATION

Since the news of Father Seelos' beatification came more suddenly than expected, and by the time this bulletin is delivered there will be less time, many people who would have otherwise intended to go to Rome for the actual beatification ceremony may not be able to do so. However, we are fortunate to have organized a wonderful Pilgrimage Tour to Rome for the occasion, which includes an extension tour of some of the famous shrines of Italy. Tour dates are: April 7-13, 2000; leaving from New Orleans and ultimately New York. Other cities will be able to connect to the tour in New York. People can make the whole 11 day tour as planned or just do the Rome part and return home, or go their own way. The tour is presented by The Seelos Center and ITS International Tours. For information please contact: Van & Pat Stevens, Metairie, LA, (504) 454-8202, or Father Seelos Center, (504) 525-2495, or ITS International Tours, New Orleans, LA, (800) 892-PRAY, (504) 831-0843.

WELCOME NEW DIRECTOR OF SEELOS CENTER REV. BYRON MILLER, C.Ss.R.

The Redemptorists have made a switch in assignments between Father Monroe Perrier and Father Byron Miller. Father Perrier has been suffering with knee problems which will probably require surgery replacement, which is complicated by the urgent and increasing demands of Father Seelos' Beatification. He is now Director of the Vocation Office and Redemptorist students in Formation in San Antonio, Texas. Father Miller, who had those positions, is the new Director of the Seelos Center.

Father Miller is a native of Crowley, Louisiana, was ordained in 1990, was director of retreats at Holy Redeemer in Lacombe, Louisiana and for the past four years Director of the Vocation Office and Formation in San Antonio. He is a multi-talented person and comes to the Seelos ministry with enthusiasm and energy. The cause of the soon-to-be Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos is in good hands. The process of his canonization continues.

FATHER SEELOS CALENDAR FOR YEAR 2000

The Father Seelos commemorative calendar for 2000 was well received. The following excerpt from *Cheerful Ascetic* describing part of his character and virtue appeared in March:

He was all love and humility, and at the same time, always in a good humor, for which reason all hearts were attracted to him. Of ... priestly duties he preferred those ... accompanied with least exterior honor, but with the greatest difficulties, and thus [he was] ... always at the service of those who desired his help... He particularly liked the confessional because there he could do much good without being observed or honored ... and he entertained special love and sympathy for the sick.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
 - b. "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.
 - c. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - d. 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 Elaine Freeman, 341-2213.
 - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - f. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center (504) 525-2495.
 - g. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
 - h. 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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SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, LA

I have two miracles that I attribute to Father Seelos. The first is the following:

Father Seelos entered my life 28 years ago when my son Bobby was born ... with Downs Syndrome (as we call it today); back in 1971 we called it mongolism. When my parents told me that my son was not normal, I went numb. I didn't know how to feel or think. My mom gave me a relic of Father Seelos along with a prayer card with Father Seelos' picture on it and she told me, "Peggy, pray to Father Seelos and he'll help your little baby to be as normal as the good Lord wants him to be." Well, I've prayed to Father Seelos each and every day of my life since then. The doctors at LSU Medical Center told me and my husband that Bobby would never walk, talk or be productive in any way. All I knew to do was to pray to Father Seelos just like my mother told me.

Today, 28 years later, Bobby walks, talks, went to High School with so called "normal children" until he was 22 years old; participated in each and every pilot program in Jefferson Parish; participates in a bowling league and is working for Pizza Hut as a dishwasher (subs at bussing tables when needed). His speech is impaired, but once you get to know him he makes himself understood. He is a very handsome young man and has a few female friends that call him; but he never wants to talk to them on the phone. Needless to say, my prayers to Father Seelos have never gone unanswered.

The second miracle is the following:

In 1992 I had a heart transplant. Before my transplant took place, my Mom and Dad had asked a lady who belongs to the Father Seelos Society if it would be possible that I be blessed with Father Seelos' crucifix. They said certainly and they came to Ochsner Hospital and blessed me with Father Seelos' crucifix. I was so afraid of this procedure (the transplant); but I put myself in the Lord's hands and asked him to help me in any way he could. After the lady blessed me with the crucifix it was as if I truly didn't have to worry about anything anymore. I knew deep down in my heart that God would let me stay with my children and my parents.

It's been 7 years now and I still feel great! The doctors told my parents that the transplant would take approximately 6 hours and it only took 4 hours. The new heart was in place and beating like a charm. There was a slight rejection within a week but no problem thereafter. Father Seelos has been and still is a big important "saint" in our household. He has never left my side and I will not leave his side until he is canonized as a "Saint".

Missouri City, TX

Last year at this time I wrote to you to share that my late sister had such a devotion to Father Seelos. Before her death her deep faith passed on to me and consequently I pray to him daily. I would like to pass on his history to others and help them realize what a powerhouse and friend we have in him. Is there any way I can receive some Father Seelos holy cards to share with my parish?

During the Fall of '99 I had some health problems which required some x-rays and tests. I put myself in the hands of Father Seelos and the results were negative. Please pray for the same results when I have to be re-tested.

Slidell, LA

I visited the Father Seelos Center for the first time last September. After being a long time supporter I was impressed how beautiful the church was and how friendly all the people were.

Our business has been very bad this year and I was praying for some orders to come in so we would be able to continue without any serious tax consequences and/or having to lay off some very nice people. After 5 days we got one large order which will help us out for a couple of months.

I also have been having serious health problems for several years and having difficulty getting any results for numerous testing. On Thursday, September 9th I was admitted to the hospital with high blood pressure. I was sent to another hospital the following week for a test on my gallbladder, the 5th test. This time problems were found with the gallbladder and I am scheduled to have it removed next week and have additional surgery on a reflux problem I have. I am very leery of the reflux surgery and have been advised by two physicians not to have it.

I believe finding the gallbladder trouble after all these years was a blessing. Please keep me and my family and business in your prayers.

Mail: November, 1999

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