



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

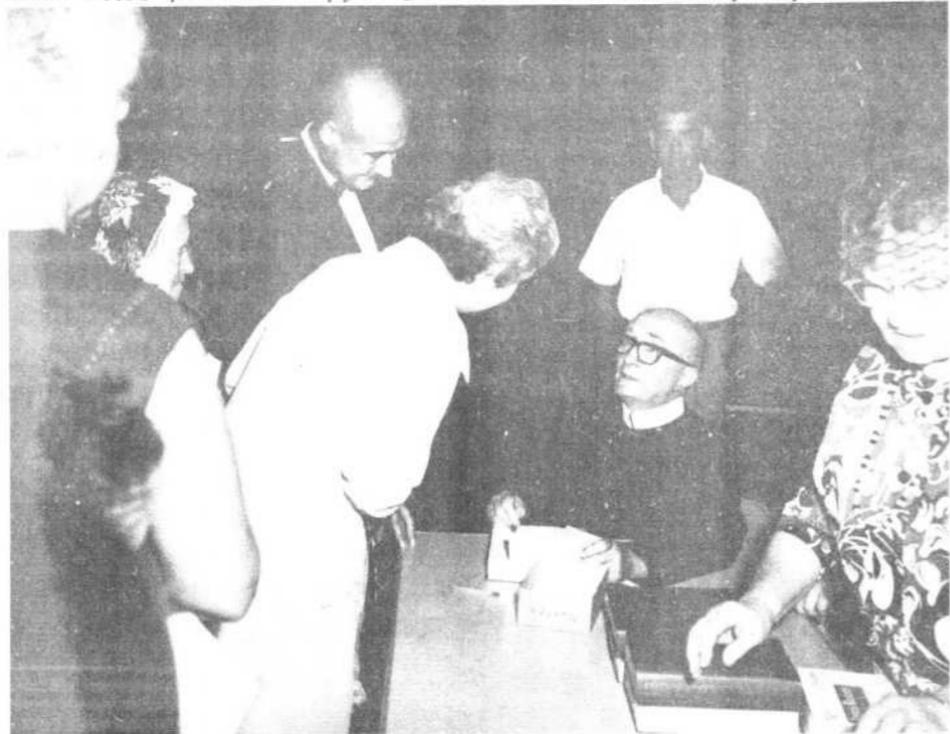
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BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Possibly the best Christmas gift you can get for yourself or special people on your list is a copy of "Cheerful Ascetic" by Rev. Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R. It is the life story of Father Seelos that tells it like it was! You'll find out how remarkable a man he really was, disciplined in the love of God and all around him. You'll know him and you'll love him, just as they did who knew him.

Send \$4.95 for each copy. Your order will receive prompt attention.



Father Michael J. Curley, author of "Cheerful Ascetic," is besieged for autographs of his book after the annual Mass celebrated on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the death of Father Seelos in St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans, October 5, 1969.

SPECIAL FAVORS GRANTED

ENCEPHALITIS OVERCOME!

St. Francisville, La.

Dear Father:

A year ago this past August I was awakened by my little baby. Then I went to check on my nine-year old boy and found him lying in his bed his body shaking with terrible convulsions! I didn't know what to do. I had the relic of Father Seelos which I put under his head. I knew what could happen to him as a consequence if he lived. The convulsions lasted ninety minutes. The hospital tests showed virus encephalitis. Yet there was no damage to his brain or nervous system.

After eight weeks he was able to go back to school. He has gained weight and is in fine health.

I am sure Father Seelos interceded for his return to health for us. I have great devotion to him and hope many others will find in him the great intercessor as I did.

Mrs. R. M.

NOW NO PAIN

College Point, N. Y.

Dear Father:

Thank God, His Holy Mother and ours, for all the Blessings I have received since my operation.

I'm so happy I can write again and have the use of my right hand. All praise to Father Seelos I also lost the pains in my legs. I can walk good. Operation is all right, No pain. Now I love all my work again.

Mrs. A. M. M.

FATHER SEELOS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Can't you imagine Father Seelos as the happiest person in the neighborhood on Christmas day!! He is laughing, cheerful, happy, wishing everybody a Merry Christmas, receiving a few little gifts from his friends and penitents and converts. He was a man of God, he was holy, he was happy! They say that Christmas is the children's day. Well, Father Seelos was a child in his Faith and his Humility and his Great Love of God. So, Christmas was his day.

For most people in the world, Christmas is a time of giving and merry making and elaborate decorations. It was precisely that for Father Seelos. See him kneeling at the Crib.

Christmas is a time of giving. He thanked God for giving himself to us as our Savior. He gave himself to God to love Him and to help others to love Him. His Christmas gift to the Babe of Bethlehem was: "I give You myself - all that I am and all that I have." The Divine Babe's answer: "Father, I give you Myself and all that I am and all that I have. You and I are one."

Christmas is a time of merry making. Father Seelos made merry in his heart because Christ had redeemed him and opened the Gates of Heaven for him and all mankind. He lived in the state of Sanctifying Grace and was always united to God - hence always happy. He was happy because as a Priest he could give the Child of the Stable, to people in Holy Communion, every heart becoming a home for the Eucharistic Christ. The Priest gives people their best Christmas gift when he gives them Holy Communion.

Christmas is a time of elaborate decorations. The whold Christian world is decorated at this time - just for one reason - it is the Birthday of the King of Heaven on Earth. Father Seelos' heart was decorated with all the virtues, solid, true, not just glittering tinsel and perishable flowers and lights that twinkle and fade away. His heart was the Palace of the Lord.

On the 24th day of every month, the Redemptorists erect a crib in their monastery chapels and renew their religious vows at the Crib. For Father Seelos, this was a very generous, sincere offering of himself to the Most Holy Redeemer who gave Himself for us.

Every month Father Seelos would see the monthly virtue in the Crib. December's virtue is self-denial and Love of the Cross. He could see the self-denial of Christ in the Crib. Christ could have had a palace, riches, comforts, here. He chose to deny Himself all these things. Father Seelos willingly denied himself the world and all that the world possesses to be one with Christ. Father Seelos could see the foot of the Cross in that manger - and knew that Christ came to embrace that Cross and its untold sufferings. The Crib and the Cross was Father Seelos' life.

In December, Father Seelos looked back over the months and their Redemptorist virtues and saw himself for better or worse in the Service of God. He made great Acts of Sorrow for his failings, he made Great Acts of Love of God for his fealty, he made Great Resolutions for the year to come. Why can't we live like that?

SPECIAL PETITION

St. Martinville, La.

A very close friend of ours found out that her 14 year old son had a tumor on his right knee. He was due to enter the seminary in September. The doctor feared cancer, so a biopsy was made on Monday. The next day it was learned that it was malignant, so the leg was amputated. The mother had been warned, should it be malignant he had about one year to live. We wonder why God does things, as this boy wanted to be a priest, yet he may never, unless through a miracle. The boy has great courage, as he plans to enter the seminary as soon as he is able. Please place a special petition at the tomb of Father Seelos and remember him in your prayers. I've already entered his mother's name to be placed in your files when she had major surgery in March.

Mrs. W. W.

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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