



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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NOVEMBER, 1991

ST. MARY'S, ANNAPOLIS

St. Mary's in Annapolis was the scene of Father Seeelos' life on two occasions, once as novice master, the other as prefect of students. He was also the pastor of the parish. Between his first and second stint, Father Michael Mueller had built the new rectory, church, and seminary - all added to the building which was the birthplace of Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The photo shows us a detail of Sachse's "Birds Eye View of Annapolis", circa 1858.



PRAYER AND THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Since prayer is the universal means of salvation, we can pray to God at any time, in any place. However, prayer is most fitting and expected in church, the sacred place where dwells the holy Eucharist, Jesus, God's only Son, under the sacramental veils of bread and wine.

Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament was especially dear to St. Alphonsus de Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists. He lived in a time when the spirit of Jansenism kept people from receiving holy Communion frequently on the pretext that no one was worthy of such an honor. To combat this cold rigoristic approach to the Blessed Sacrament, St. Alphonsus in 1745 wrote his famous Visits to the Blessed Sacrament. In these visits (one for every day of the month), St. Alphonsus poured forth with all his Neapolitan fervor his love for Jesus "who night and day dwells in the tabernacle, ready and eager to welcome all who come to visit Him." (Visits to the Most Blessed Sacrament by St. Alphonsus may be obtained from Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057).

The Second Vatican Council in its document on the renewal of the liturgy pointed out that Christ is always present in His Church: "He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, 'the same one now offering, through the ministry of priests, who formerly offered Himself on the cross,' but especially under the Eucharistic species." The Council goes on to say that Jesus is present in the other sacraments, in the word of scripture proclaimed in church, and when the Church prays and sings.

That the Mass is a true sacrifice is the official teaching of the Church. That Christ is really present in the consecrated elements of bread and wine is also the official teaching of the Church. To maintain the distinction between the sacrifice and the real presence, many churches have now placed the Blessed Sacrament in a special chapel or on a side altar duly ornamented to denote the mystery therein contained. The sanctuary lamp signals the Eucharistic presence of Jesus.

For centuries the Catholic faithful have found reward and consolation in this adoration of the holy Eucharist. And it will continue. Archbishop Fulton Sheen, of happy memory, used to recommend a daily hour before the Blessed Sacrament. He practiced what he preached. The Church grants a plenary indulgence to those who spend at least one half an hour before the Eucharist. In this day and age true devotion to Jesus in the tabernacle can only lead to a greater appreciation of, and participation in, the holy sacrifice of the Mass and holy Communion.

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. VHS cassette only: \$45.00.
 - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
 - d. "The Sanctified Body," by Patricia Treece, a study of the physical phenomena that accompany persons who are close to God. Price: \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage.
 - e. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
 - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
 - g. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404.
 - h. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
 - i. The 11:30 A.M. PARISH MASS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH IS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER. Veneration of the mission crucifix of Father Seelos after the Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS TWO 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

Mobile, AL

I thoroughly enjoy the bulletin Father Seelos and Sanctity. I especially like the "Special Letters." Thanks a million for keeping me on the mailing list in spite of my tardiness in renewing my subscription. Fr. Seelos is truly working many, many miracles. I sincerely hope he will very soon be canonized. He certainly was a very saintly priest.

Rayne, LA

I regret taking so long to write this letter, but have decided that now is the time. Almost two years ago in July, my husband's brother, his expectant wife and two-year old son were involved in a traffic accident. The unborn baby, a little girl weighing six pounds, two ounces was killed immediately on impact. The husband and son had very little injuries. My sister-in-law was hospitalized for a number of weeks with a crushed right hip, a broken leg and arm.

I asked for prayers at the Father Seelos Center. When I handed my brother-in-law the memento of Father Seelos, he held it in his hand and said, "I only hope that she will not have to have any more surgeries." The hip was so badly crushed that the doctors were thinking of sending her to a special out-of-state hospital for corrective hip surgery. As time wore on and more x-rays were taken, they continued to talk of surgery for the hip. Two days prior to her leaving the hospital, an orthopedic surgeon examined the x-rays and stated that every broken bone of the hip was in its place and surgery at this time was not needed.

With endurance on her part and physical therapy, she walks with a slight limp. She is presently working as a receptionist, a mother and wife. They are expecting a new baby in August of this year. She told me yesterday that the doctor feels she will be able to have the baby naturally.

I know that had it not been for the intercession of Father Seelos to God, my sister-in-law would not have fared so well. I pray and thank God for Father Seelos. I hope some day soon he will be canonized. I know he is a saint.

Mobile, AL

We were given very short notice that my niece was being tested for cancer of the throat. I made a nine-hour novena to Father Seelos that the results would reveal no malignancy. Thanks to Father Seelos, all tests were negative.

Mail, July, 1991

Petitions: 636 Thanksgivings: 323 Other: 386 Total: 1345

Dial-a-messages: 739

Volunteer Hours: 1086

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