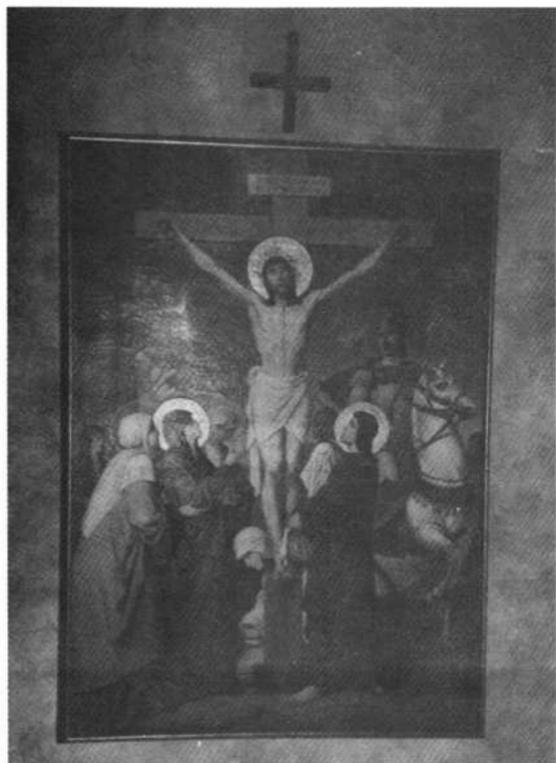




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1997



This photo of the XII station of the Way of the Cross was painted by Brother Max Schmalzl, C.S.S.R., a noted religious painter of the mid-1800's in Germany. His original Way of the Cross is now on display in the Father Seelos Museum.

"IN MEMORY OF ME"

It was a Thursday evening in early spring. The sun was just beginning to set. Jesus sat down at table with His twelve apostles to eat the passover meal. At the outset the festive air was dampened. Jesus had said how happy He was to eat this meal with them, how He had looked forward to it, and then added ominously, "before I suffer."

Jesus had corrected St. Peter for daring to tell Him he could not suffer. But now Peter was wondering when Jesus would fulfill His promise not to leave them orphans and to be with them until the end of time. And then there were sayings of His (recorded in the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John). "The bread I will give is my flesh for the life of this world." "He who feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has life eternal." And even more strongly: "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood you have no life in you."

Peter had to recall how many of Jesus' hearers thought these were hard statements and walked no more with Him and how Jesus

had turned to the Twelve and said, "Will you also go away?" It was reassuring to Peter to remember that he had answered for them all, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

From the very beginning Peter had seen the power of Jesus — changing water into wine at Cana, feeding 5000 and more people with five loaves of bread and a few fish, walking on the water and calming the winds and the waves when they threatened the boat they were sailing in.

(Continued on next page)

Peter was there when Jesus cured the paralytic and had him walk, when he gave the blind man sight, when ten lepers were cleansed of their disease. He was there when Jesus raised the young girl back to life, when He restored the dead son of the widow of Naim to his mother, and when Lazarus, four days dead, walked out of the tomb at the command of Jesus.

The II Vatican Council in its document on the Sacred Liturgy, said this of the most sacred mystery of the Eucharist:

"At the Last Supper, on the night when He was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the centuries until He should come again, and so entrust to His beloved spouse, the Church, a memorial of His death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is consumed, the mind is filled with grace, and pledge of future glory is given to us" (N. 47).

There are thousands of stars in the heavens that have long ago ceased to exist (hence the black holes), but the light of which continues to be seen by us on earth. Jesus died on the cross nearly 2000 years ago, but this sacrifice is made present to us today in a sacramental way. In this way we stand, as it were, with Mary His Mother, and St. John, with Mary Magdalene, and with all the angels and saints in heaven as they sing the song of praise: Holy, holy, holy.

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, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423 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.

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

SPECIAL LETTERS

Half Moon Bay, CA

This letter has two things to accomplish, first to say thanks for the reception you gave us at the Center. Secondly, to let you know that I am promoting the Father Seelos cause by presenting certain individuals with his picture and prayer for his canonization. After Mass one day I gave these things to a lady who asked me to go on a pilgrimage organized by the Legion of Mary. I mentioned a few things about Father Seelos and found out that the lady was a Bavarian and she had visitors at her home who just came from Bavaria.

I've read "Nothing Short of A Miracle" by Patricia Treece and it is good to remember that miracles happen everyday if we have strong faith and live a life of prayer.

Now I quote from "Cheerful Ascetic" where Father Seelos in a letter to his family says: "The Fathers have laid a great cross on my shoulders and I beg of you again and again to pray for me, that God may give me the grace happily to overcome all difficulties which will come to me in the absence of Father Provincial" (p. 110) Now, I have learned from this that Father Seelos had indeed very heavy crosses to bear and he bore them in union with Christ. We can imitate his spirit of love and peace.

"He always seemed recollected and intent on prayer" (p. 263). Sometimes I think the Lord sends us heavy crosses just so that we will be forced, as it were, into constant prayer. Remember what Our Lady asked the three Fatima children: "Will you accept all the sufferings God ordains to send you?" Again she says "Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say often when you make some sacrifice: 'O Jesus, this is for love of You, and for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary'" ("Lucia Speaks on the Message of Fatima", p. 28).

Let us pray and sacrifice together! Father Seelos inspires us by his life and will help us through his prayers on our behalf.

Port Allen, LA

I would like to say that the name of Father Seelos has come to me for a very special reason and I feel compelled to learn as much about him as possible. Until two days ago I had never heard his name before. On Wednesday, the sixth, I accompanied my granddaughter to a confirmation meeting as she had asked me to be her sponsor. At the meeting the class was asked to present a paper which they had researched on their patron saint whose name they had selected as their confirmation name. After the papers were read the religion coordinator proceeded to talk to the class about praying to the saints and her family's prayer dedication to Father Seelos to whom they attribute a miracle that saved her father after his being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given just six months to live. This happened eight years ago.

Upon arriving home after the meeting, my daughter (who was not at the meeting) came to visit us. She began telling me that her closest friend at work that same day gave her a prayer card and booklet about a priest she had been praying to (Father Seelos) and said that he had helped them through a difficult time when her sister had ovarian cancer and was now healed.

Then last night (only 24 hours later) my husband and I along with several members of our family attended Family Night for my husband's and sons' Ultreya Group. Guest speakers at this meeting were two Redemptorist brothers who, in their presentation, mentioned Father Seelos' name and the effort being made for his canonization.

Now you understand my desire and need to know more about this priest.

Lafayette, LA

My petitions to Father Seelos began in 1978 when my nine-year old granddaughter developed leukemia. His memento was always in her hand. She is now 28 years old, married, and Father Seelos continues to be in our daily prayers of thanksgiving.

Mail: July, 1997

Petitions: 652

Thanksgivings: 283

Others: 360

Total: 1295

Dial-A-Messages: 733

Volunteer Hours: 1041

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

11/97

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 Approbation.

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.