



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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LENT: THE THIRD TEMPTATION

The devil took Jesus Christ on high
On a mountain far up in the sky,
He showed Him the kingdoms of the world,
The devil's banner he unfurled,
"All these things will I give Thee,
If Thou wilt fall down and worship me."
"Only the Lord thy God shalt thou serve"
Thus said Jesus, He did not swerve,
The devil left Him, angels came,
Gave praise and glory to His name.

Lois Krulisky



The Grotto of the Immaculate Conception, Navarre, France. It was Sister Bernadette's favorite place to pray.

MOTHER OF HOPE

She was a simple young girl reared in one of the dusty villages of her homeland. She was not unschooled and had a good grasp of the book that was a big part of her religious background. In her love for God who was revealed in this book she had been inspired to remain a virgin even though she was preparing for marriage. The name of her future husband was Joseph, her name was Mary, and the village was Nazareth in Galilee.

Suddenly Gabriel, the angel of the Lord, appeared before her bowed in prayer and tells her not to be afraid. She is the highly favored daughter of God, "full of grace." She has been chosen to be the mother of the God-man, Jesus called the Christ.

There is a pause in the conversation; not only the angel waits for her answer, but all heaven and earth. It was as if a young girl would wade out into the Mississippi and with her slender arm and hand stop the flow of the great river.

When Mary said, "Be it done to me according to your word," there occurred the most important fact of human history which forever will divide the centuries, the Son of God became man. It was through Mary that the salvation of the human race came into the world.

It is an axiom in theology that when God gives someone an important role to fill, an important task to perform, He gives that person all the necessary graces.

(Continued on next page)

No matter how much we respect and love the mother God gave us, no one has ever been able to choose his own mother. But God could. And He made His Mother as perfect as possible. Mary was preserved immaculate from the first moment of her conception. Endowed with intelligence and free will she cooperated completely with the will of God. She remained a virgin even though she gave birth to the Son of God. When her life came to an end she was taken body and soul into heaven and there crowned Queen. These privileges came to her because she was the chosen human instrument by which the Savior came into the world.

This is not to say that Mary was removed from the ordinary vicissitudes of human life. She heard the grim prophecy of holy old Simeon that a sword of sorrow would pierce her soul. She fled the rage of King Herod with Jesus and Joseph and lived as a displaced person in Egypt. With Joseph she spent some anxious moments when the Child of twelve remained in Jerusalem while they began their return trip to Nazareth.

There were critical moments in the family life at Nazareth when there was not enough money to buy food. She had to mend clothes to make them last. She had to scheme how to make ends meet. She had all the difficulties that the other households had in a frontier town in an occupied country of two thousand years ago. There were no short cuts, no miracles.

There was no doubt a tearful goodbye when Jesus set out on His mission journey. She cringed when her own relatives had a low opinion of His teachings and when He was treated with contempt by the elders. No human words can quite express the grief she experienced when He was condemned to death and dragged through the narrow streets of Jerusalem, stripped of His clothing and almost naked thrown on a cross and lifted up on high to be a spectacle to the unruly mob who clamored for His death...

Despite all this Mary's hopes were never dimmed. Even more than Abraham, she hoped against hope. She was the first fruits of the redemption, she was taken to heaven body and soul and there crowned its Queen. For twenty centuries she has been the one human being we look to in moments of doubt, anguish, and yes, despair. Her life and reward is our inspiration. We pray now and at the defining moment of our life, Mother of holy hope, pray for us.

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, Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, or Mrs. Teresa LaCour, 887-0214.
 - 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 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

Jefferson, LA

Sometime ago I had a very bad fall which left me battered and unhappy with God's earthly treatment of me ... even though I realized that what happened was God's (permissive) will. I embraced the help of Father Seelos and declared to him ... that if God wanted to get in touch with me, He would simply have to call me by phone since He already had my number ... I knew that Father Seelos represented my link with the Hand of God and that time is what I needed to sort things out.

Later ... while making a phone call and waiting for the other person to return to the phone ... a male voice came over the phone saying firmly, "Somebody is knocking at your door right this moment! Open the door and open your heart to let God Almighty in before it is too late!" I stared at the phone ... Thinking little of it, with wires being crossed on electronic equipment today, I put it out of my mind.

The following day while I was calling a friend, once again the thundering male voice came through saying, "This is your final chance to open your heart and let God in." It unnerved me and I felt uneasy about what I had heard.

The phone company told me it was a crossover and I had probably picked up a radio program ... Somehow I never could track the speaker down.

When I repeated the story to a close friend, she said that since I had told Father Seelos to have God contact me by phone, He had done just that. It was then I realized that God wanted me to help Father Seelos as he had helped me. I have repeatedly told my story and have given information on Father Seelos and have heard such good results. I feel the answer, even to a mini-miracle for my son, as he calls it, is in the devotion to the good priest, who, by the way, is my "Dutch uncle" now. I gave him this name for myself when he helped me with my horrible accident months ago.

Perhaps all miracles are not based on fireworks and trumpets along the way to announce the wonders. To me, the miracle in my story lies in the patience the good "Dutch uncle" took with me to help me find my way back to where I belonged with God. It was a very comical happening for me, but in my opinion God's sense of humor had indeed saved the day for me, and to me this was priceless. Forever, and six days later, I will continue to tell about my little Father Seelos and how he holds and pats my hand when I am in dire need of comfort.

Father Seelos' power seems to lie in the kindness of his being, filling the human heart with understanding. God must certainly smile daily on our Father Seelos, for his works are pure and giving. In my pursuit of spreading devotion to Father Seelos, I find I am helping my inner self more than ever before in my life. . .

My attitude has changed regarding the "Why me, God?" and although many days will still hold barriers, my ship of faith will never again list badly . . . I gain strength from having Father Seelos as an important part of my life. Has not God blessed me! May Father Seelos be known the world over.

Mail: October, 1996

Petitions: 846

Thanksgivings: 319

Others: 554

Total: 1719

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