



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1998



## “NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN”

On April 24, 1994, Mrs. Lindy Boggs spoke to the attendees of the annual Father Seelos dinner. We congratulate her on her appointment as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. We ask the good Lord to bless her work through the intercession of Father Seelos.

## “FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT”

Our first trip to church was for our baptism when the minister of the sacrament poured water over our foreheads and said, “I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Thus we became members of the Catholic Church. Our sins were forgiven. We became adoptive sons and daughters of God the Father, members of Jesus the Son, temples of the Holy Spirit.

That there are three persons in one God is the fundamental dogma of the Christian faith. It is a deep mystery and what we do know could only have come to us by the revelation of God Himself. With human intelligence we are able to arrive at the knowledge that there is a God. We can only know that there are three persons in one God because God Himself told us.

St. John wrote his gospel after those of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and it is reasonable to assume that he was aware of what Luke and Matthew had written about the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary and His subsequent birth in Bethlehem. These stories are engraved in our memory and we treasure them.

St. John was able to stand back and see the great event of the incarnation and birth of Jesus from a theological viewpoint and to pen these lines: “In the beginning was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God” (John 1:1-2). In verse 13 of the same first chapter, St. John pursues the subject: “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love.”

*(Continued on next page)*

In a footnote on these verses, the Catholic edition of the New American Bible, we read: "Was: three times in the first verse this verb is used of the Word. First, it indicates timeless existence; next, relationship to the Father; finally, identity with God.

In His discourse at the last supper, Jesus revealed the third person of the Trinity. He said in verse 26 of the fifteenth chapter of St. John's gospel: "When the Paraclete comes, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father — and whom I myself will send from the Father — He will bear witness on my behalf."

In Chapter 16, St. John records that Jesus said: "It is much better for you that I go. If I fail to go, the Paraclete will never come to you, whereas if I go, I will send Him to you" (v.7). "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. When He comes, however, being the Spirit of truth, He will guide you to all truth" (V. 12-13).

St. Matthew, we read Jesus' second to last words: "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (28:19-20).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church cites the Athanasian creed: "Now this is the Catholic faith: We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the person or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son's is another, the Holy Spirit's another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal."

One final thought from the Catechism: "Inseparable in what they are, the divine persons are inseparable in what they do. But within the single divine operation each shows forth what is proper to Him in the Trinity, especially in the divine missions of the Son's Incarnation and the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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### 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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Tnad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423, Jim Howard, 277-7949 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
  - 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Quebec, Canada

Thanks to Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. for a favor obtained, one more favor good Father Francis Xavier has obtained for me. I came to know about Father Seelos from the Annals of Saint Anne. We are praying for his canonization. I hope that the publication of my letter will aid in his cause. Please publish this letter so that others will be inspired to pray for his speedy canonization (Tr).

Houston, TX

I am writing to tell you that I experienced a miracle. I wrote to you several months ago, October 1996. I asked you to send me some information on Father Seelos because I was in desperate need of his help. I was suffering from depression and had become a recluse in my home. One day I came across a Father Seelos Newsletter that my late grandmother had subscribed to. I felt she way trying to help me so I wrote to the center and your wonderful workers sent me a packet of information, mementos and prayer cards. I prayed to Father Seelos to help me and believe me, he has.

I am over my depression now. I have applied to grad school and it seems promising that I will be admitted. Wait, I have more news. I have been given a job!!! I am so thankful to our Lord, the Virgin Mary, and Father Seelos for helping me through the most difficult time of my life.

Slidell, LA

On Feb. 13th this year, my husband collapsed at 1:30 A.M. He was cold, disoriented and very pale, unable to move. I called 911 and he was taken to the hospital with a blood pressure of 44/20. Ten minutes after he arrived at the hospital, he started to hemorrhage internally, losing four pints of blood. Blood transfusions were started and a specialist called in to stop the bleeding. A scope was put down Mike's throat and a picture was taken of the stomach in hopes of finding the source of the bleeding. We were then informed that Mike had a tumor the size of a golf ball in his stomach, that would have to come out.

On Feb. 17th, Mike's 44th birthday, the surgery would begin at 11:30 A.M. We were told that he had a 50/50 chance of living as he had already lost a great deal of blood. I had been praying to Father Seelos to let everything go well during surgery. Five or six hours later the doctor came out to let us know the tumor was cancer and had had to remove four/fifths of his stomach. I felt thankful that he had made it through the surgery but afraid of what our future would be. Would Mike ever eat and enjoy life again?

So I felt a strong urge to call the center and I asked that someone would please come and bless Mike with the mission crucifix. In just a few hours a lady came to the hospital and blessed Mike with the cross, gave him a memento and prayer card. While in CCU I'd put Mike's hand on the memento and I said the prayer continually. I asked Father Seelos to pray that Mike would be free from any other cancer and that he would be able to eat and digest his food again.

It is now one month later. Mike is back at work in the oilfield. He is now able to eat small portions of food and his digestion is fine. We saw an oncologist last week who told us that the cancer had not spread to any other organs that could be seen with the eye. There is the possibility that cancer cells could have gotten out and are microscopic, so only God would know if they exist or not.

With the intercession of Father Seelos, we have faith that God has healed Mike completely. I publicly wish to thank Father Seelos; he has been our strength when we needed him most. We both pray daily for his canonization. We have had a true blessing in our family.

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Mail: September, 1997

Petitions: 699

Thanksgivings: 258

Others: 414

Total: 1371

Dial-A-Messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1061

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