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POVERTY OF FATHER SEELOS

BY FATHER GRANGELL

Our Lord told the young man in the Gospel story that if he wished to be perfect in the world, he must get rid of all worldly possessions and follow His life of poverty. The youth refused to make that kind of a sacrifice and turned his back on Christ and walked away.

How different with Father Seelos! He wished to be perfect in the love and service of God and made the vow of POVERTY, and in his Redemptorist life imitated Christ's POVERTY as perfectly as a human being could. That's the reason he is a candidate for canonization. He strove after perfection. The virtue for the month of May for the Redemptorists is POVERTY. That means they direct their meditations to the poor life of Christ on earth, and then check on their own individual lives in the matter of POVERTY.

Every Christian must practice the virtue of POVERTY. That means that he must be detached from material things, to have no affection for them. The very first thing Christ taught his followers was: "Blessed are the POOR IN SPIRIT." There is no objection to having riches and plenty of riches. Some Kings and Queens who had much are canonized saints. They knew how to use their wealth. One positive thing about them was that they were not selfish, they did not make gods of their possessions, and give up the practices of holy Religion. If they had reverses, if they lost everything, they said with Job: "The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away, praise be the Name of the Lord." Read the story of Job in your Old Testament.

The vow of POVERTY that Father Seelos made allowed him to keep the right to possess and acquire material things according to his Rule, but he renounced the right to dispose of things estimable at a price, according to his Rule. He and all religious make the vow of POVERTY to practice the virtue of POVERTY. The Church may have the best of the best, the treasures of the world. That has nothing to do with the vow of POVERTY on the part of religious. The Church is the earthly palace of the King of Heaven, nothing is too good, too costly for the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Peter summed up POVERTY perfectly: "We have left all things and have followed Thee!"

So Father Seelos wanted to be poor with Christ, not to be distracted by the thought of where he lived, what he ate or what he put on. He lived only for God and for souls. He left all things to be Christ-like.

His room was very poor - - a bed, a chair, a desk, a wash-stand! There was nothing superfluous, nothing precious, nothing luxurious - - not even a creature comfort.

He was satisfied with anything -- at table, in clothing, in privations, in denials.

He never complained if something was missing, if he had to give up something. He associated mortification and penance with POVERTY. He lived like a dependent child at home. He lived by permissions. He wanted no privileges, no exceptions, no exemptions.

Father Seelos meditated much on the POVERTY of Christ in the stable as a baby, the poor boy and young man as a carpenter, the Criminal with nothing on the Cross.

He lived for God and for souls. Having Faith in the Blessed Sacrament and doing God's Will always, he was the richest man on earth.

YOUR POVERTY! DON'T LET A LITTLE MONEY KEEP YOU FROM GOD. BE SATISFIED ALWAYS, NEVER COMPLAIN. LET NOTHING DISTURB YOU. LIVE FOR GOD AND SOULS.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

I am enclosing an offering to help with the cose of spreading devotion to Father Seelos and I hope he will continue to help me. I wish that he could grant me a real big favor so I could broadcast it. He has helped me in so many small ways and I am very grateful.

If all my boys can come out of the service without a scratch like my first three did, I would think it a miracle. So please put my petition up to protect my boys in the service and help the one that is going to school so he can finish college.

NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE POSTULATOR

...Last month Father Enos Babin was assigned to the staff of the Seelos Center. However, only one week after we were told he would wrck with us, Father Babin died very suddenly, on March 26. We are sorry we did not have the opportunity to work with Father Babin and that those of you who did not know him did not have the chance to get acquainted with him through Seelos and Sanctity. We think he is with Father Seelos in heaven, but we ask that you offer a prayer for the happy repose of his soul.

...Father Curley has written that he expects his book to be ready in June. We surely hope that we will be able to give you some definite information if not in the June issue, at least in the July issue. As soon as we have a definite date for the release of the book, we will let you know the price of the book. It will be available through the Seelos Center.

...Father Grangell will be out of town during the month of May. We hope to have another priest to make the weekly hospital calls to, bless the sick with Father Seelos' mission cross. If you wish to have someone visited in the hospital, kindly call 895-6176.

...We continue to offer special prayers for the petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos at the 5:30 P.M. Mass on Wednesdays. You also have the opportunity of being blessed with the Seelos crucifix.

...In going over the mail that has come in to the Seelos Center during the past two or three months, we find quite a few letters from our readers telling us how much they enjoy our paper. We want all of you to know we appreciate your comments immensely! They provide incentive for us to go on with this work.

Thanks To Father Seelos For.....



...my daughter and her five week old baby being saved, almost miraculously when her house caught fire.

...The return to work of my father-in-law and also my brother-in-law after being laid off for quite some time. Also for the recovery of a relative from a nervous breakdown.

...the recovery of my son from meningitis.

...for many, many favors which have been granted to me and my whole family. The latest was the recovery of an aunt who had become very ill with a bleeding ulcer. After many blood transfusions and other treatment, she was well enough to return home.

...the recovery of my husband, without surgery, from a pinched nerve in his neck.

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A PRAYER TO FATHER SEELOS

For your own intentions, and all the petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos, let us pause and 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 SO THAT OTHERS MAY KNOW AND IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE. THROUGH HIS PRAYERS PLEASE GIVE ME THIS FAVOR . .

N.B. These reports of "Thanksgiving" are from the statements of our correspondents. Official judgement of the favors granted can be given only by the proper church authorities.