



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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CHRISTMAS TIME

This is the only chance that we have at the Father Seelos Center to wish all our readers a holy and merry Christmas. May the love that glows in your heart on Christmas day as you recall the most wonderful intervention of God in human affairs - God Himself became man - grow each day and may that love for God be reflected in your actions toward all your fellow human beings.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday Father Grangell conducts a continuous novena devotion honoring Father Seelos. The services begin with the recitation of the rosary about 5 P.M. followed by Holy Mass at 5:30 P.M. After the Mass you may kiss and venerate the mission crucifix of Father Seelos.

On November 11 we were privileged to have Doctor Gebhard Seelos in attendance at the Mass. Doctor Seelos is a grandnephew of Father Seelos. He greeted those attending the services afterwards.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

There is a plan under way to restore St. Mary's Assumption Church. It will cost approximately \$200,000.00 and work cannot start until this sum is raised. We ask the friends of Father Seelos to begin working on this undertaking and offer prayers to Father Seelos that we will be successful in again opening the doors of this beautiful church.

A VERY UNPOPULAR VIRTUE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Father Seelos became a great saint by living the Asceticism of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorist Order, of which he was a member. This system of Asceticism calls for the practice of twelve selected virtues, one for each month of the year. All virtues are to be practiced always, but one is singled out each month for particular consideration. The virtue for December is self-denial and love of the Cross. Each month a distinct scripture text from the teachings of Christ is given for one's continuous meditation. It's like a theme-song. These texts were chosen by St. Alphonsus himself. The text for December is: "If any one will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow Me." (Matt. 16/24) On the eve of every new month, as the Redemptorist community meets for supper, the reader announces the virtue of the next month, the scripture text and the name of the Apostle who is to be the special monthly patron of these apostolic men. The Apostle for December is St. Matthias.

If anybody asks what we mean by self-denial and love of the Cross, the answer is found in the life of Christ, as you read it in the four Gospels. Our Divine Savior denied Himself all the comforts, pleasures, conveniences, superfluities of the world. He could have had all of these in abundance if He so desired but He came to suffer from His birth in a manger, His first bed, to His death on a Cross, His last bed. He denied His own Will. No wonder the two outstanding devotions in the life of Father Seelos were the Crib and the Crucifix. He proved he was a man who denied himself because, he was promptly, blindly obedient always; he never complained; he was ever satisfied; he asked for nothing; he refused nothing. The over-all picture of his life - he was the CHEERFUL ASCETIC.

Let us ask ourselves especially in this penitential season of Advent if we practice this unpopular virtue!! Are we satisfied always? Are we uncomplaining? Are we cheerful in our love and service of God and His Church?

We want to be true followers of Christ, as saintly Father Seelos was. Here's the way. Hear Christ again: "If any one will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his Cross and follow Me."

Ask the Blessed Mother to be your Perpetual Help always.

SPECIAL LETTERS

"...Last Friday you brought the relic of Father Seelos to the hospital and my cousin, who is dying of cancer, kissed the relic. Tuesday of the following week he went to confession and Thursday he received Holy Communion. I am very happy and I know it was Father Seelos who helped my cousin as he never wanted a priest and his family was against frightening him because he is dying. He is very peaceful now and the family is consoled."

Anonymous

Gheens, La.

"On May 10 my husband started to bleed as though he was a free bleeder, but all tests showed he wasn't. The doctor in charge said in nine years of practicing medicine he had never seen so much bleeding. He tried all he could think of and even consulted with other doctors, but with no success, so the doctor said he would operate the next day. I had heard of the wonderful help of Father Seelos, so I started praying to good Father Seelos. Now after three months, thanks to Father Seelos and the doctors, my husband was operated on and had 29 pints of blood given during his 2-1/2 months in the hospital. He is back home and was told by his doctor he could go back to work on October 1."

Mrs. L. D.

New Orleans, La.

"...My son and I have been making the Wednesday evening Mass in honor of Father Seelos and God. We enjoy coming to the Mass. I am hoping each week the crowd will increase. I spread his devotion to a lot of friends that I know. My son had his toe nearly cut off. The doctor told him he may lose his toe. Thanks to God and Father Seelos his toe came along fine. Ever since that happened my son says the prayer to Father Seelos and offers the Rosary each day to him."

Mrs. A. L.

New Orleans, La.

"...My grand-daughter was pregnant and during her pregnancy it was discovered that she had to have a kidney removed. It was either her life or the baby's. I prayed to Father Seelos that the baby would be born before the kidney had to be removed. My favor was granted. My grand-daughter delivered a fine boy and six weeks later the kidney was removed. She is fine and well now, thanks to Father Seelos."

Mrs. C. H.

Warminster, Pa.

"...On June 29 I was in an automobile accident causing me to have seven broken ribs, internal injuries, etc., especially my left breast was badly bruised and very painful. Through a friend (who was born and raised in New Orleans) I learned of the blessed Father Seelos. My friend sent me a scapular of Father Seelos and told me to wear it on my clothing and to pray daily with faith in God and that Father Seelos would intercede for me. The second day that I wore the scapular proved a great joy to me. The pain in my breast disappeared! I can't find words to thank God and Father Seelos for this wonderful favor I received through his intercession."

Mrs. A. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

All blessings with Father Seelos crucifix are arranged through Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176, or you may call the Seelos Center direct, 525-2495. Father Grangell or one of the other priests or brothers calls at the local hospitals on Friday Evenings. Other blessings will require special arrangements.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL REQUESTS FOR PRAYER CARDS, CLOTH MEMENTOES, ETC. TO THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER, 2030 CONSTANCE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130. Your order will be given prompt attention and your name will be added to our mailing list, if it is not already on the list, so that you will receive this monthly paper. We are prepared to send materials in any amount you may request.

A note we received from Tunnelton, West Virginia: "Father Seelos" signature is recorded for four baptisms in our remote mountain German parish, in the middle of the last century.

The Church needs vocations to the Priesthood, Brothers and Sisters. If you need guidance, write to the Seelos Center.

Some thanksgivings through prayers to Father Seelos received in the last few days - they come in daily! a son returned safely from Vietnam - great improvement in eye sight after surgery - diabetes under control - a war veteran able to walk on crutches (Tallahassee, Fla.) - successful tonsillectomy - recovery from burns - return to the Sacraments after many years - cure of cancer - and there are hundreds more.

TO ALL OUR READERS! MAY YOUR ADVENT BE HOLY AND YOUR CHRISTMAS VERY MERRY! ASK SANTA CLAUS TO BRING SOME BIG SURPRISES TO FATHER SEELOS.

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