

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1992



ST. GERARD'S, BATON ROUGE, SALUTES FATHER SEELOS

On October 13 of last year Father Monroe Perrier, C.S.S.R., vice-provincial of the Redemptorists of the mid-south, celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Seelos in St. Gerard's Church, Baton Rouge. Mr. O. J. Templet is the organizer of this event.

MARY, AND LOVE FOR GOD

The great commandment to love God with all our mind and heart and strength has to be intimidating to some of us. God is the infinite, the everlasting, the ineffable. And we are so weak and fragile and, at times, so confused.

We who honor Mary as the Mother of God have before us the example of this Virgin-Mother, who in her human way, perfected by her immaculate conception and her life-long cooperation with God's grace, loved God as much as any human being could hope to do.

Besides the Magnificat, the Gospels relate few of the words of Mary. It was on the occasion of the Annunciation that Mary gave us the key to her deep love for God. She declared herself ready to do God's will. When the angel Gabriel told her that she was the highly favored daughter of God the

Father and that He wanted her to become His Son's Mother, she, filled with and overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, gave her response, "Be it done to me according to your word."

We know from the Gospels that Mary only gradually grew in her understanding of the role she was to play in the redemption. Because of her close union with God she made the leap in the dark and left to the Father the complete unfolding of this mystery in His own good time.

Mary saw the hand of God in the inspired greeting of her cousin, Elizabeth, the fetching story of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, in the prophecy of Simeon of her Son's triumph and rejection and the sword that would pierce her own heart. It was at God's direction that the Holy Family fled to Egypt and then, after Herod's death, returned to Nazareth. All these events Mary pondered in her heart.

Mary was the one who best fulfilled her Son's benediction, Blessed are they who hear the word of God and keep it. It was when she stood beneath the cross on that first Good Friday that she realized what old Simeon had prophesied many years before, her own soul a sword would pierce. As she witnessed her divine Son hanging on the cross for our redemption, she knew it was not only a sword of sorrow but really a sword of love that bound her ever more closely to Jesus. As the drama of the redemption came to its climax on Good Friday, it was comfort to Mary's heart to know that on the third day He would rise, triumphant.

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. 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.
 - 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: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404.
 - 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. The 11:30 A.M. PARISH MASS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH IS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER. Veneration of the mission crucifix of Father Seelos after the Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS THREE 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

Kenner, LA

In November, All Saints Day to be exact, I had to have a lateral biopsy on both breasts. I had a mammogram for the first time in my life (age: 52). They found a lump in each breast. So I had to have surgery on both. I prayed so hard on my knees, and it seemed like every moment of the day, to Father Seelos. I prayed the rosary at least twice a day, and I begged through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Father Seelos to let everything be all right. I was frightened to death but my faith kept me going. I went to the Father Seelos Center and held his crucifix in my hands and said the prayer for his canonization. I did this on two or three occasions. Holding the crucifix in my hands really helped. I said the prayer and blessed myself with the cross. It gave me great peace of mind because I have faith in him. All has gone well with me. I promised to write this in thanksgiving.

Gretna, LA

I am writing this letter to give thanks to the Virgin Mary and Father Seelos for all the many favors my family and I have received through his prayers.

I want to thank him for bringing me back to the Church and the Catholic faith. I was always a Catholic but had forgotten how to pray. Somehow I found Father Seelos and St. Mary's Church, and through the faith he inspired me I am back.

Also I want to thank Father Seelos for having answered my prayers to solve a very serious legal problem I had. Without his intercession I am sure I would not be able to be a free person today. Heaven knew that I was not guilty of this false accusation that was ruining my family's life and mine. With prayer and faith in the intercession of Father Seelos, all was resolved.

New Orleans, LA

Thanks again to Father Seelos for helping me at this time. It was really a miracle. In September of last year I fell so hard in my apartment that I almost went through the floor to the apartment below. My hip was literally broken to pieces, no bone was left intact. Five years previously I had broken my hip and was just starting to get around with a cane.

Following a metal-hip surgery complications developed - pneumonia and two heart attacks. I was on the D. I. list twice and in a coma.

Knowing the prayer for the canonization of Father Seelos by heart, I would come to for a moment or so and kept repeating it over and over. I was a "goner" and didn't know where I was. I was blessed with the Father Seelos crucifix. I was given up by the doctors. Well, with the help of God and through the prayers of the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos I actually survived much to the surprise of the doctors and my relatives. I am now able to walk with a "walker" a short distance. My legs are getting stronger every day. The fluid that caused my heart attack is gone and the liver, once threatened with cirrhosis, is now O.K. I am eternally grateful to Father Seelos.

Mail, November, 1991

Petitions: 576 Thanksgivings: 248 Other: 446 Total: 1270

Dial-a-messages: 721

Volunteer Hours: 983

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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.