



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

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

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JOSIE M. BECKER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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THE MONTHLY VIRTUE

BY FATHER GRANGELL

The Redemptorist's special virtue for the month of March is LOVE OF GOD. His whole life must be one big Act of Love of God. It's every Christian's life. At Baptism the Priest told us: If you wish to get to heaven you must love God, not just in passing, not just as another thing, but you must love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind and all your strength! God wants all. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He prefaced the Law with those very words - Deuteronomy 6/4 - 9. He wants the people to talk about them at home and abroad, to drill them into the children, to carry a copy of them on their person, to write them on the door posts of their houses and on their gates. The Sabbath Synagogue service began with these words. Read Deuteronomy 6/4 - 9.

Father Seelos became a Saint because the Love of God was his life. His sermons, his conversations, his instructions to the children and to converts were filled with Love of God. He had reminders of the Love of God, 'M.G.I.L.Y.' in his room, in his books, in his pockets, whenever he worked.

One early morning on a sick call, he saw a woman who was just beginning the old style wash day. He said to her smilingly: I bet you don't like all this work ahead of you! She said: I don't mind it. It's a job I have to do, so I do it with a smile and a song and it's finished. He said: There's a better way to do your work. Do it all for the Love of God, not just because it's a job. Then your smiles and your songs and your every action becomes meritorious. Make your motive for all your work: ALL FOR THE LOVE OF GOD.

Father Seelos met a man going to work one day. The man said: Same old routine, Father! Same old thing every day! Father Seelos said: Never work from routine, don't do things because you must. Do everything for the Love of God. As you awake in the morning say: MY GOD, EVERY THOUGHT, WORD, ACTION TODAY IS AN ACT OF LOVE OF THEE. That's making work very noble.

We all need a system of the Love of God in our lives - a pattern, a guide line. St. Alphonsus, the founder of the Redemptorists, one of the outstanding lovers of Jesus Christ in history, used to preach a system to the people. He lived it himself, he gave it to his followers as their Order of the Day. It was Father Seelos' life. The system has four points.

1. Wish for great Love of God, pray for it, beg for it, really want it. Notice how a small child asks for something. He pouts, he cries, he screams, he goes into contortions, he disturbs the whole house. He gets it. That's prayer.
2. Get habits and practices of sin out of your life. Anybody, because of human nature, passions, temptations, occasions, may commit a mortal sin, but he hates that sin, he tells God he is sorry. He has Love of God in his heart. That's different from a deliberate wilful practice and habit of sin.
3. St. Alphonsus wants three meditations daily. All that means is to ask yourself momentarily, morning noon and night: Who am I? Am I really loving God? Am I ready for death now? You can do this kneeling, sitting, walking, driving, riding a bus. Father Seelos was faithful to his three daily meditations. His evening meditation was on the suffering and death of Christ. In the Christmas Cycle, he meditated on the Divine Infancy. The books he used on these two Mysteries are still in print, the Works of St. Alphonsus.
4. In the course of these meditations, you tell God over and over again: MY GOD, I LOVE YOU. Then you take the prayer into your working day. It becomes your very breath. M.G.I.L.Y. Read again Deuteronomy 6/4 - 9 (thr 5th Book in the Old Testament.)

If we love God, we love Holy Mass and Holy Communion. If we love God, we visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament often and we make the Way of the Cross daily.

If we love God, we love His Blessed Mother - we say her Rosary daily, we make her novenas, we consecrate our Saturdays to her.

If we love God affectionately, if our hearts are on fire with affective love, then we will bring Love of God to our neighbors.

There is no zeal without affective Love of God.

ALL THIS IS SEELOS SANCTITY.

NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE-POSTULATOR

Father Bernard Francis will be ordained a secular priest for the Archdiocese of New Orleans on March 1 and will read his first Solemn Mass on Sunday, March 2, at St. Louis Cathedral here in New Orleans. As Deacon Francis, he has worked in St. Alphonsus Parish since last June. During this time he has, on occasions when Father Grangell was not available, visited the hospitals and blessed the sick with the Crucifix of Father Seelos. We are very happy for Father Francis and wish him every success in the priesthood. May we ask that you remember him in your prayers.

