

SEELOS and SANCTITY

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VISIT WITH CHRIST

Every day Father Seelos made a special visit to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. We urge all devotees of Father Seelos to imitate this holy practice. If a daily visit is impossible, why not a weekly visit or a monthly visit. We especially urge you to participate in spending a monthly holy hour in the very church in which he himself worshipped Christ.

We here give you some of the prayers that Father Seelos used when he visited with Christ. We ask you to keep this copy of SEELOS AND SANCTITY, bring it to church with you and use it in your visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

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My Lord Jesus Christ, who, for the love You have for men, remain night and day in this Sacrament, full of compassion and of love, awaiting, calling and welcoming all who come to visit You; I believe that You are present in the Sacrament of the Altar. I adore You from the depth of my nothingness, and I thank You for all the graces which You have given to me, and in particular for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament, for having given me Your most holy Mother Mary as my advocate, and for having called me to visit You in this church. I now salute Your most loving Heart and this for three reasons:

1. In thanksgiving for this great gift;
2. To make amends to You for all the outrages which You receive in this Sacrament from all Your enemies;
3. I intend by this visit to adore You in all the places on earth in which You are present in this Sacrament, and in which You are the least revered and the most abandoned.

My Jesus I love You with my whole heart. I grieve for having so many times offended Your infinite goodness in the past. I resolve by Your grace never more to offend You for the time to come; and now, miserable and unworthy though I be, I consecrate myself to You without reserve; I give to You and renounce my entire will, my affections, my desires, and all that I possess. From this time on I beg of You to do anything You wish with me and my possessions. All that I ask of You and desire is Your holy love, perseverance to the end of my life, and the perfect accomplishment of Your will. I recommend to You the souls in purgatory, but especially those who had the greatest devotion to the most Blessed Sacrament and to the most Blessed Virgin Mary. I also recommend to You all poor sinners.

Finally, my dear Saviour, I unite all my affections with the affections of Your most loving Heart, and I offer them, thus united, to Your Eternal Father, and ask Him in Your name to accept and grant them.

MEDITATION

Behold the source of every good, Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament, who says, "Come to Me, all you who thirst." Oh, what torrents of grace have the Saints drawn from the fountain of the most Blessed Sacrament! for there Jesus dispenses all the merits of His passion, as it was foretold by the Prophet: "You shall draw water with joy from the fountain of Salvation." The Countess of Feria, that illustrious disciple of the Venerable Father John d'Avila, afterwards a Poor Clare, and called the spouse of the most Blessed Sacrament from her long and

(continued on inside page)

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Seelos - Apostle of Kindness

by Luana Jambois

RECTOR OF BALTIMORE

The people of Baltimore welcomed him and quickly called him a "saint" as had the people of Pittsburgh. No time, no place was too inconvenient for him to go to save a sinner. One night a girl came to the rectory to beg him to give the last sacraments to a dying woman. Unaware, he followed her to a house in the vice district of the city. When he realized where he was, he ignored his surroundings and calmly prepared the woman for death. When he was shown a newspaper article which appeared the next day, making vicious insinuations about his visit, he said, "Let the fellows talk away. I saved a soul."

Extraordinary events began to happen. A woman long dying in a coma recovered consciousness at his prayers. "Who is this holy man of God?" she called out. Before she died she was able to make a good confession . . . A thirteen year old girl unable to speak lay dying. Her parents, grieving, sent for Father Seelos. Her sins had been far too many for such a child and now she could not speak to confess them. At the first touch of the holy oils with which Father Seelos anointed her, she screamed. She was able to make a good confession and was restored to health of soul and body . . .

"We are now on a voyage into the unknown like Columbus," he wrote. "The day of the new world will bring reward or punishment . . . Jesus, your Redemption changes me, a poor worm of this earth, into a son of God. Do not turn Your Face away from me. I give myself to You as a victim."

