

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1996



Mr. Templet presents the mission crucifix of Fr. Seelos after Mass, October 8, 1995.

ST. GERARD'S, BATON ROUGE

For the past dozen years or so, a special memorial Mass for Father Seelos was celebrated in the area of Baton Rouge, first in St. Alphonsus Church in Greenwell Springs for several years and lately in the church of St. Gerard in the city itself. Father Seelos, in the short year he spent in Louisiana, preached a retreat to the priests of Natchez diocese. On his way there he may have stopped in Baton Rouge. Mr. O. J. Templet has spearheaded the efforts to make Father Seelos known in the capital of Louisiana, aided by the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

CHRIST, OUR HOPE OF GLORY

If you ever look at the travel section of your Sunday newspaper or leaf through the travel magazines in the waiting room of your doctor or dentist, you may have noticed the appeal is often made by travel bureaus or agents to come visit their particular "Paradise." They tease the reader with the promises of bright sun, deep blue skies, sparkling white sand, swaying palm trees, balmy breezes. Tantalizing, isn't it, especially if it is winter time and you live in a cold climate. We all know that despite the promises, the reality leaves something to be desired: crawly creatures and biting insects, sand in the food, torrential and violent storms. Perhaps it is the best our imperfect world can offer.

The garden of Eden where Adam and Eve entered into this world was known as paradise. But they lost it. God promised the coming of one who would win it back for them and us. In the fullness of time Jesus became our Brother through the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Redeemer through His death on the cross and His resurrection three days later, and thus our hope of glory.

St. Paul wrote to the Colossians: "*God has willed to make known to them (His holy ones) the glory beyond price which this mystery brings to the Gentiles — the mystery of Christ in you, your hope of glory. This is the Christ we proclaim . . .*" (Col. 1: 27).

Heaven is paradise, heaven is eternal life with God. Jesus transmitted that promise to us when He spoke of the Holy Eucharist in the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John: "*I myself am the living bread come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever; the bread I will give is My flesh, for the life of the*

(Continued on next page)

world." When some of His hearers questioned the possibility of this, He said even more emphatically: "Let Me solemnly assure you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has life eternal, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6: 53-54).

There is a very dramatic episode in the life of Christ, His bringing His friend, Lazarus, back to life. It was several days after Lazarus had died that Jesus appeared in Bethany, the home of Martha and Mary. Many people had come from Jerusalem to console Martha and Mary on the death of their brother. Martha had gone out to meet Jesus and said that if He had been there Lazarus would never have died. Jesus assured her: "Your brother will rise again." Martha replied, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." It was then Jesus uttered those words that have echoed down the halls of the centuries: "I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11: 17-26).

The most dramatic incident in the life of Christ had to be His bloody and violent death on the cross. Surrounded by insensitive soldiers and a jeering mob, comforted only by a handful of faithful friends, His Mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, St. John and a few others, He was left to die with two thieves. The thief on His left taunted and cursed Him. The one on His right, however, acknowledged his sins and turning to Jesus, said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your reign." His answer was one we all wait to hear: "I assure you: this day you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23: 42-43).



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.

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Gretna, LA

I wish to thank Father Seelos and all his workers for the prayer support when I had surgery for a malignant tumor in my bladder on August 29, 1995. Although many good people were praying for me, I feel sure the blessing with the Father Seelos crucifix and his intercession was most instrumental in my "miracle." In 1961 I worked for the Father Seelos cause for a year or two, until I had to take employment. He must have remembered that — the little that I did.

The doctor feels the tumor is all out — only tests at Touro every three months will confirm this. I wish I could explain and describe how God and Father Seelos' prayers carried me through the surgery and recovery. Thanks so much to all of you, Angela and the crew, for your loving kindness.

Liguori, MO

On Monday, September 4, 1995, I started having unbearable pain in my colon. It burned like fire. In my agony I begged God to take me. A week later the doctor told me that I had an ulcer in my colon; that it was benign, could be treated with medication, but it would take a long, long time to heal.

A week later, on September 18, I received an 8 x 11 picture of Father Seelos, painted by a personal friend who is a professional artist. My husband and I framed it and gave it a place of honor at our house. Two days later I saw the doctor; he told me I am well, just to finish the medicine. No need to see him again.

Lafayette, LA

This letter of thanks to all of you at the Father Seelos Center for the prayers on behalf of my brother who underwent a heart transplant. I called and asked for someone to go to him with the mission crucifix before surgery and someone did. On August 20 he had the surgery and seven days later he walked out of the hospital. The doctors and nurses said they had never seen a patient recover so fast. He has no signs of rejection and says he's feeling well. I truly believe Father Seelos was looking after him all along. I pray that one day soon Father Seelos will be canonized as a saint.

Lake Charles, LA

This is a thanksgiving for the favors granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. I have made several trips to Father's tomb in order to bring petitions for friends ill from cancer. As of today two of them are free from the disease and the other is in remission. Praise God for His precious mercy and the intercession of Father Seelos.

Slidell, LA

This is a thanksgiving to Father Seelos for answered prayers to God through Father Seelos for the sale of some property. My devotion to Father Seelos will continue as long as I have the strength to pray.

Mail: October, 1995

Petitions: 689

Thanksgivings: 346

Others: 346

Total: 1347

Dial-A-Messages: 761

Volunteer Hours: 1039

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Rev. Joseph Butler, 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.