

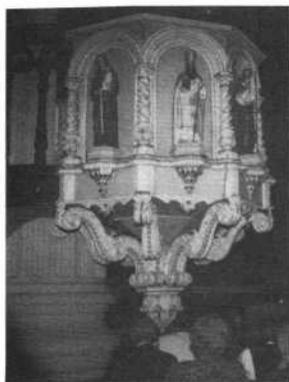


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1995

FAITH COMES BY HEARING



*Pulpit in
St. Mary's
Assumption
Church.*



*Father
Pablo Straub,
C.S.S.R.,
October 2,
1994.*

It would be most difficult to estimate how many sermons were given from this pulpit or how many people were instructed in the faith over a period of 130 years. Suffice it to say, this pulpit (*surrounded by the statues of saints who were doctors and preachers of the faith in the long history of the Church*) was the humble instrument in handing on doctrine of the Church to thousands of the New Orleans area.

On October 2, Father Pablo Straub, a Redemptorist missionary working in Mexico, preached to us of the holy life of one of the preachers of old in St. Mary's, Father Francis Seelos, whose cause we are promoting through this bulletin.

“FAITH OF OUR FATHERS”

The talk of the publishing business in the United State these days has been the phenomenal sale of the *“Catechism of the Catholic Church.”* That a book of this type, non-fiction, religious, somewhat technical, over 880 pages, could be high on the sales chart is something just short of a miracle. The appearance of the English translation ran into a number of delays that only whetted the appetite of readers throughout the land. They wanted so badly to see in print the official teaching of the Church.

We are all aware of the profound influence of the Second Vatican Council on the Church these past thirty years and the many changes it has brought into our lives as Catholics. It seems that one of the unintended results of the Council was a certain confusion created by dissenting voices speaking their own minds in the open forum. It is a sort of paradox that while the Council did not make any dogmatic statements, it did not keep individuals from airing opinions seemingly contrary to the faith as we had learned it, and often getting headlines for their pains.

Some years ago, I mentioned this confusion to one who was eminent in the field of catechetics. He saw it as a fault in our methods of catechesis. Wherever the fault it did not keep people from asking the question, did the Council change the teaching

(Continued on next page)

of the Church? You will recall those days when all of us were struggling to assimilate the documents of the Council and make the practical applications to our lives.

Catholics in America are extremely grateful for the "Catechism of the Catholic Church." It is only the second time that the Church has published a Catechism. The first was the "Roman Catechism", published after the Council of Trent.

Someone has likened our faith to a river that has been flowing through history for 2000 years. It remains the river, but the water is ever fresh, ever new. The "faith of our fathers" has been handed down to us in time from the Apostles through the thick and thin of human relations, and has been sharpened and refined by the minds and pens of believing thinkers and writers.

Cardinal Newman has written a book about the development of Christian doctrine. We know that there have been, perhaps, 20 ecumenical councils in our history. We know that the Church did not just begin in 1964, that the decrees and teaching of the Second Vatican Council are not a break with the past but a flowering of all that has gone before.

It is heartening to know that the "Catechism of the Catholic Church comes to us through the authority of the Church as the complete exposition of the truth we hold as Catholics and that require the assent of faith" (What You Should Know about the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Charlene Altomose MSC).

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

New Orleans, LA

When Adam, our son, was 17 months old, he was losing the use of his left arm. In another month he had completely lost the use of his left arm and hand. On April 22, Children's Hospital ran a CAT scan and an MRI on Adam. We were informed that Adam had a massive tumor on the brain and it would have to be removed immediately. The next day, Mr. Jack Pitkin came from the Father Seelos Center to bless him with Father Seelos' mission crucifix.

The neurosurgeon advised us of the many risks of Adam's surgery: a stroke, heart failure, blood transfusions, respirator, etc.

On Monday, April 25, Adam went to surgery for six hours. It was successful. They had removed 96% of the tumor and the biopsy revealed the tumor was benign. On his second day in intensive care, Adam was already trying to stand up in bed even with tubes in all his limbs and one draining his head. On the third day, he was asking for crackers and a Coke to drink. He was taking the surgery in stride. The doctors decided at this time he would not need radiation or chemotherapy.

We credit Adam's good health to his being blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos and our numerous prayers to Father Seelos. Since Adam's surgery, our trust and belief in Father Seelos, already very strong, has been fortified one hundred percent. We also find ourselves constantly spreading the word about Father Seelos and his wonderful intercession with God. We hope parents in similar conditions will pray for his intercession.

Paula and Paul Dupuis

Long Beach, MS

Eight years ago when our second grandson was born he had a rash on his entire back. The doctors did not recognize what it was, so they were calling in a specialist. I asked Father Seelos to help my grandson. The next day the entire rash had disappeared. He has beautiful skin.

On July 2, this same grandson had an accident and his little finger was partially cut off. It was reattached. All night I prayed to Father Seelos who had helped him previously to help him once again. I prayed that the reattachment would be successful. It has healed beautifully; even his fingernail is growing — the doctor did not think it would happen. Father Seelos has truly come to this little boy's aid. Praise the Lord.

On January 20, I broke my wrist badly. It looked almost hopeless. It was put in a Hoffman frame. A friend and myself held the crucifix which I had gotten from the Father Seelos Center against my wrist. The doctor and nurse were amazed how well it healed with no infections. This was unusual for a break like this. Thank you, Father Seelos.

Mail, September, 1994

Petitions: 599

Thanksgivings: 200

Others: 528

Total: 1327

Dial-A-Messages: 757

Volunteer Hours: 1041

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Rev. Joseph Burlier, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator, Rev. Joseph Eworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.