To his family he said, "Try to understand the value of suffering. You will find it easy to teach others to carry the cross. This is the wisdom of the saints. The knowledge of the cross is a key to true happiness and spiritual joy."

The cross came. On March 7, 1857, Father Seelos stretched out his arms as he left his confessional. He had been sitting so long that his arms were cramped. A blood vessel burst and his lungs hemorrhaged when he stretched. The doctor held out no hope for his recovery. Another ill priest, his confessor, Father Poirier, offered his own life to God if He would spare the life of Father Seelos. Father Poirier died on May 18. Father Seelos began to improve immediately. By April 3, the Feast of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Mother, he was permitted to say Mass again.

Father Provincial knew how his zeal would prevent him from taking the proper rest his illness had forced upon him. He transferred him to Annapolis to be Superior and Master of Novices. On April 16, 1857, Father Seelos left Baltimore quietly and with few farewells. He joyfully looked forward to the new life ahead.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH IMPROVED

For a short period of time many of the lights were turned off in St. Mary's Church, making the church quite dark. I have now made arrangements so that the church will be sufficiently lighted at all times. Lights are lit in both the front and back of the church.

We would like to encourage you to visit Father Seelos' tomb whenever possible. St. Mary's Church is open from 5:00 A. M. till 8:00 P. M.

Please use the side door on Constance Street. The front door on Josephine Street is usually locked.

frequent visits to it, on being asked how she employed the many hours thus passed in the presence of the Holy of holies, replied, "I could remain there for all eternity. And is not the very essence of God, which will be the food of the blessed, there present? Good God! am I asked what I do in His presence? Rather, what is not done there? We love, we praise, we give thanks, we ask. What does a poor man do in the presence of one who is rich? What does a sick man do in the presence of a physician? What does a man do who is parched with thirst in the presence of a limpid fountain? What is the occupation of one who is starving, and is placed before a well-supplied table?"

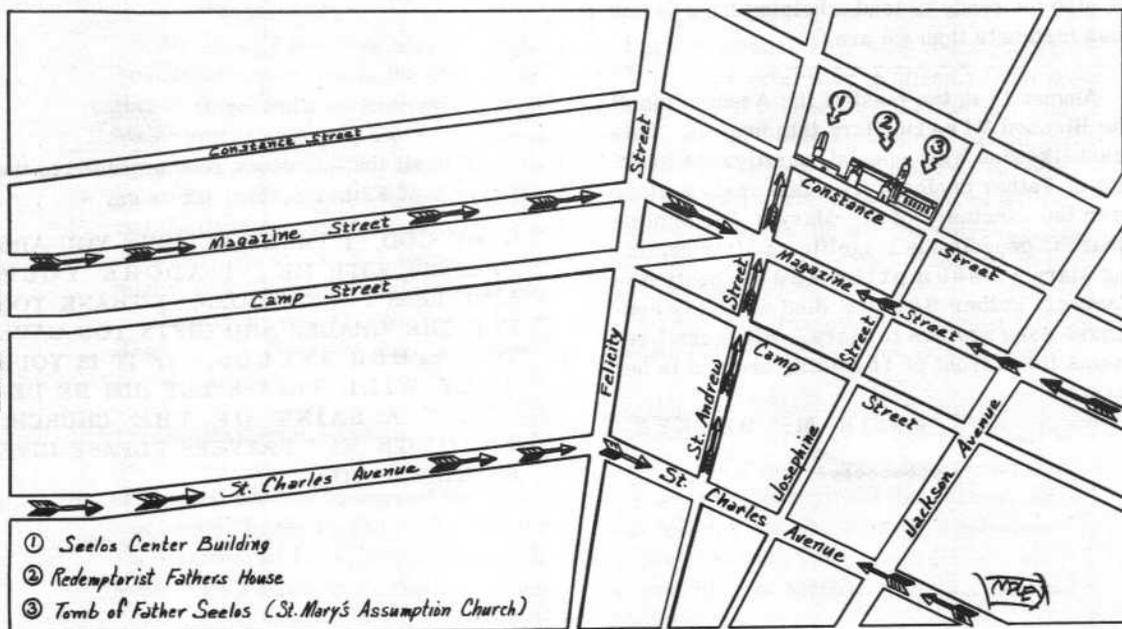
O my most amiable, most sweet, most beloved Jesus, my Life, my Hope, my Treasure, the only Love of my soul; oh what has it cost You to remain thus in the midst of us in this Sacrament! You had to die that You might thus dwell among us on our altars; and then, how many insults have You not had to endure in this Sacrament, in order to aid us by Your Presence! Your love, and the desire which You have to be loved by us, have conquered all.

