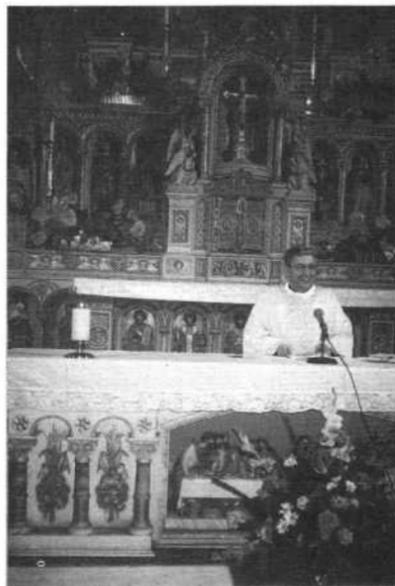




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1999



FATHER ANTONIO MARRAZZO, C.S.S.R. POSTULATOR GENERAL

On October 4, 1998, Father Antonio Marrazzo, C.S.S.R., preached at the annual memorial Mass for Father Seelos. It was the 131st anniversary of his death. Father Marrazzo, as postulator general, represents the causes of Redemptorist candidates for sainthood before the Congregation of the Causes of the Saints at the Vatican. His presence was inspirational and gave an added impetus to our prayer.

TILL THE END OF TIME

"Time" will always be a fascinating subject – for conversation, for history, for science, and

I am not writing of the magazine TIME. We all know by experience that time has three tenses: past, present, and future. We also know by experience that time is a procession of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, and yes, but only rarely, millennia.

I recall many decades ago our class of new Redemptorists fresh from the novitiate in the Missouri Ozarks and now on the shores of Lac LaBelle in Wisconsin, was being initiated into the process of human thought. On this particular day the subject was "time". We all thought we knew what it was until the professor asked each one of us to define it according to our individual lights. Afterwards he gave us the textbook explanation. Then we were really confused.

As we draw near to the year 2000, Pope John Paul II has called for a year of jubilee to commemorate the greatest happening in the history of the human race: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the Son of God become man through the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A thousand years ago the world commemorated the first millennium since the birth of Jesus. We learn that then there was wild speculation about the end of the world, dire prophecies, grim forebodings. Yet the world has gone on to exist for another thousand years.

In his gospel St. John wrote: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God ... and the Word was made flesh and made His dwelling among us

(Continued on next page)

(John 1:1,14). The Word is the second Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is the revelation of the word of God to His people.

In the days that He spent on earth, Jesus spoke to His hearers of the end of the world. He spoke in graphic and apocalyptic terms. They naturally asked Him when this would all come to pass. His answer was true in that day as it is still true today. "As for the exact day or hour, no one knows it, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36).

We are all God's creatures. We are endowed with a spiritual soul, with intelligence and free will, and along with the grace of God, we are called upon to recognize our Creator and to conform our lives willingly to His directions. We are all given a certain amount of time to gain eternal life with Him – the reward of our free and faithful compliance with His will...

To the word of God coming to us through the prophets of old, and lastly through the Son of God, we have only to make our act of faith, I believe. He pleads with us to come to Him and unburden ourselves and find rest for our souls. He promised us eternal life if we would eat His flesh and drink His blood in the Holy Eucharist, in the memorial of His sacrifice on Calvary. Lest we refuse to accept this doctrine, He turns to us as to His apostles and asks us, will we also go away? Our answer as St. Peter's has to be, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Jesus urged His apostles to have so strong a faith that if they said, move this mountain into the sea, it would be so done. He told them, not to fear. He had conquered the world. He told them, "And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).
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: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 487-4404, 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

LaPlace, LA

This letter is being written on behalf of my daughter, Linda, who on July 7, 1998, suffered a severe brain aneurysm at approximately 6:30 P.M. She was rushed to the local hospital here in LaPlace and immediately transferred to East Jefferson Hospital in Metairie ... a neurosurgeon explained the grim situation to her husband and me.

On Thursday, July 9th, she underwent an eleven hour brain surgery and was incoherent, etc. for the next fourteen days at which time an additional four hour surgery was performed. She still remained semi-coherent. At 4:30 P.M. on Friday, August 14th, she had a fever 103 plus, totally unconscious and had a very labored breathing from fluid in her lungs. To see her there, I was sure that she would smother and felt that the end was near. My only hope was to again place Father Seelos' memento, which I had attached to my brown scapular to make sure that I always had it with me, on her and ask for his intercession for a miracle, through Our Lord Jesus Christ. As visiting hours were over, we had to leave ICU, and reluctantly went home depressed and sad.

At 8:00 P.M. her husband came to visit again and found her sitting up at bedside, watching TV. The Saints' game came on and she asked him to turn up the volume so she could hear. This was her first sentence since July 7, 1998 at 6:30 P.M. He was ecstatic! He could not believe this and could not wait to call us at home to tell us the good news. I feel that this was the miracle of Father Seelos and of course with the help of others to whom my wife had been praying.

While Linda has been transferred to Touro for rehab since September 9th, she still has a long hospital stay to regain her short-term memory as well as walking, etc., but we are thankful that she is still with us today.

Longmont, CO

This letter has a twofold mission. The first is to thank you for sending me a copy of the "Cheerful Ascetic" which I read and enjoyed immensely.

The second reason for writing is to tell you that Fr. Seelos is on the job.

I am a recovering alcoholic. My widowed sister who lives quite a distance from me also has a drinking problem. I won't call her an alcoholic because only she can decide that for herself. When I received the book, the holy card and mementos, I immediately began to pray to Father Seelos for my sister to get relief from her problem.

One day after praying for some weeks I had what we ex-drinkers like to call a moment of clarity. (The Holy Spirit?) I realized I was praying to Father Seelos for the wrong thing. I immediately began to pray that my sister would find God. She had fallen away from the Church years ago. I continued to pray to Father Seelos in this manner for several months.

Last week in a telephone conversation with my sister she told me she had sent to a religious supply house for a prayer book and some rosary beads.

I will continue to pray to Father Seelos not just in petition but also in thanksgiving.

Destrehan, LA

After nine years our son who had a heart transplant continues to do very well.

In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Jude and Father Seelos we enclose this gift and ask for your continued prayers.

I also ask for a healing of my brother who has cancer.

Mail: September, 1998

Petitions: 610

Thanksgivings: 230

Others: 599

Total: 1439

Dial-A-Messages: 743

Volunteer Hours: 1057

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