



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1995

A MEMORIAL MASS IN CROWLEY, LA.

On August 6, Most Reverend Edward J. O'Donnell, bishop of the Lafayette diocese in Louisiana, celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Seeelos in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Crowley, Louisiana. Father Joseph Steffes and Father Joseph Greenwell, former associate pastors of St. Alphonsus parish in New Orleans, are the parish priests in Crowley.



FATHER JOHN HENSGEN, C.S.S.R.

Father John Hensgen was the homilist at the October 1 memorial Mass. No picture was available at the time. He is dean of the Redemptorists in the south, a chaplain in WWII, a teacher in the seminary, parish priest and missionary for 59 years.

PRAYER: THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The celebration of the holy Eucharist is the center of our Christian life. The Second Vatican Council reminds priests, "*No Christian community can be built up unless it has as its basis and center in the celebration of the most holy Eucharist.*"

There is something distinctive about Catholic churches: they are usually open every day of the week, at least for daily Masses, and in more felicitous times, all day, and in some places, day and night. And the reason: the holy Eucharist is there. *Jesus* is there, first in Mass, in holy Communion, and then in the Tabernacle. It can be put into one sentence: the Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual wealth, *Jesus Christ Himself.*

The Eucharist makes present to us the sacrifice of the cross. The Mass is the memorial of the passion, death, and resurrection of *Jesus Himself.* *Jesus* offers *Himself* under the species of bread and wine; He Himself is both priest and victim in the eucharistic sacrifice.

In the Eucharist, *Jesus* fulfills the promise He made in the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. He told His hearers that if they wanted to have eternal

(Continued on next page)

life, they had to eat His flesh and drink His blood. And when some protested and turned their backs on Him, He but repeated Himself, even more strongly, "Unless you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you shall not have life in you."

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church" reminds us that we must be free of mortal sin in order to receive worthily the body of Christ. The catechism adds this admonition, "bodily demeanor (gestures and clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest." All of us are encouraged to receive holy Communion each time we participate in the Mass.

From the earliest Christian times the Blessed Sacrament under the species of bread has been reserved. Because Christ Himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, He is to be honored with the worship of adoration. Pope Paul VI, of happy memory, urged us to visit the Blessed Sacrament. He said, *It is a proof of gratitude, an expression of love and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord.*"

Father Seelos was a man of deep faith and it was especially noticed when he celebrated the holy sacrifice of the Mass. To people he seemed to be entirely penetrated and profoundly impressed with the mystery he was celebrating. In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on the altar, it appeared all his mental faculties were absorbed in contemplation of *Jesus*.



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 SANCITY BULLETIN IS FOUR 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

Arabi, LA

In January of 1993 my husband was diagnosed with cancer of the bladder. After five attempts to scrape out the malignant tumors inside his bladder and six months of chemotherapy and thirty-six sessions of radiation he was told that the only way to rid himself of the cancer was to undergo surgery to remove the bladder.

My husband was also informed that this surgery would be extremely dangerous since it was believed that a condition where his bladder was fused to his colon area existed due to his previous surgery for prostate cancer and the radiation he had recently received. In fact his urologist suggested that the only place available for such surgery was at UCLA Medical Center.

Through our sister-in-law we had been introduced to Father Seelos and we had attended the special Masses for his canonization. We prayed that through Father Seelos' intercession my husband might be cured. In the meantime the prayers of our family and friends have sustained us through all his hospitalizations and his suffering. At this time, however, when he faced the decision to have the surgery we increased our prayers to Father Seelos and asked for the favor of locating a surgeon nearer to New Orleans who could do the surgery. Soon after that we received a call from my husband's urologist who told him about a doctor at Tulane Medical Center who could do the surgery.

We continued to pray to Father Seelos for his intercession for my husband's case. It was unbelievable that events just seemed to fall into place. As the surgery date approached we prayed for the Lord's and the Blessed Mother's assistance in the actual process of the surgery. After twelve hours of surgery the removal of the bladder was deemed a success. We were overjoyed to find out that the cancer had been contained only in the bladder after a year and a half of my husband being diagnosed with cancer. One of the doctors said that he could feel the presence of someone assisting the surgeons in the operating room. My husband's recuperation was much easier than had been anticipated; he spent just one and a half days in ICU and after a week in the hospital he was able to come home. Even though his kidney tubes did later block and surgery had to be performed again, my husband's recovery was steady.

Baton Rouge, LA

I would like to thank every one at the Center who prayed for my family and myself. Thanks for praying for my son who had brain surgery on Thursday. The tumor was removed and he is doing fine.

Metairie, LA

I had small lot in Toledo Bend and could not find a buyer for five years. I prayed to Father Seelos and within three weeks we sold it. I want to thank Father Seelos because I know it was through his intercession that made it so. Please pray that he will become a saint for I know he is.

Mail: July, 1995

Petitions: 586

Thanksgivings: 286

Others: 518

Total: 1390

Dial-A-Messages: 755

Volunteer Hours: 1027

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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. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.