In order that we may be in a position to handle checks for the promotion of the cause of Father Seelos promptly, we ask that these checks be made out to "SEELOS CENTER" or "SEELOS FUND."

Father Grangell continues to visit the hospitals on Friday evenings to bless the sick. If you have a friend or relative who is ill in a hospital in the New Orleans area and you wish them to be blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos, kindly call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

The attendance has been growing, though slowly, at the 5:30 P.M. Mass on Wednesday evenings at St. Alphonsus Church. At this Mass we remember particularly the intentions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos. You are also afforded the privilege of being blessed with Father Seelos' crucifix. Now that the days are getting a little longer, we hope you will make an effort to attend the Mass. It should be over before dark.

If you receive a favor through the intercession of Father Seelos, we would like to know about it. You may write Father James Hennessy, C.S.S.R., Vice Postulator, at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.



. . . the recovery of my niece's baby who was jaundiced at birth and also had to be put in a cast because his shoulder was dislocated causing paralysis of the arm. We are grateful that he will have the use of his arm.

. . . the almost miraculous recovery of my daughter who had suffered with a kidney disease most of her life. She was hospitalized and received the last Sacraments during one of her most severe attacks. She was given a new drug to which she has responded and is now doing very well.

. . . letting me walk without crutches or even a cane after a severe fracture of the knee. The doctor had told me I would be a cripple for the rest of my life. I asked Father Seelos for help and know it was his intercession in heaven which has effected this cure.

. . . granting my husband a beautiful and peaceful death. He spent the last ten weeks of his life in a hospital, dying of cancer.

. . . a promotion I received in my position and also for my recovery from a serious emergency operation which was performed to save my life. I will never forget my prayer to Father Seelos.

FOR THE WEARERS OF THE GREEN

BY FATHER JAMES HENNESSY, VICE-POSTULATOR

When in New Orleans, Father Francis Seelos lived in the Irish Channel. Though the Redemptorist parish abounded in German and French-speaking Catholics, it would seem the Irish and English-speaking element were here to stay. Even more Irish immigrants came to the area following the 1845 famine in their native home.

Now, only because St. Patrick's Day falls on March 17th again this year (and only because), it is easy to imagine the Servant of God running into his share of Irish philosophers. Indeed, they abound wherever you find the sons and descendents of St. Patrick. That race whom G. K. Chesterton once described as "a race that God made mad. All their wars are merry and all their songs are sad".

Most Irishmen are born philosophers. Intrigued with life, the Irish love to come up with reasons why things happen as they do. There is also a tinge of fatalism to their philosophy. What must be must be regardless of what one may do in advance to avoid it. For example:

There is Oliver Gogarty's explanation of why the Irish prefer drink to food - -
"It interferes less with conversation".

"The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of any use to oneself".

One Irishman to another: "I don't know if it's a wake or a wedd'in; but it's a big success".

"And how's your wife, Pat?" "Sure, she do be awful sick". "Is it dangerous she is?" "No, she's too weak t' be dangerous anymore".

Better the end of a feast than the beginning of a fight.

A soft word never broke a tooth yet.

He comes like bad weather (uninvited).

Never take a wife who has no faults.

Sweet is wine, bitter its payment.

Patience is the cure of an old complaint.

Better to come empty than with bad news.

Trust him as far as you can throw a cow by the tail.

An empty vessel make the most sound.

He that gets a name for early rising may sleep all day.

I'd rather be a coward than a dead man all my life.

Never was a door shut but that another was opened.

Maybe we can close on this last one. It does have the familiar ring of the virtue of Hope to which we should subscribe our life of prayer.

Anyway, to all you Irish and you who are Irish for the day,

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!

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