



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXIV, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1995

"FATHER SEELOS DAY"



Father Charles Landry, C.S.S.R.



Former neighbors of the Irish Channel enjoy their get together: (L. to R.) Alice & Craig Jacobs, Frances Gabler, Jean Dewey, Marcus Heiny.



Mr. Bill McCrossen

On April 30 this year over 400 devotees of Father Seelos gathered in St. Mary's Church for a memorial Mass. The pastor of the parish, Father Charles Landry, celebrated the Mass and preached the homily. At the dinner that followed we heard Mr. Bill McCrossen, fire-chief emeritus of New Orleans, tell of his early days in the Irish Channel and of his work as fire chief. Over 150 people attended the dinner.

HUMILITY AND THE EUCHARIST

Writing of the incarnation of the Son of God, St. Paul said: "He (Christ) emptied Himself and took the form of a slave . . . He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself . . ." (Phil. 2: 7-8). He made Himself a little less than the angels. St. Alphonsus Liguori carries this thought a bit further. He writes that Jesus, in becoming man, hid His divinity; in the Eucharist, he hides even His humanity.

That the Son of God became man, is the miracle without parallel. Some find it impossible to believe. Those who find it difficult to believe the Incarnation will find it equally so to accept the doctrine of the holy Eucharist, Jesus really present under the sacramental forms of bread and wine.

When Jesus broached the subject of the Eucharist some of His followers would listen to Him no more, others said it was too hard a saying and who could believe it? Jesus did not try to explain the Eucharist away. Rather, He insisted that unless His disciples would eat His flesh and drink His blood, they would not have eternal life. He even said to His apostles, "Will you also go

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away?" St. Peter answered for all of them, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6: 60-69).

A recent poll was taken (by whom and of whom we are not aware) and the results showed that two-thirds of the people polled did not believe in the real presence of Christ under the forms of bread and wine. It is presumed that these people polled called themselves Catholics. If so, we may well wonder what these people were taught when they made their first Communion, what they think when they go to Mass, when they enter church and see the red sanctuary lamp burning that denotes the real presence.

Truly Jesus hid His humanity when He instituted the Holy Eucharist. In the Eucharist Jesus places Himself at the disposal of human beings, the priest who celebrates the Mass, the faithful who receive Him in holy Communion, those who come into the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, wherever it may be, cathedral, church, chapel. He is there for the consolation of those who believe in Him, but He is not guarded against those who do not believe.

Let us pray that faith in the presence of Jesus under the sacramental forms of bread and wine will increase and that all of us, priests, religious, laity will be moved to appreciate the good Lord, who in the Blessed Sacrament is fulfilling the promise He made to us not to leave us orphans. By our faith and devotion, let us make up for the indignities He has had to endure from unbelievers.



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

Roanoke, VA

I am writing this letter because I would like to share with you my experience with Father Francis Xavier Seelos. I was introduced to him about two months ago by my mother who had received some pamphlets through the mail. I am always interested in learning of new saints and holy people. I have had some difficult times this year. I was laid off from a job I had and was very depressed. My fiance has been very ill and had lost his job of 15 years. My aunt had been seriously ill and had wasted away to a mere 84 pounds and desperately needed to have heart surgery. The doctors felt she was too weak to survive heart surgery. I started saying prayers to Father Seelos for all the things that were falling apart in my life and the lives of the people that I care so much about.

I am happy to report to you that my aunt regained her weight and her strength and the doctor performed the surgery two weeks ago. She is doing fantastic! She will return to work in eight weeks after being off sick for more than ten months. My fiance has found a good temporary job that may turn into a permanent position. I have not yet found a job but I am confident that with the help of Father Seelos, I will.

Morgan City, LA

I had been trying to sell some property for a year and finally turned to Father Seelos for help. As always, he helped me. Within a week we had found a buyer and closed the sale yesterday. Also, I must report another big favor. In 1985 when my mother was 83, she underwent major surgery for an obstruction. The doctors did not know if she would pull through the surgery much less recover. She also had congestive heart failure. We had no other choice. She pulled through the operation and recovered to live another seven years. The doctors could not understand her recovery and considered it a miracle. She prayed her rosary daily and had it in her hand day and night and was an inspiration to all of us. She died in 1992 and I feel sure she is in heaven.

Saint Louis, MO

I wrote a personal pledge to myself to offer a public thanksgiving for something very important in my work, if it happened, as I prayed to Father Seelos. At 8:00 A.M. on the day, it looked as though it would not happen. I thought that the Lord had not answered my prayers through Father Seelos. At 8:15 A.M., *exactly* what I had prayed for, happened incredibly and miraculously and almost impossibly. How I praise and thank Father Seelos! Praying to Father Seelos has helped my faith and growth in the spirit. I am unworthy of his aid and yet he blessed me. In prayer to God and for Father Seelos' intercession, I will let faith replace fear.

Mail: April, 1995

Petitions: 619

Thanksgivings: 228

Others: 464

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Dial-A-Messages: 759

Volunteer Hours: 1019

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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.