



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXV, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1996

## “BY HIS CROSS -



This photo shows Jesus no longer nailed to the cross, with arms outstretched and clad in the glowing robes of glory. After the ultimate suffering of death came the resurrection. This crucifix hangs in the chapel of the Redemptorist St. John Neumann residence in Biloxi, Mississippi, left there by the previous religious residents. A member of the Redemptorist community was so taken with the significance of this religious art that he asked for a photo of it. Father Paul Tong was suffering from cancer

and he knew that his days were numbered. He found consolation in thinking of the transformation that awaited him as he breathed his last. He never saw this photo but instead saw the reality in eternity and heard the word, “Welcome,” from the lips of the risen Savior.

## - AND RESURRECTION”

Amid the joys and pleasures of our earthly life there are also trials and sorrows and yes, suffering. There is no escape. The old refrain had it, into every life a little rain must fall. And for that reason the same question is asked over and over again, why must we suffer? Why does the good God allow this evil in our lives? The questioning has become more acute now that “Doctor Death” is on the loose.

Suffering is a mystery. Paradoxical as it may seem, it takes faith to begin to understand this mystery. The trouble of the human race began in the garden of Eden when our first parents, Adam and Eve, endowed with intelligence and free will by their Creator, transgressed the one prohibition given them and ate the forbidden fruit. They were punished for their sin, and, banished from the garden, were condemned to suffering and death. The idyllic life of Eden came to an end and we, their descendants, carry with us the effects of their sin.

In the course of time Jesus, the Son of God, became man through the Blessed Virgin Mary and thus came to our rescue. In becoming our Brother, He accepted fully the human condition even to death on the cross. Being God as well as man He did not need to shed His blood. He did so that He could identify even more with us and thus help us learn the redemptive value of suffering.

After He was transfigured on Mount Thabor before Peter, James and John, Jesus told them He was going to Jerusalem where He would be taken prisoner,

*(Continued on next page)*

put to death, and on the third day He would rise again. Peter told Him that nothing like that should happen to Him. Jesus told Peter that he thought as the world thought not as God thought. After all, He had told His followers, *"If anyone would be My disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and come follow Me."*

The defining moment of the crucifixion was the resurrection. St. Paul says he preached Christ crucified, but he also said if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then our faith was in vain. At the tomb of Lazarus, Martha, his sister, reminded Jesus that if He had been there, her brother would never have died. The Savior said her brother would rise from the dead, and Martha answered that she believed he would rise on the last day. It was then Jesus made this famous promise. *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, even though he dies, shall live forever."* At the command of Jesus, Lazarus came forth from the tomb, only eventually to die again.

Speaking of His own death on the cross, Jesus told His hearers, *"I solemnly assure you, unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth, and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit"* (John 12:24).



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: Mrs. Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Mrs. Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Mr. Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, or Mrs. Teresa LaCour, 887-0214.
  - 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

Slidell, LA

I have just recovered from a staph infection in the heart which made surgery necessary to replace the infected heart valve. While in I.C.U., my kidneys failed and the liver was damaged, causing my condition to be critical. A very dear friend brought his Father Seelos memento to the hospital and my wife pinned it to my hospital gown. Shortly after that, my condition began to reverse and I am now enjoying good health once more. Thanks to my good friend's kindness and the intercession of Father Seelos. I thank them, and the good God, for another chance at my life.

Gretna, LA

I had been suffering with the reflux esophagus for more than a year and a half. I never stopped praying to Father Seelos and making visits to his tomb, asking his intercession to find a new doctor to relieve my suffering. I would like to offer thanks to Father Seelos for answering my prayers. In April, after a visit with a new doctor, I was diagnosed favorably and have had a complete turn-around. I can't thank God enough through Father Seelos for answered prayers.

Gretna, LA

Recently our daughter-in-law had a serious intestinal operation, having had part of her intestines removed. I gave her a Father Seelos memento and the prayer to recite. She is improving every day and is doing well. I promised this letter of thanks to Father Seelos for this favor and his intercession.

Marrero, LA

My son lost his job and I put his dilemma in Father Seelos' hands by praying fervently. In three weeks my son had another Job and a better one than he had had. My thanks to Father Seelos for interceding for me to God and I continue to pray for a long-awaited favor.

Metairie, LA

I have two reasons to write in thanksgiving for Father Seelos' intercession. My sister was diagnosed with cancer of the breast some years ago and has to have regular mammograms. Something showed up on her last test. I began praying to Father Seelos for his intercession on her behalf. A biopsy was made and proved negative. My heartfelt thanks to God and Father Seelos.

My mother is 83 years old and has been plagued with problems with her lungs together with her asthma. I began praying to Father Seelos for his intercession on her behalf. For the past couple of weeks her lungs have been fine. Her nurse, upon listening to her lungs, said they have never been so clear. Thanks again to the good God and Father Seelos.

Baltimore, MD

I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession. Recently I had both eyes operated on for cataracts. But most of all on New Year's and the Fourth of July, I was rushed to the hospital for blockages in the heart. I had heart surgery seven years ago (six-way by-pass). In both events I pulled through - no damages, thanks to Father Seelos and some "stiff" praying, I felt sure Father Seelos would pull me through and he did!

---

Mail: August, 1996

Petitions: 750

Thanksgivings: 204

Others: 387

Total: 1345

Dial-A-Messages: 726

Volunteer Hours: 1045

**FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)**

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by

The Father Seelos Center

2030 Constance Street

New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

**Periodical postage paid at New Orleans, LA.**

**Postmaster: send address changes to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY**

**2030 Constance St., New Orleans, LA 70130-5099**

12/96

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father-Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 523-3734. Subscription is \$4.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approval.

Rev. Albert Babin, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.