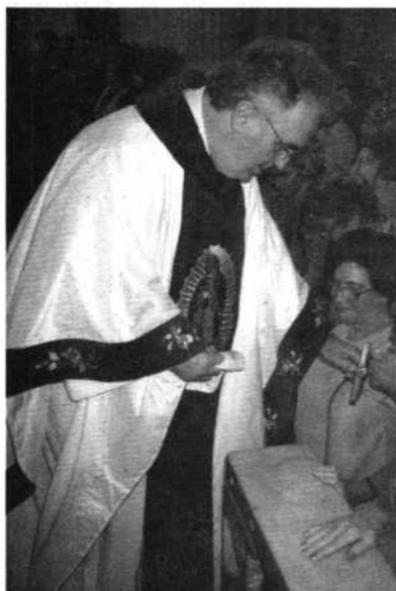




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVIII, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1999



FATHER MONROE PERRIER

We welcome Father Monroe Perrier, C.S.S.R., as the new director of the Father Seelos Center. He is pictured here as the celebrant of the annual memorial Mass in October of 1995. Father Perrier was the vice-provincial of the Redemptorist vice-province of New Orleans from 1990 to April 5 of this year. He brings to the Center many years of experience in parochial administration as pastor and associate and missionary.

BREATH OF THE SOUL

As long as we breathe, we live; when we cease to breathe, we are dead. From time immemorial it would seem, spiritual writers have termed prayer as the breath of the soul. Prayer is our communion with God. St. Alphonsus, doctor of the Church, founder of the Redemptorists,

spiritual writer, patron of moral theologians, put it succinctly, "He who prays is saved; he who does not pray is lost."

Even before we made our first Holy Communion we were urged to pray: morning and evening prayers, three Hail Marys, the act of contrition, acts of faith, hope and charity. We were taught to make a preparation before and a thanksgiving after receiving Holy Communion. We were taught in the Our Father to pray to be delivered from temptation. Above all, we were counseled to pray in the time of danger. If we faithfully follow this program of prayer, spiritually we are doing very well.

This year on the second Sunday of August we listened to the story of Jesus walking on the water. We saw St. Peter in his great enthusiasm ask the Lord to bid him come to Him. Peter was indeed walking on the water until he saw the menacing waves and lost confidence. As he began to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." In this moment of fear he stretched out his hand and there was the hand of Jesus ready to haul him up to safety.

This story from the Gospel reminds us of the care we receive from our Lord and Savior. We are all and ever in the hands of God. We did not ask to be born and we do not determine either the way or the time of our leaving this world. God created us; He knows us by name. He has preserved us up to this moment. He loves us to death; He gave His life for us. He promises us eternal life. By His own resurrection from the dead He brought His Mother Mary to heaven and thus sealed His promise to us. He promised

(Continued on next page)

that whoever would eat His flesh and drink His blood in Holy Communion would have eternal life. Every day He gives us His body and blood.

At our creation God endowed us with intelligence and free will. He does not compel us to love Him. He offers us His grace. Our first parents were offered Paradise but they committed sin and needed a Redeemer, as do we all, their sons and daughters.

Jesus told the story of the shepherd with a herd of 100 sheep and one was lost. He left the 99 and went in search of the lost one. Such is Jesus. He searches for the lost. He loves us, each one.

We shall never forget the parable of the Prodigal Son. The son boldly asked his father for his inheritance, then went off and spent it in dissolute living. When penniless he made his way back home, rehearsing how he would plead for forgiveness. He was met by a loving and joyous father who cut short his apology and commanded a great feast for all the family to enjoy. The prodigal did not have to complete his act of contrition before the father forgave him.

To the woman taken in adultery, speechless and in fear of her life before an unruly mob, Jesus merely told her, "Go and sin no more." To the sinful woman who bathed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, He said, "Much is forgiven her because she loved much." To the good thief who asked for a remembrance in His kingdom, He promised him he would that day be in Paradise with Him. It is consoling for us to know that our cry to Jesus to save us will be heard.

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: 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, Jim Howard, 277-7949, Marie Callahan, 525-1775, or Elaine Freeman, 341-2213.
 - 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

New Orleans, LA

In October, 1962, I was pregnant with my fifth child I awakened one morning feeling as though I was carrying a large cement stone. There were no movements coming from my baby. I called the doctor and told him I felt my baby was dead. He told me to come to his office immediately. After examining me, he told my husband to get me to the hospital immediately. On the way I asked my husband to stop at the church where I had heard its bells ringing when I was in the hospital where I had my other four children. He didn't know the name or the location of the church and he reminded me of what the doctor had said. I only knew that I had this great urgency to go to this church. Shortly after, we found the church. With difficulty I went straight to the main altar. I had no idea that Father Seelos was buried there. I prayed to God asking Him to please save my baby and send someone to take care of my other four children who were ages five, four, three and two. I had this strong feeling that I would not make it. I left the church with resigned feeling or peace. My doctor had to induce labor. Upon examining me, he discovered the umbilical cord was wrapped completely around the baby's body ... the doctor tediously unwrapped the cord from around the baby.

... At the time of birth, I stopped breathing and the baby was born not breathing ... Miraculously the baby and I began breathing.

... I was suffering from chest pains afterward. When I mentioned it to the nurse she told what had happened.

... The most incredible thing in this whole experience is what I found out about my doctor. He had an inoperable brain tumor at the time of this delivery. Shortly after that he had to refer his patients to one of his associates. He has since died.

The birth of my fifth child has always been called the miracle birth. Others and I believe that Father Seelos could have interceded in my behalf. As I look at my son today, I continue to thank God and Father Seelos. Now that I have found out Father Seelos is being considered for canonization, he will be in my daily prayers. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

New Orleans, LA (e-mail)

I am writing this letter to inform you of a blessing I received from Father Seelos. My mother heard of the Father Seelos Center and told me about it. I had been having problems with my son. She felt that it might help my son to be blessed with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos...

Father blessed my son, my mother and me and spoke with my son for a few minutes. My son had been hanging with a bad crowd. He was experimenting with drugs, had been hospitalized on two occasions for depression and was truly suffering and ill. I felt truly blessed when Father blessed us and I believe my mother felt the same way. When we were leaving the Center, my son told me something weird had happened to him ... He asked me if I saw the crucifix on the wall in the Center. I told him that I had not. He told me that it was large crucifix just inside the door and was very similar to other crucifixes he had seen before with Jesus' head turned to the side. He said that when he was leaving, Jesus turned his head forward and nodded to him. He said it was weird and could it be just his imagination. I told him Jesus was giving him a sign that He was going to help him and not to dismiss what he saw.

I truly believe that Father Seelos' intercession to our Lord has truly blessed my child. His attitude has changed and he seems to be on the right road with his life.

Mail: July, 1999

Petitions: 882

Thanksgivings: 342

Others: 301

Total: 1525

Dial-A-Messages: 769

Volunteer Hours: 1061

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Rev. Albert Babin, C.S.S.R. and Rev. John Vargas, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators, Rev. Monroe Perrier, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director Emeritus, Mrs. Angala Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.