



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXII, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1993



OUR LADY OF SORROWS



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

ST. MARY'S GARDEN

There is a tiny oasis of green amid the brick and concrete jungle of a large old city. It is the garden behind St. Mary's Assumption Church in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. Many years ago the rectory of the Redemptorists in charge of the parish stood in the middle of this garden. It is where Father Seelos, of venerable memory, breathed his last on October 4, 1867. In 1882 another rectory was built that fronted on Constance Street.

Today two statues of the Blessed Mother now frame the garden - Our Lady of Sorrows at one end and the Immaculate Conception at the other. It was Father Seelos himself who blessed the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows.

POVERTY AND THE HOLY FAMILY

In the Gospels few indications are given of the daily life and circumstances of the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, the one we call the Holy Family. St. Matthew and St. Luke tell us something of the early life of Jesus with His Mother, Mary, and adoptive father, Joseph. It was a part of the community of Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter. Without a doubt they were of modest means.

When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, and Mary was ready to deliver her Child, they could find no place to stay, except a cave where it was the custom to keep cattle. For His first bed the Child was put in a manger, the feeding place of animals.

When the Holy Family came to Jerusalem to present the Child in the

Temple according to the law, Mary and Joseph gave as an offering a pair of turtle-doves, the offering of the poor (Luke, 2/23; Lev. 12/8).

During His public life, after He had left home in Nazareth, He could say of Himself, "The Son of man has no place to lay his head." At the crucifixion, He entrusted the care of His Mother to the beloved disciple, St. John. He had no burial place for Himself. He had to accept the charity of others, and He was buried in a tomb that was not His own.

Jesus really led a life of poverty. He could have arranged it otherwise. His life with the apostles was one of detachment. But He was not a fanatic. He fed the hungry. He healed the sick. He did not refuse to eat with people in comfortable circumstances. He defended His apostles when they were chided for eating grain as they walked through fields on a sabbath and were hungry.

He accepted hospitality. He accepted help from a group of holy women who believed in Him and accompanied Him and the apostles on their mission journeys. He often counselled His hearers, "Let not your hearts be troubled." As for food, He pointed to the birds in the sky. The heavenly Father feeds them. He pointed to the wild flowers, They bloom and are clothed more royally than Solomon.

Jesus practised what He preached. He taught on the mount, "Stop worrying, then, over questions like, 'What are we to eat, or what are we to drink, or what are we to wear?'" Your heavenly Father knows all that you need. Seek first His kingship over you, His way of holiness, and all these things will be given you besides." (Chapter six of the Gospel according to St. Matthew).

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 - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, or Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - 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. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
 - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
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

Harahan, LA

Recently my 13-year old son developed an interest in Father Seelos. When his eight-grade class from De la Salle attended their "live-in" weekend at Holy Redeemer, he purchased several small pamphlets on the Redemptorists and a holy card with a small piece of cloth attached that had been touched to a relic of the priest.

When my son was leaving for school one morning shortly after, I asked him if I could borrow the items to look at. He agreed and I put the materials aside until I could get to them later that day. As it happened, it wasn't until almost 3:30 p.m. that I started to read them. The last item I looked at was the holy card, with a prayer requesting that Father Seelos be declared a saint. I read the prayer until I came to the part which said to mention any special intention. I was suddenly struck with the need to ask Father Seelos' intercession for my son and his ten-year old sister.

It was not until my son returned later that afternoon that I learned a drunk driver had run into the car in which he and four other De la Salle boys had been riding. The car was badly damaged, but except for a mild concussion sustained by the De la Salle Junior who drives every day, none of the boys was injured. The time of the accident was approximately 3:30 p.m.

I noticed later in reading the back of the card that favors received should be reported. I consider having my son alive and well after such an experience to be a favor I shall never forget.

Columbus AFB, MS

This is for all those who have prayed for special intentions to be heard by Father Seelos. I have been diagnosed a third time with the same type of cancer since 1988. Father Seelos has heard my plea for a remission twice before. With the help of chemotherapy and Father Seelos, he hasn't given up on me yet. I pray for a third remission. I also haven't given up on Father Seelos and hope he hears my third plea for help. So for all those who feel their prayers are not being heard, don't give up.

Thibodaux, LA

I want to thank the Sacred Heart of Jesus, His Blessed Mother and Father Seelos for coming to the aid of my granddaughter. She was very sick in ICU for two weeks and I prayed that she would improve. I placed a cloth memento on her and it did a lot for her. Thanks again in Christ.

Mandeville, LA

Last February, one of my friends (a single parent with three young children) was being tested for lymphoma. I prayed to Father Seelos for a negative report. She was blessed and is free of cancer. This is in Thanksgiving to Father Seelos.

Mail, January, 1993

Petitions: 607 Thanksgivings: 253 Other: 490 Total: 1350

Dial-a-messages: 736

Volunteer Hours: 1008

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