



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 3

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## IMITATE FATHER SEELOS

BY FATHER ELWORTHY

"No man is a hero to his own valet," - once upon a time this was a fairly acceptable statement. It would be closer to the truth today to say, no man is a hero, period. We are living in an era of iconoclasm. With constant exposure by means of our instant communications, even the "great ones" of the earth soon show their feet of clay. This, coupled with a general cynicism, has made us moderns slow indeed to label any man a hero. The age of superman is over.

Or is it? Great people do live around us today, people we really admire not superman, but live, credible human beings, who live good, even great lives, because of the grace of God within them.

In reading Father Curley's life of Father Seelos, I was caught by the one common thread that drew his life together: devotion to duty. He did his work zealously, whatever obedience called him to: director of seminarians, novice-master, pastor, assistant, superior, subject, missionary, confessor. Whatever it was, he gave himself. Today we call this commitment, dedication. We admire this trait in him; with God's grace, let us follow his example.

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We are in need of volunteers to assist us with enclosing the Father Seelos cloth mementoes in plastic. These are used by Father Grangell when he visits the hospitals. If you can help us call the Center 525-2495 or Miss Addie Buhler 895-6176.

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### **VOCATIONS! VOCATIONS! VOCATIONS!**

The Church needs good Priests, Brothers and Sisters. If the Father Seelos Center can help an aspirant, please get in touch with us. Write or phone for an appointment. Address: 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. Phone 525-2495.

## THE THIRD MONTH - - LOVE OF GOD

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Redemptorist Virtue for the month of March is "LOVE OF GOD." St. John in his First Epistle 5/3 tells us what it is. This is the love of God, that we keep His Commandments! When Father Seelos made his daily Way of the Cross, he would see Christ falling in the 3rd Station and he would ask for the grace to fall in love with his Most Holy Redeemer. His whole life was one continuous act of the love of God. He told a confrere that he wishes to love Jesus Christ the way St. Paul loved Him. To the Romans, Chapter 8/35-39, Paul wrote: Who shall separate me from the love of Christ? Shall tribulations? Or distress? Or famine? Or Nakedness? Or danger? Or persecution? Or the sword? I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor might, nor height, nor depth, nor any other Creature, shall be able to separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Hear Father Seelos saying to us as St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians ( 1 Cor. 16/22 ) "If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema." (Anathema means cursed, condemned.)

One day a man asked Father Seelos to suggest a good book on the love of God. Without a moment's hesitation he answered: Read "The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ" by St. Alphonsus. In fact, he said, read anything that St. Alphonsus wrote - the Visit Book, "All that I ask and desire is Thy Holy Love" - the Way of the Cross, "Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me as Thou wilt," - the prayer to the Blessed Mother which begins "Most Holy and Immaculate Virgin, obtain for me a perfect love for Jesus Christ." St. Alphonsus wrote many spiritual books. They glow with love of God. They were gold mines for Father Seelos. They were his inspiration. (They are still in print.)

Father Seelos used to say when we love someone, we want to be in his presence as much as possible - and that was the reason he spent much time before the Blessed Sacrament. He used to say when we love someone we want that person to know it - and that was the reason he had on his lips always the little prayer "My God I love You." He used to say when we love someone, we will suffer anything, any time for him, and that was the reason he denied himself in the spirit of penance and mortification. An old saying is: Friends are alike or become alike - and that was the reason he loved his crucifix and read the four Gospels constantly. He used to say when we love someone we talk about him all the time, and that was the reason his sermons and his advice in the parlor and in the sick room and in the confessional were always so good, he spoke of the love of God.

When you read this re-read it and see how you can imitate the Sanctity of Father Seelos in every detail and so easily.

Make the breath of your life: MY GOD I LOVE YOU.

Hear Jesus say to you: LOVE MY BLESSED MOTHER, TOO.

# SPECIAL LETTERS

Lexington, Ky.

"... Words cannot express my appreciation of the innumerable graces I have received from our Lord through the intercession of our Lady and Father Seelos. Never ever have I invoked Father Seelos without my prayers being answered. He answers my prayers almost immediately. Again words cannot express my love of Father Seelos. May he be canonized shortly."

B. N.

New Orleans, La.

"I am reporting my favor received. Just one week ago I asked for those prayers before the tomb of Father Seelos for my baby girl named Jessica. She was born with a pressure lump on her head. Now in one week her lump is gone. Thanks to Father Seelos, my favor has been granted. Thank you for sending me the Father Seelos mementoes I asked for."

Mrs. C. C.

Marrero, La.

"... For favor granted, thank God and Father Seelos. Please publish this in your monthly paper."

Mrs. L. C.

New Orleans, La.

"Two weeks ago I wrote a letter about my sister who was in a bad accident a few years ago. I said I had prayed to Father Seelos and felt he had helped her recover. I also said I was asking help of Father Seelos once again for my husband who has been troubled with bad headaches, pains in the back of the neck and chest and also troubled with his eyes.

"A week ago he was given a brain wave test and X-rays were taken of his skull. He was also given other tests and X-rays. My husband truly thought the results would not be good. I feared also for the worst. I prayed to Father Seelos and other saints to intercede for me. Today the doctor told us he is alright except for his nerves, which have caused his trouble.

"I feel certain that once again Father Seelos helped us. I am asking him to help my husband stop smoking even though nothing is wrong with his lungs or head and also to help my mother who is getting old and does not feel well. I know he will help us."

Mrs. J. M.

New Orleans, La.

"... A Mass of thanksgiving in honor of Father Seelos, which I promised if the X-ray which I had made was negative. I am pleased and happy that it was and I can write to tell you so. I have prayed and still do to Father Seelos for this petition and will continue to praise him and tell others of him."

Mrs. C. P.

### SPECIAL NOTES

Father Grangell visits all the hospitals in the New Orleans area on Friday nights and blesses the sick with Father Seelos' crucifix. Please call 895-6176 and tell us who your sick are. If you wish Father Grangell to go to the Hospital on another day and he cannot make it, some other Father or Brother will go.

Every Wednesday is Father Seelos Day at St. Alphonsus Church (The 5:30 P.M. Mass is in his honor.) We pray for his canonization and for favors from God through him.

Place your petitions at his grave!

Bring your sick to the Holy Mass. After Mass all are blessed with Father Seelos crucifix.

On the first Wednesday of every month, we have a Conference at 5 P.M. on the monthly Virtue, followed by Holy Mass at 5:30.

Kindly direct your correspondence to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. This will help us to handle your orders for supplies, etc. more promptly than if they are addressed to any one in particular.

We would appreciate it if you would notify us by mail or phone at the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495 to report any changes in address or zip codes to insure proper and speedy delivery of our newsletter.

Copies of the CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the life of Father Seelos, by Rev. Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., are available at the Father Seelos Center. The price is \$4.95 and we are prepared to handle your orders immediately.

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