



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1988

THE POPE AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST



It is now well over a year since the city of New Orleans thrilled to the visit of our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who brought us his message of hope for the world. All of us from the Irish Channel were proud to see amid the collage of pictures of the Pope and his travels throughout the world this picture of our own beloved St. Mary's Assumption Church. It was taken by the Times-Picayune photographer on October 5, 1986, the day of the annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos.

May Jesus who came to us as the Prince of Peace fill your hearts with His love and joy this Christmas time.

LOVE OF THE CROSS

The cross is most prominent in the Christian tradition. It is visible in our churches, on our altars, in our homes. The sign of the cross that we make over our bodies is evidence of our faith and Christian upbringing. The cross reminds us of Jesus our Lord who became man and gave His life for our redemption in the cruel death that crucifixion brought to its victims.

In the venerable picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help the artist tried to tell us the story of how Jesus first learned of His impending death. The archangels, Michael and Gabriel, appear to Him when He was a young child and show Him the instruments of His torture and death.

We have no way of knowing just how Jesus learned of His future suffering. We do know that, as St. Matthew relates, Jesus made it plain to His apostles what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem. "We are going up to Jerusalem now. There the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, who will condemn Him to death. They will turn Him over to the Gentiles, to be made sport of and flogged and crucified" (Matt. 20/18).

Father Walter Farrell says that Jesus embraced suffering. Father John McKenzie says He accepted it as part of the human condition. Whatever were His inmost thoughts and reactions to suffering, we know that in the garden of Gethsemani the night before He died, He prayed thus, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by. Still, let it be as You would have it, not as I" (Matt. 26/29).

Suffering is a great mystery, and Jesus did not solve the problem. He suffered like the rest of us. He did show us how to suffer by His death on the cross for our redemption. Jesus did not run away nor did He cower before His executioners. He even prayed for them and gave them the benefit of the doubt when He said they did not know what they were doing.

In our life time there will be some sufferings that we cannot avoid. When we have done all that we can to alleviate them or have them go away, whatever remains let us accept in the same spirit that Jesus accepted His — for our salvation. We should be consoled with the words of St. Paul: "The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1/18), and again, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5/24).

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Cottonport, LA

Please send me some prayer cards and mementos of Father Seelos. I had some but gave them to friends. I gave some to a friend that could not walk or move, and today she is walking and even driving her car. Thank you very much.

Palestine, TX

Thank you for sending the mementos. I am sending you 200 crochet mementos for the annual Mass. I am showing the video-tape of Father Seelos to small groups to help spread devotion to him.

St. James, LA

I was introduced to the cause of Father Seelos in 1969 and have asked his intercession every day since then. I pray that he will be rewarded with sainthood. For the past several years I have prayed to Father Seelos for my son. Since then he has given up alcohol and gotten off prescription drugs. I am now praying that he can overcome his anxiety. Please put this petition at the tomb of Father Seelos.

My family has been blessed because of my devotion. I wish to thank publicly all the many people who have made this possible; my mother who first told me about Father, and all the people who help keep the Center going. Above all, I thank God for giving us this good and caring man.

New Orleans, LA

In the spring of this year I took sick with a pregnancy-induced condition called toxemia. Just eight weeks before the baby was due, my blood tests showed that my platelet count had dropped to a dangerous level. I prayed to God and asked Father Seelos to intercede for me. Another blood test showed that my platelet count had gone up. If it had not shown improvement the doctor would have delivered my baby and he may not have survived. Four weeks later he was born weighing only four pounds, 13 ounces, but was in perfect condition. He never required a moment of critical care.

Some say that perhaps the first blood test was a lab error. Perhaps it was. I do believe that I was granted a great favor as my baby was perfect and healthy despite the odds. I thank God and the prayers of His servant, Father Seelos.

Mail, August, 1988:

Petitions: 705	Thanksgivings: 353	Other: 679	Total: 1737
Dial-a-message: 647	Volunteer hours: 556		

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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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