



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SAGA OF STEPHEN GERARD LANDRY



"My pregnant daughter in Baton Rouge sent me a copy of her baby's sonogram after the doctor feared he would be born with an 'omphalocele' – a severe birth defect where vital organs are sitting on the outside of the body. To make matters worse, the doctors told her to expect other severe complications, such as Downs syndrome or spina bifida or some other defect that cannot be corrected. More than two-thirds of babies born with omphalocele have some of the other severe complications, too.

"My sister and her husband had Father Steffes bless the baby and mother from afar. We prayed for Father Seelos' intercession that the baby be spared other complications.

"Our prayers were answered. It took the doctors five hours to correct the omphalocele. The heart had slipped into the stomach cavity and was restored to its normal place. Though it is sideways and a little lower than it should be, the heart is working very well.

"Our miracle baby is now an active and healthy two-year old.

"Thank you, Father Seelos, for your intercession in bringing us a healthy baby boy."

HOPE

"Now may the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope and in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 15/5).

It is said that the forgotten Person of the Blessed Trinity is the Holy Spirit, the forgotten sacrament is confirmation, the forgotten theological virtue is the virtue of hope.

Today in the trials, sorrows, and evils of gigantic measure, do we fear and cringe and despair of the future? Or do we confirm our faith in the infinite mysterious goodness of our heavenly Father, the continual love of our Redeemer, and the abiding strength of the Holy Spirit?

A golden jubilarian priest was asked by a news reporter on the day of his celebration, "Father, through all the years of your priesthood, what would you say was the greatest thing you learned?" The priest replied, "No doubt the one thing I learned is, 'How good is God!'"

Indeed may this undeniable truth of our faith influence our past, present, and future. The past, no matter how sinful, careless, forgetful of God, if we have duly repented in His merciful sacrament of penance, there is assurance of our forgiveness. Let us sing joyfully with the Psalmist, "The mercies of the Lord I will sing forever." (Ps. 88/1).

Our future? Do we worry needlessly what will happen? Does not Christ tell us, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed? It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on His kingdom first, and on His righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6/21-24).

It is the present that really matters. "The sacrament of the present moment" – our present gift of time deserves our full attention. We should be convinced that nothing else matters but this moment, this day, this duty, this setback, this cross, this hardship, this visitation of our good God. Our life is made up of just such moments. St. Alphonsus vowed not to waste a moment of time. He was faithful through the long years. If we do our best, be it for recreation, for business, for love of the family or friend, may we daily sing thanks for all God's blessings. Heaven, is it not our promise and saving hope, the eternal NOW!

The confidence of God's goodness and the sacramental graces of His eternal love will strengthen our moments of discouragement and moods of sadness, for He is our HOPE. Moreover, His Mother and our Mother, truly is "our life, our sweetness, our hope."

John A. Hensgen, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, LA

My brother-in-law has chronic emphysema and other major health problems. Three months ago he had a seizure. He was blue and not breathing. At the hospital he was placed immediately in intensive care and put on the respirator. After a few days he was not improving and the doctor gave the family permission to remain the whole night, because he said he would most probably expire before the next day. The next day the doctor removed him from the respirator and took him out of intensive care because there was nothing more that they could do for him.

He was placed in a private room and we called the priest on duty at the hospital. My brother-in-law was baptized, received his first Communion and the sacrament of the sick all on the same day. On the next day he was blessed with the Father Seelos crucifix. Although the doctor said he was gravely ill and would never leave the hospital alive, he went home on Good Friday. Although he is living with oxygen and will never be totally better, we are grateful that he is alive and does not have any brain damage.

P.S. My brother-in-law returned to work last week and works all day without the use of oxygen.

Groves, TX

Through prayers to Father Seelos I was cured of a parotid tumor. It had been removed twice and returned a third time. The doctors did not want to do surgery again because of the danger of cutting the nerve and leaving my face paralyzed. I prayed to Father Seelos and touched a memento to the tumor. While I was in the waiting-room of a hospital, expecting to hear the worst about my husband who had had a severe heart attack, I reached up to rub my jaw because it would tighten up and hurt when I became tense. I soon realized the big tumor was gone. I went to the doctor and he all but turned my head backwards. He said he didn't know why it was gone but that it could come back. I told him, "Not this time, because the guy that did this surgery didn't need a knife." He said, "You could be right." Praise God, and thank you, Father Seelos.

Mail, October, 1989:

Petitions: 892 Thanksgivings: 335 Other: 576 Total: 1803

Dial-a-message: 736.

Volunteer hours: 736.

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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 of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: \$45.00
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos, Price: \$8.95 plus postage. Available at the Center.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
 - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and the museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - h. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS: every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We do appreciate your letting us know you want to continue to receive the bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Please return the lower portion of this page to us.

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