



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1992



SHRINE OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP
ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, NEW ORLEANS

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

On June 27 we celebrate the feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. The original miraculous picture hangs in the church of San Alfonso in Rome, the headquarters of the Redemptorists. Pope Pius IX entrusted this picture to the Redemptorists in 1866 and told them to make her known throughout the world. 1866 was the year Father Seelos came to New Orleans. In the 30's and 40's of this century the Redemptorist church of St. Alphonsus was the center of intense devotion to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

CHASTITY

Just a few years ago in the midst of the sexual revolution, who would have thought that today abstinence from sexual activity would be promoted publicly, not perhaps as a moral practice but as a means of preserving health, and, yes, even life?

Abstinence from sexual activity, or chastity, is a Christian virtue the purpose of which is to moderate the human appetite of sex. God our Creator made us male and female, and in the Creator's design the two would be joined in one flesh in matrimony. Husband and wife would bring forth children to people the earth and eventually heaven.

Jesus condemned divorce and said that it was adultery to marry another partner while the first partner was still living. Not only was the act of adultery condemned by Him but also the thoughts and desires that would lead to such acts.

Chastity in marriage and outside of marriage is demanded by Christ. He did not say it would be easy but He promised to hear the prayers of those who ask for the strength and courage to do His will.

The extremes to which the sexual revolution has driven so many in the wild pursuit of pleasure and money and power is now being felt in the world. Many who were reared to believe that sex was an end in itself, that personal freedom meant complete license to do whatever one pleased, that freedom of choice has no relation to our God of creation and redemption, will now see the total bankruptcy of such principles.

It is encouraging to note that a new generation is arising to confront the evils of an impure world with the ideals that Jesus implanted in His Church, ideals that further the good of the human race and not its downfall.

The Catholic Bishops of the United States reiterated Christian doctrine when they wrote "that every genital act must be within the framework of marriage." Pope John Paul II wrote that sexuality "is realized in a truly human way only if it is an integral part of the love by which a man and a woman commit themselves totally to one another until death. The total physical self-giving would be a lie if it were not the sign and fruit of a total personal self-giving, in which the whole person, including the temporal dimension, is present." This is God's plan. This is His ideal for us.

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. SUNDAY 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

Metairie, LA

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Seelos for his intercession. On October 2, 1991, I underwent an operation on my retina. Subsequently the eye became very infected. On December 6, I entered the hospital and started receiving intravenous antibiotics. The doctor told me that he didn't know exactly what to do. He said that in order to fight the bacteria he would have to remove the buckle which is holding the retina together. By removing the buckle, the retina would probably detach and I could lose sight in that eye. If he let the buckle in, I would lose the eye sight due to the infection, and the bacteria would spread throughout my entire body.

The doctor said he had been performing these operations for more than five years, and this occurred in only one other patient. He said that when he went to remove the buckle, the retina detached and the patient lost his sight in the infected eye.

I was told that the operation would take place on December 9. I requested Father Richard Miles of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Kenner to come and bless me before the operation . . . Father blessed me and gave me a memento of Father Seelos and a brown scapular to wear during the operation . . .

The next morning the doctor came to my bed. Before looking into my eye, he started looking under my shirt for the medal. I asked him which medal. He took out the Father Seelos memento. He said that right before the operation, he felt very afraid and insecure. He noticed I was wearing something around my neck; it had a man's face on it. He is not a Catholic and he did not know what it was. He placed the memento face up on my shoulder closest to the eye to be operated on. He asked the man to watch him during the operation. The doctor took the buckle off my retina. He could not believe that the retina was healed all the way round, and the retina did not detach as he expected. He breathed a sigh of relief and said, "Thank God." He looked at the memento and it radiated bright gold.

. . . the infection caused a great amount of scar tissue to develop . . . I will have to undergo another operation to cut the scar tissue . . . I asked the doctor what was the possibility of the scar tissue disappearing on its own. He said, "None." He then laughed and said that he was speaking in accordance with ordinary medical science, but for me he could not answer that question. He just said, "Keep doing what you have been doing." I said, "You mean, praying." He said, "You know what I mean."

Mail, February, 1992

Petitions: 634 Thanksgivings: 295 Other: 561 Total: 1490

Dial-a-messages: 752

Volunteer Hours: 971

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