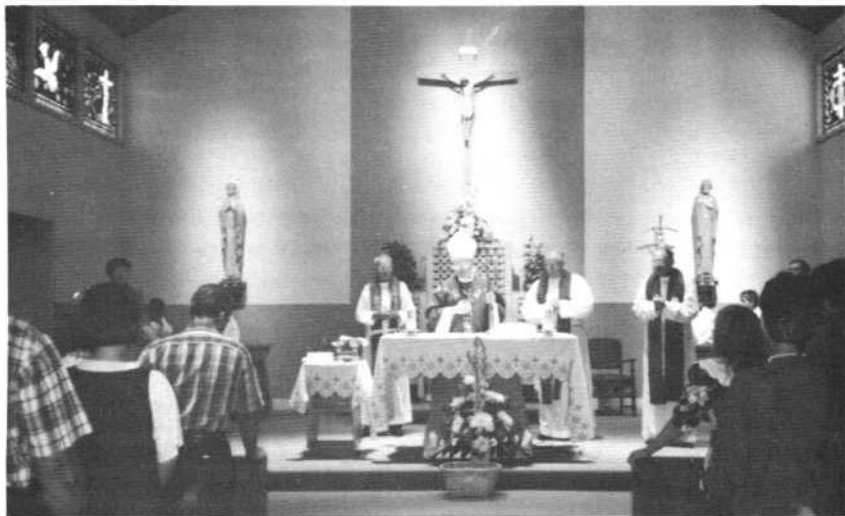




# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1992



## CROWLEY SALUTES FATHER SEELOS

On Sunday, August 11 of last year, Most Reverend Harry Flynn, bishop of the diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana, celebrated a memorial Mass for Father Seeelos in Immaculate Heart Church, Crowley, Louisiana. Father Joseph Steffes, C.S.S.R., is the pastor of this parish and Father Edward Cosgrove, C.S.S.R., his associate.

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## COMPASSION

Christian hope in eternal life with God is based on the promises of Christ, on His fidelity to His promises, His power to fulfill them and His tender mercy.

A large component of mercy is compassion. Webster defines compassion as the "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress with a desire to alleviate it."

Jesus learned compassion by living among us. Rich, He became poor; He humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant. He accepted the human condition and was subject to the law of death. His life began in poverty when Mary and Joseph had to seek shelter in a cave for His birth. As a young child still in His Mother's arms, He became a refugee in the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. In the home at Nazareth He knew hardship as the helper of Joseph the carpenter and Mary the housewife.

In the desert He fasted 40 days and 40 nights. In His public ministry He had no place to lay His head. He felt the heat and the cold; He was thirsty walking up and down the dusty trails of the Holy Land.

He knew first hand the pain, both mental and physical, that suffering can bring. He was arrested, scourged with whips, crowned with thorns. Spittle, insults, blows, derision were heaped upon Him. How the ingratitude of the people who shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him" cut deep into His heart!

When Jesus sensed the possible embarrassment of the hosts at the wedding feast of Cana, He changed water into wine at His Mother's request. Once a crowd followed Him out into a deserted place where there was little food. He had compassion on them and fed them with miraculous loaves of bread and fishes. As He met the funeral procession of the only son of the widow of Naim, His heart went out to her. He called the son back to life and gave him to his mother. Two blind men at Jericho called out to be cured of their blindness, and Jesus, moved with compassion, touched their eyes, and immediately they could see. Later on, moved with pity at the sight of a leper, He touched him and said, "Be cured." And so he was.

He helped more than bodies. He had mercy on the sinner. He forgave the sins of the woman taken in adultery and bade her sin no more. To the penitent woman who anointed His feet, He said, "Your sins are forgiven" (Luke, 7/48).

He promised the repentant thief on the cross on His right on Calvary a place in His kingdom. His first words on the cross were forgiveness for His executioners, "Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing" (Luke, 23/34).

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. 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. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
  - f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, or Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404.
  - 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. 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## SPECIAL LETTERS

Pauline, LA

It was three years ago this November that our little girl was born. Shortly after her birth we were informed by her doctors that she was moved to the neo-natal intensive care unit. They said she had pneumonia and was under oxygen and also had a Strep "B" infection which is one of the leading causes of death in newborns. They also informed us that a spinal tap was necessary. Being unable to see her right away was very hard for me, her mother, after having a caesarean delivery. I had to wait till the numbness went away before I could get out of bed. When all of our family arrived at the hospital to be with us, my mother-in-law gave us a Father Seelos prayer-card. My husband placed it in our little girl's bed in the NIC unit and it has never been out of it since. We repeatedly said his prayer when by our little girl's side and asked for Father Seelos' prayers to help our little girl fight off this infection.

We feel by our faith in God as practicing Catholics, and especially by our prayers to Father Seelos, our prayers were definitely answered. It was hard leaving our little girl at the hospital when I was discharged, but we knew she was on her way to recovery. Every night Fr. Seelos' prayer-card is placed under our little girl's pillow and when traveling it goes with her also. There is not a day that goes by that Father Seelos is not in my prayers. I truly believe that his prayers to God gave back to us the most precious gift that any two parents could receive from God. Our beautiful little girl was three years old in November; you are remembered in our daily prayers.

Lafayette, LA

In September my husband suffered a mild stroke and was brought to the hospital in Lafayette. Considering his previous severe heart problems, my family and I were concerned about his recovery. After several weeks in the hospital he was diagnosed to have a problem with his leg and possible amputation. Immediately I began praying for Father Seelos' intercession. I had a memento of Father Seelos and had my husband kiss it. We both prayed to Father Seelos. Three weeks afterwards my husband is in rehabilitation with all his limbs. All our thanks to the good Lord and His servant, Father Seelos.

Bronx, N.Y.

This is my special thanks to Father Seelos. I receive the bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. Thanks to him for the many times I have been helped by saying a prayer to him. I am 90 years old and do volunteer work four days a week. I hope to live to see him declared a saint before I go to join him in heaven.

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Mail, October, 1991

Petitions: 675      Thanksgivings: 342      Other: 471      Total: 1488

Dial-a-messages: 731

Volunteer Hours: 1254

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Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.