



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1998



Fourth degree Knights of Columbus added solemnity to the Anniversary Mass.

150 YEARS IN NEW ORLEANS

On Sunday, November 9, 1997, the Redemptorists celebrated their arrival 150 years ago in New Orleans with Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church. The first community was sent by the then superior of Redemptorists in America, St. John Neumann, C.S.S.R., later bishop of Philadelphia.

"BE NOT AFRAID"

That early spring afternoon the sun was shining fitfully through the broken clouds. An unruly mob had gathered on a knoll outside the city walls. Cursing and ribald shouts were heard from a closed group surrounding three men dying a violent death in penalty for their crimes, real and imagined. Directly beneath the cross in the middle stood several women and one young man, mourning the suffering and imminent death of their loved one. The dying man was Jesus. His friends were Mary His Mother, Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Clopas, and the apostle St. John. It was the first Good Friday.

Only a few days ago a crowd of followers had welcomed Jesus into the city and hailed Him as the son of David and placed their garments and palm branches beneath the hooves of the donkey that carried Him through the city streets. It was only a few hours ago that another crowd had cried for His death as Pilate presented them with a choice between Jesus and Barabbas.

Within the time limit of less than 24 hours the Savior had been taken prisoner, dragged to several sham trials during the night, confronted by the Roman governor, subjected to a cruel scourging, crowned with a close-fitting cap of thorns pressed into His skull, mocked and spit upon by unfeeling soldiers. All bloody and covered with spittle and dirt, He was made a spectacle to the mob, and then the mob, incited by His enemies, shouted "Crucify Him!"

(Continued on next page)

I have often wondered what was going through St. John's mind as he watched his Master dying a shameful death, totally innocent of any crime. Did he recall the warnings Jesus had made, often enough, about going to Jerusalem and suffering and dying and rising again? Was he, like the other apostles, still wondering what Jesus meant by saying "on the third day I will rise again"?

John and his brother James had once a vision of their position of power in the kingdom they dreamed of Jesus founding. This dream was quickly fading in this late afternoon. All his hopes were dashed. Yet this was the time for him to recall the message Jesus had given them as they were completing their last supper together: "I tell you all this that in Me you may find peace. You will suffer in this world. But take courage. I have overcome the world" (John 14:33). Was it there and then on Calvary that John began to see the gloom of Good Friday fade into the triumph of Easter Sunday?

If there is one cause for despondency across the world, perhaps it could be the surfeit of news that pounds upon us day after day. Most of the news is bad, rarely is it good, and now with the internet added to television, radio, and all the other sources of news, at the end of any given day, we can literally be overwhelmed with sadness. An earthquake in Italy or the Andes, a hurricane in Mexico, a famine in Africa, a war in the Balkans, a typhoon in the Far East, a volcano erupting in the Caribbean, a revolution in the south Pacific — that is just the world news. Now for the national and regional news: murders, rapes, kidnappings, robberies, quarrels, accidents, political debates, muggings, car-jackings, and on and on. Is it any wonder that so many of us say, what is this world coming to?

When we add this world-misery to our own baggage of past sins, present temptations and worries, and always the uncertainties of life today, we could be inclined to be despondent. Yet there is always hope. Be not afraid, Jesus told us: "I have overcome the world." Our hope rests in Him and on His power, mercy and His fidelity to His promises. "Be not afraid."

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad 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

Lafayette, LA

I promised to acknowledge that I received a special favor through the intercession of Father Seelos. Recently I had to take my husband to the hospital because he was having problems with an irregular heart beat. He was put on a heart monitor; x-rays and blood work was done. He was kept overnight for observation. The following day the cardiologist came in and said the heart problem was not serious but a spot was found on one of his lungs. We were very concerned and afraid.

I prayed to Father Seelos and asked him to please ask God to let my husband be all right. A CT scan was done and it was discovered that the spot appeared to be scar tissue when he had pneumonia about seven years ago. The doctor wants to have x-rays taken in two months.

I pray to Father Seelos every day and ask him to keep me and my husband in good health. I have prayed to Father Seelos for many favors and they are always granted. I hope Father Seelos will soon be declared a saint.

New Orleans, LA

My son, Robert, very much needed a job. He was hoping, after being unable to find something locally, to connect with the seafood industry in Alaska. He had faxed several applications to several companies but had no response.

I prayed very hard to Father Seelos on a Friday night. The next day, Saturday, my son asked me to stop by Mail Boxes, Inc. and fax one more application. I did this and continued to the grocery store, one block away. When I returned home, my son had a job and had already arranged a flight to Seattle. He left three days later. I feel none of this would have happened without the power of Father Seelos' prayers. It was truly a miracle! Thanks again, Father Seelos.

North Valley Stream, N.Y.

I want to write this note to state that Father Seelos' power from God is real and that he has helped me a lot on many occasions with my son. Thank you, Father Seelos.

Thibodaux, LA

My wife recently underwent a mammogram and they suspected a problem. She had to undergo a more extensive one and as we waited for the results we prayed to Father Seelos and touched her with a memento of his. Two days later the doctor called that everything was fine and the "shadow" they saw was dissolving. Father Seelos has interceded for us in the past.

New Orleans, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos asking for victory in a matter that seemed hopeless to pursue. I want it to be known that through Father Seelos my victory came and I know it was through Father Seelos because this was supposed to be a done deal. Thirteen months later, it was reopened and I came out a victor. Please let him be declared a saint of the Church, so others may know and imitate his holy life.

Lafayette, LA

My nephew was burned on August 31, 1997, his face, arms, and legs. He returned home after spending eight days in the Baton Rouge Burn Center. He returned back to the hospital today for a doctor's visit thinking he was going to have some skin grafting. I said a special prayer to Father Seelos for him to be doing well enough so he would not have to have skin grafted. Thanks to Father Seelos for his blessings on my nephew. He was able to come back home today. The doctors say he is doing very well.

Mail: October, 1997

Petitions: 785

Thanksgivings: 312

Others: 370

Total: 1467

Dial-A-Messages: 789

Volunteer Hours: 1078

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