



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1997

OCTOBER MEMORIAL MASS

Despite the rain the annual memorial Mass still brought together a church filled with people. The provincial of the Baltimore province of the Redemptorists graciously presided at the ceremonies. Here he is pictured presenting the mission crucifix of Father Seelos for veneration in St. Mary's Assumption Church on October 6.



Fr. George Keaveney, C.S.S.R.

FAITH - HUMAN AND DIVINE

A priest on the staff of a well-known national Catholic magazine was calling on a busy city pastor to interest him in his periodical.

"What are you selling, Father?", the pastor asked somewhat brusquely.

The caller responded quietly, "Nothing more nor less than you, Father — the faith."

Faith, in the sense we write of now, is the acceptance of a truth on the strength of God's Word. God has spoken to us through the Scriptures and the Church, and because God is truth itself, we say, I believe.

In the world today there is a prevalent mind-set that there is no such thing as a miracle, there is no contact with God, there is nothing beyond the visible universe. We can sense a definite indifference, if not downright hostility, toward anything beyond the natural. Seeing, and seeing only, is believing.

Years ago I had to smile at the young man who came to see me fresh from his senior year in college.

"Father," he said, "I am an agnostic."

"What is an agnostic?", I asked.

His answer was, "I accept as a fact only what I can see."

I remembered then the old saying, "I know that as well as I know my own name," so I asked the young man, "What is your name?"

"My name is Jim."

"How do you know your name?"

"Well, er, my mom and dad told me."

It was then he realized that as well as he knew his own name, he had all along taken it on human faith - the word of his parents. How labored our life would be if we did not trust the word of others!

We recall the poll taken of Catholics regarding their belief in the holy Eucharist, and how two-thirds of those polled did not believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Frightening news, that!

(Continued on next page)

Not too long ago I had a conversation with a Catholic young man. Somewhere in the conversation he said that no one had ever returned from the grave.

I said, "One did return from the grave, Jesus Christ."

His reply stunned me: "You don't believe that?"

All I could say was, "I would not be wearing a Roman collar, if I did not."

We have just concluded the celebration of the beautiful season of Christmas. We commemorated the 1,996th anniversary of the birth of Jesus through the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Son of God become man, the central fact of human history. Now there seems to be a conspiracy to obliterate the name of the One whose birth we honor at Christmas time. Happy Holiday, they say, instead of Merry Christmas. There are so-called "constitutional purists" who find any breath of Christian belief to be noxious to the humanist nose. They find no difficulty in celebrating Christmas without Christ. How droll, how terrible!

If the resurrection of Christ from the dead is met with disbelief, if the holy Eucharist is too difficult a concept to accept, even as some of Jesus' hearers murmured when He made the promise of the Eucharist nearly 2,000 years, how much more unbelievable will be the story that one day the God of heaven stopped to earth below and took upon Himself our human nature and dwelt among us as man! Yet God has spoken and so it is and we accept the word of God and we believe.



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.

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SPECIAL LETTERS

Folsom, PA

My experience with the miracles of Father Seelos is when I had a disease that affects your spinal cord called spinal meningitis. Spinal meningitis can be partial or complete. Patients with this disease do not survive or survive with heavy brain damage. I was in a coma for a week and the day my grandparents called their friends, Mel and Angela Boudreaux, to pray to Father Seelos, I woke up within two hours fully recovered and asking for spaghetti. My eyes remained crossed, but after that I think I have gotten smarter and I pray to Father Seelos, thanking him for his intercession with God for my recovery.

Bethpage, NY

On a Sunday in June I was watching the religious channel on television and the program was about Father Seelos and the many miracles he is performing. I was interested in hearing about Father Seelos because I had once heard about him and had prayed to him for my sister who was very ill with cancer.

I left the TV on and went to see a neighbor of mine whose brother was in the hospital in critical condition in a coma. I said to her, "*Pray to Father Seelos for your brother because Father Seelos is performing many miracles.*"

That Sunday night I said the rosary and I asked my sister, now deceased, if she could give me a sign that she was in heaven. I had been asking for a sign since she died.

The next morning my daughter received a call from her friend, the one above mentioned, and she told her that she had a dream about my sister. My sister and I were very close and we did everything together and I miss her very much. The friend told my daughter that my sister, in her dream, told her to go to the closet and get the red suit. My daughter wanted to know if my sister had a red suit or red jacket or sweater. I told my daughter I did not think so. The friend said that, in her dream, my sister was at MY house and telling her to go into the closet.

I remembered I had once put into one of my pockets (the suit was red), so I said to my self, if it is in the pocket of my red suit, I will know that my sister is in heaven. I went into my closet and put my hand in the pocket and on a piece of paper napkin, because at the time it was the only thing I had to write on, was the name 'Father Francis X. Seelos.' My daughter and I started to cry because we realized that this was the sign we were waiting for.

I will pray to Father Seelos always.

Mobile, AL

My doctor wanted me to have some tests made, and since I was feeling fine I was tempted to cancel. I prayed to Father Seelos to accept the results no matter what they were. To my delight and surprise the tests revealed something that could have been fatal, if not removed. I do believe the dear Lord and Father Seelos directed me. I will be eternally grateful for the answer to my prayers.

Mail: September, 1996

Petitions: 717 Thanksgivings: 277

Others: 258

Total: 1252

Dial-A-Messages: 749

Volunteer Hours: 1049

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