



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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Patricia Treece

"Nothing Short of a Miracle"



Patricia Treece has written a book, an interesting and intriguing one, called "NOTHING SHORT OF A MIRACLE" — The Healing Power of the Saints. It is published by Image Books — Doubleday. Two of the fifteen chapters of this book relate the healing power of Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. Another two are devoted to Father Seelos' great friend and confrere, St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R., bishop of Philadelphia.

Patricia Treece lives in Calabasas, California. She is widely known as the author of a book on St. Maximillian Kolbe, "A MAN FOR OTHERS." Father Kolbe was a prisoner in one of the death camps of World War II. He gave his life in exchange for a fellow prisoner, a married man with children. Pope John Paul II canonized him recently.

Mrs. Treece was an honored guest of the Center at the memorial Mass for Father Seelos on October 2.

P R A Y E R FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

In the month of November we normally turn our attention to the subject of prayer. This time let us consider prayer for the souls in purgatory. The Church teaches us two things about purgatory: first of all, that a place of purgation exists after death, and secondly, because we on earth are not only united to the saints in heaven but also to the souls in purgatory in the communion of saints, we are able to benefit the poor souls by our prayers, good works, and sacrifices.

Why the souls in purgatory are termed "poor," we do not know. It is not an official designation. Really, in all ways save one, they are most blessed. They do possess the certain hope of the beatific vision. In that hope there perhaps lies their greatest suffering: they are deprived of this vision of God until the process of their purification is terminated. Because these souls are in the dimension of eternity, there is no way to express duration except in intensity. We cannot express it in time.

This is where we, their relatives and friends, can do them a great act of kindness. We can pray for them, offer up our sufferings for them, have Masses offered for the repose of their souls, according to the long tradition of the Church. In the aftermath of Vatican Council II, there seems to be an unwarranted lessening of devotion towards the souls in purgatory. I say unwarranted because Vatican Council II did not turn its back on any of the revealed truths of the Church. It certainly did not rule out the role of Tradition in the formulations of the tenets of our faith.

At any rate, we should not forsake the souls in purgatory. One day we may well be counted among them. Have we been doing our dead a disfavor by immediately elevating them to the bliss of heaven, while we do not do them the favor of whispering a prayer for their souls?

When St. Monica was in her last illness, her two sons, St. Augustine and his brother, sought to persuade her to return from Italy to Africa, so that she could die in her native land. Monica was only half listening, but she resolved the matter very simply. "Do what you will with my body," she said. "One thing I ask of you, remember me at the altar of the Lord."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Lafayette, LA

On July 31 my wife and I visited the Father Seelos Center. We saw the tomb, visited the museum, and attended the prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos. I was blessed with Father's mission crucifix.

Early last year I lost my job and for ten months I was without employment. I was about to lose my home..I consider myself very professionally qualified and have held top-paying jobs in my career. I felt as though I was surrounded by pure bad luck with no end in sight. Without the help of my brother, sister, father and separated wife, I would have lost everything I owned.

Finally my mother introduced me to Father Seelos and I began to seek his intercession. My prayer was heard. I was offered a good job in January of this year. Never in my life have I experienced such an event.

Visiting the Center and being blessed filled a gap in my spiritual life. Visiting the tomb and lighting a candle seemed to light up my path for the future. Thanks to God for His favors through the intercession of Father Seelos.

Metairie, LA

This is a letter of thanksgiving for a favor received. My daughter-in-law's first three months of pregnancy were uncomfortable. She was hemorrhaging, and was rushed to the hospital. After a week she was sent back home with orders to stay in bed until her time was due. Five weeks before the expected due date she was again rushed to the hospital. After a night of labor her little boy was born. He weighed just five pounds. An hour later the doctor discovered that the baby's lungs were not completely developed. The baby was put in intensive care. The next day he was transferred to Tulane Medical Center. When he was three days old he was flown to a hospital in Galveston, Texas.

A week later my daughter-in-law flew to Galveston to be with the baby. She put a memento of Father Seelos in his little bed and prayed with lots of people. In a week the doctor called our little Nicholas "the miracle baby." Ten days later he came home. He is now one month and ten days old and weighs eight pounds. Other than being tiny he is healthy.

I am very thankful to Father Seelos for his intercession. I thank God the little baby has a chance to live.

Mail received in July, 1988:

Petitions: 669	Thanksgivings: 354	Other: 872	Total: 1985
Dial-a-message calls: 671	Volunteer hours: 535		

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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. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R. Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
 - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography. Price: \$10.00
 - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary on Father Seelos (VHS only): \$45.00
 - c. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1083.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission cross of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - 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. Every Sunday morning in St. Mary's Church at 11 a.m. there is a prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
 - h. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters about the cause of Father Seelos. Available at the Center. Price: \$7.95
2. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION in letting us know you want us to continue sending you this bulletin. If you have not done so this year, please do so now. It is important to us because of the increase in costs and mailing. The annual subscription rate is \$2.00.

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