



REV. JAMES HENNESSY, C.S.S.R.
VICE-POSTULATOR

REV. WILLIAM GRANGELL, C.S.S.R.
EDITOR

VOL. VIII NO. 11 NOVEMBER, 1968

JOSIE M. BECKER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00

FATHER SEELOS, A MAN OF PRAYER

by Father Grangell

St. Alphonsus Liguori, the Founder of the Redemptorists, the Hero and Model in the spiritual life of Father Seelos, is known in the Church as "The Doctor of Prayer." He wrote a book on Prayer which he entitled "The Great Means of Salvation." In the Preface, he expresses the wish that he could give a copy of the book to everybody in the world. He sees the great need of prayer and he knows how few pray. He thought: "Pray and you will be saved! Neglect prayer and you will be lost." He also taught that God gives everybody the grace to pray, but it is left to the individual to use these graces and to persevere in prayer to the end of life. St. Alphonsus wished his Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers to meditate on Prayer in a special way during the month of November.

So, for Father Seelos November was the month of Prayer. He checked on how he prayed. With attention? Devotion? Reverence? Posture? Just routine? Just words and little heart? Did he substitute something else for prayer? Did he pray according to his moods, etc? Everybody should check on how, when, where, why he prays.

St. Alphonsus mapped out a daily program of prayer for his Redemptorists; Father Seelos followed this Order of the Day scrupulously. He was a Parish Priest, a Shepherd of Souls, and would leave his Community prayers to take care of the sick and dying, to give instructions, to do any kind of Parish work.

Everybody should have a daily Prayer Program in his life. However, to perform an act of Charity for someone at home or elsewhere, he should forget his Program of Prayer.

We should have a favorite ejaculatory prayer, like "My, God, I love You," on our lips constantly. That's living in an atmosphere of prayer.

Father Seelos loved his Crucifix! He wore a small hidden Crucifix as a part of his religious habit. He kept his Mission Cross on his desk and certainly spoke to his God when his eyes fell on it. Father Seelos' Crucifix was his mirror. He saw every virtue in it, especially the virtue of Generosity.

Father Seelos' Crucifix was his meditation book. There were no preludes, no points, no conclusion, just Love of God. Father Seelos' Crucifix was his library. One day St. Bonaventure visited St. Thomas Aquinas. He asked Thomas where he got all his knowledge. Thomas pointed to the Crucifix on his desk and said: "There is my Library."

Father Seelos' Crucifix lived in his daily Mass. He was a Eucharistic Priest. He loved his Mass, he loved Holy Communion, he loved the Tabernacle.

Every Catholic home has a Crucifix in it, maybe, many of them, but they are hanging on the wall and never noticed. Become Crucifix-minded and say to it with St. Francis Assisi: "May I die for the love of Thy love, Who hast been so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love."

Father Seelos made the Way of the Cross daily. How many do that today?

Father Seelos prayed to God's Blessed Mother daily. He never neglected his daily rosary. He said his rosary in the old German way. After the Holy Name of Jesus in the Hail Mary he would announce the mystery. For instance, in the second sorrowful mystery he would say on each of the ten beads "Who was scourged for us." Be sure to say your Rosary daily.

Spiritual Reading is a form of prayer, but a lost art today. T.V. takes up our time.

Parents! Teach your children to pray. If any Catholic goes astray, it's because he neglected prayer.

Father Seelos, pray for us that we be lovers of prayer -- and that means to be in touch with God always.

AGAIN THE CROWDS CAME TO HONOR HIM

by Josie M. Becker

It was most inspiring to attend the Mass which was offered on Sunday, October 6, at St. Alphonsus Church, honoring the 101st anniversary of the death of Father Seelos.

The concelebrated Mass was offered by Very Rev. Alphonse Abadie, C.S.S.R., Vice Provincial of the New Orleans Vice Province of the Redemptorists, and Fathers William Grangell, James Hennessy, Philip O'Connor and Thomas McDonough, all Redemptorists. Deacon Bernard Francis of Notre Dame (diocesan) Seminary in New Orleans, also participated in the Mass. Thomas J. Spitzfaden was commentator.

Father Grangell's sermon, stressed in particular Father Seelos' great love for God, a virtue we should all imitate.

The offertory gifts were carried to the altar by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Ford and Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Crotty, all ardent workers for the cause of Father Seelos.

After Mass a general blessing was given by Father Grangell to the congregation with the mission cross of Father Seelos.

The attendance at the Mass was gratifying and surely with such devotion. God willing, the day when Father Seelos will be a canonized saint should not be too far off.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

I promised to write if Father Seelos answered my prayers.

Several months ago the son of a friend of mine lit an M-80 fire cracker and was about to throw it in the water, when he spotted his sister in a boat on the water. He was afraid it might hit her, so he snuffed it out and stuck it in his pocket with six others, thinking it was unlit. His pants caught fire and he jumped into the water attempting to put out the fire. Instead there was an explosion. The combustion of the water did considerable damage to his liver, left a big gash in his left leg and broke his hip. Some of his ribs and chest bones were removed during surgery as they were too badly damaged to mend. He received numerous blood transfusions as he was bleeding internally. The doctor did not expect him to live through the day.

A neighbor handed his mother the picture prayer card of Father Seelos and told her to pray to him. She did so and never gave up hope. I, too, prayed to Father Seelos for a miracle as it seemed that was the only thing that could save him.

Two months later he was able to return home in an ambulance.

I received other favors from Father Seelos, like selling a piece of land, which it seemed I would never be able to sell due to legal complications.

Mr. Frank Gurtner, father of Miss Ellen Gurtner, who is one of our faithful volunteers, passed away on October 1. Please remember him in your prayers.

We continue our adoration program before the tomb of Father Seelos in St. Alphonsus Church. If you have not already indicated that you will spend an hour each month in adoration, write to us or call the office, 525-2495, and we will add your name to the list of adorers. You will then receive a reminder each month.

Our mailing list has been at a standstill for the last couple of months. If you know of anyone you feel would like to receive Seelos & Sanctity each month, drop us a line. We will add their names to the mailing list.

God bless you one and all!

HOSPITAL VISITS

by Josie Becker

Father Grangell spends his Friday evenings visiting the hospitals in the New Orleans area and blessing patients with the mission cross of Father Seelos.

Many people have called after these hospital visits to tell us how grateful they were to receive the blessing. The calls are too numerous to tell you about all of them, but from time to time we do like to share a few of these reports with you.

A rather elderly lady had to undergo a serious operation and was fearful of the outcome. After the blessing she seemed to have the courage to face surgery and to hear the report of the surgeon. She has told us that during the operation she continually thought of Father Seelos and of the blessing she was privileged to receive.

We are most anxious that all of you should have the opportunity during a hospitalized illness to receive the blessing with our beloved Father Seelos' mission cross. In fact we extend the invitation to you to request Father Grangell to visit your relatives, friends and acquaintances, who may be hospitalized.

Father Grangell tries to limit his calls to Friday evenings, however, he will make himself available to you on any other day provided he has transportation.

Call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176 and she will arrange for Father to make the call you wish.

Published monthly at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

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 Rites.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.