Come then, O Lord, come and center Yourself within my heart; close its doors forever, that henceforward no creature may enter there to divide the love which is due to You and which it is my ardent desire to bestow all on You. My dear Redeemer, rule me and fully possess me: and if at times I do not obey You perfectly, chastise me with rigor, that thenceforward I may be more watchful to please You as You wish. Grant that I may no longer seek for any other pleasure than that of giving You pleasure; that all my pleasure may be to visit You often on Your altars; to entertain myself with You, and to receive You in Holy Communion. Let all who will, seek other treasures; the only treasure which I love, the only one which I desire, is that of Your love: for this alone will I ask at the foot of the altar. Make me forget myself, that thus I may alone remember Your goodness. Blessed Seraphim, I envy you; not for your glory, but for the love which you bear to your and my God. Oh, teach me what I must do to love Him, and to give Him pleasure.

FATHER VAUGHN

DIRECTIONS TO FATHER SEELOS' TOMB

Below you will find a map indicating how you can get to the tomb of Father Seelos. We urge you to visit the tomb frequently if you live in the New Orleans area. The church is open from 5:00 A. M. till 8:00 P. M.



To Know and Imitate

His Holy Life . . .

On August 2 we celebrate the feast of St. Alphonsus Liquori, founder of the Redemptorist Fathers. Father Seelos sought to follow in the footsteps of St. Alphonsus by leaving his native Germany to become a Redemptorist foreign missionary and work for the church in America. He adhered strictly to the rule of St. Alphonsus. When he was dying he told his fellow Redemptorists: "I never thought it was so sweet to die in the Congregation. I am now beginning to know what a happiness it is to live and die as a Redemptorist. Oh! let us all love our vocation and strive to persevere in it. Then all will be right with us. . . ."

Father Seelos appreciated his God-given call to the religious life. This was evident in the fact that he strove in every way to minister to the spiritual needs of his congregation. His spirit of brotherly love prompted him on many occasions to deprive himself in order to help others who were in need of food, clothing, etc. In our own lives we can strive to imitate Father Seelos, by performing the work required of us in our vocation, our state of life, to the best of our ability. God has chosen our work for us and at the same time has given us the necessary ability to perform same. Let us also be ready to lend a helping hand to one less fortunate than we are.

August 15 is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. This feast likewise has a special significance in the life of Father Seelos. His last resting place is in the sanctuary of St. Mary's Assumption Church, beneath the magnificent altar depicting Mary's Assumption and coronation in heaven. Father Seelos died while his confreres sang praises to Mary. His mortal remains lie in front of the altar erected in her honor.

JOSIE M. BECKER

For all the intentions recommended to the prayers of Father Seelos, let us say -

O MY GOD, I TRULY BELIEVE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH ME. I ADORE YOUR LIMITLESS PERFECTIONS. I THANK YOU FOR THE GRACES AND GIFTS YOU GAVE TO FATHER SEELOS. IF IT IS YOUR HOLY WILL PLEASE LET HIM BE DECLARED A SAINT OF THE CHURCH. THROUGH HIS PRAYERS PLEASE GIVE ME THIS FAVOR.