



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1970

## THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

BY FATHER ELWORTHY

“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”

The feast of the Annunciation this year comes on April 6, due to the early Easter. In the new calendar of the Church this feast is called the Annunciation of the Lord.

It was through the visitation of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary with the message from heaven that God became visible to us. Christ became man in time without ceasing to be the eternal God.

Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary was the chosen human instrument by which the Second Person of the Trinity came on earth to redeem us. Christ is the Son of God made man. Mary is that one woman on earth who is the Mother of God.

Let's become enthusiastic over the Father Seelos Memory Mass - every Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. in St. Alphonsus Church. Bring your sick and all your requests. Bring your neighbors.

The reason many young people refuse a religious vocation, do not desire to be Priests and Religious, is because they are not generous with God; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds. If anybody wishes information on the priesthood and the religious life, please write to the Father Seelos Center.

We again remind you of our ADORATION PROGRAM in St. Alphonsus Church. For several years many faithful devotees spent one hour each month (some more than one hour) in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in imitation of Father Seelos. How about you? If you would like to receive a monthly reminder of the time you are to spend in adoration, contact us at the FATHER SEELOS CENTER. We'll be happy to put your name on our list.

## THE PROOF OF ONE'S LOVE OF GOD

BY FATHER GRANGELL



To practice virtue is one thing; to practice virtue systematically is another thing. The one is perfection, the other is heroic perfection. Father Seelos' Redemptorist rule gave him a system, and following that system made him an outstanding religious, made him a saint. We want you who read these monthly messages from Father Seelos Center to imitate Father in his system, and that is the system of monthly virtue. He says to you what St. Paul said to the Corinthians, (1 Cor 4/16) "I beseech you, be followers of me, as I also am of Christ.

The monthly virtue for April is "LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOR." It is the virtue of the love of God in action. It is the affectionate "My God, I love You," become effectively, "MY GOD, I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR." In fact, the love of God and love of neighbor are the same virtue.

The 13th Chapter of First Corinthians was the inspiration of St. Alphonsus book on "The Practice of the Love of God." Father Seelos knew it by heart and lived it. Read it. One day a man said to Father: "What qualities of brotherly love would you suggest that I have in the practice of this virtue. I am just a beginner in the spiritual life. Father Seelos suggested four qualities which should stand out in everybody's charity. It must be genuine, sincere, always the same, at home, at work, at play. Don't have two standards of charity! Don't deceive yourself and others! Don't be a hypocrite! Don't be a devil at home and a saint abroad. Live in the presence of God always.

Secondly, it must be supernatural. See God in everybody, the old, the sick, the illiterate, the children! Then you are kind and patient with them.

Thirdly, your charity must be disinterested. Don't expect something in return. Don't let your left hand know what your right hand does! Don't give to get! Don't act to be praised. Everything you do is done for the Love of God.

Fourthly, to use St. Paul's words: "Charity beareth all things! Be patient. You can't change peoples' temperaments, or characters, or personalities. You can't get everybody to think and act as you want. Take them as they are. Keep smiling. It's easy enough to be happy when the world goes on like a song, but the man worth while is the man with a smile when everything goes quite wrong. Smile a while, and as you smile, another smiles and then they're miles and miles of smiles and smiles and life's worth while because you smile. Scatter sunshine."

The man thought he could develop those qualities in his charity. Then he asked what defects against charity he should watch. Father Seelos told him to watch defects in speech and defects in the heart. Control your tongue; angry quarrelling, gossip, detraction (revealing hidden faults of another), calumny (lying about one, ruining a good name, a good reputation), criticizing. In your heart: no jealousy, no envy, no rash judgments, no interpreting the words and actions of another, no suspicions, skip circumstantial evidence. Father Seelos said: "Let me sum it all up in Christ's words in the Sermon on the Mount

(Continued on page 4)

# SPECIAL LETTERS

Houston, Texas

" . . . My son, just returned from Vietnam, is having a rough time re-adjusting and also getting a good job in order to support himself. I would like to petition Father Seelos to lead my son to the right position and guide him in this time of need. Our prayers were answered to bring our son safely home, but the horror of war, as with all our young men, is not easily erased from their minds. They have lived a life-time in one year of living hell. Having to see their buddies killed and wounded, and not being able to help them is awfully hard, and, if it were not for the faith my son had in our Lord and the Blessed Mother, he says he could not have survived. Our men come back with medals for heroism and valor; but these do not mean anything to the ordinary citizen only to the parents who actually see what the war has done to our sons.

My son wishes to finish his college education. He enlisted after two years trying to 'forget' the war; but he had to enlist, saying 'Those boys must be awfully tired of fighting.' Thank You."

*Mrs. L. B. C., Jr.*

Lockport, La.

" . . . Week before last I had requested that my intention be recommended to the prayers of those praying at the tomb of Father Seelos. My intention was that my son would get a job soon and for his health. I was granted that favor the following week. My son got a job. He had been out of work for many months. Thanks for the prayers to Father Seelos. I feel they were answered."

*Mrs. S. C.*

New Orleans, La.

" . . . I had a lump that formed in the roof of my mouth. I placed my cloth memento of Father Seelos against it and said the Our Father and Hail Mary at different times, and have found the lump to be a lot smaller and much less sore. I promised Father Seelos if this lump would disappear I would let you know. I will continue to pray for complete cure and ask for your prayers along with me."

*Mrs. J. A. C.*

New Orleans, La.

" . . . I prayed to God and Father Seelos that the treatment my granddaughter was receiving would improve her condition. The X-rays showed great improvement. I thank God and Father Seelos. Please publish in your monthly leaflet."

*Mrs. M. M.*

### 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.

On March 8 Father Grangell conducted a Day of Recollection at St. Christopher's Church for men, women and teenagers. The day was dedicated to Father Seelos.

When ordering copies of the CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Curley, please make your check payable to the FATHER SEELOS CENTER and not to Father Curley. Father Curley is stationed in Brooklyn, New York. The price of the book is \$4.95. We can fill your orders immediately.

(Continued from page 2)

(Matt 5/44) 'Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, pray for them that persecute and calumniate you.'"

Father Seelos told a devout soul one day: "Practice zeal - try to save souls for a happy eternity. That's real love."

May I suggest that you take all this advice of Father Seelos and examine your own conscience!

If you love your neighbor then you can say meaningly: "MY GOD, I LOVE YOU." Love the Blessed Mother of God.

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Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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