



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SISTER HILDEGARD, S.B.S.

We were very much saddened to learn of the death of Sister Hildegard early in April, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I was one of the few who worked at the Father Seelos Center who was privileged to know Sister Hildegard. While she was in New Orleans I visited her several times and grew very fond of her.

We will be eternally grateful to Sister for the tireless hours and hours she spent working on the translation of various papers written by Father Seelos and those written about him before and after his death. She literally translated tens of thousands of pages of these works. She had been in failing health for several years and was not assigned to a classroom. She had been stationed in New Orleans and taught at Xavier Preparatory School. She was transferred to Philadelphia about three years ago. Much of her time in the last seven or eight years in New Orleans was dedicated to working for Father Seelos.

We are sure she is in heaven with our beloved Father Seelos and enjoying the reward she so richly deserved.

In memory of Sister Hildegard a Mass was offered by Father Elworthy at our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel on Saturday, April 25. The volunteers of the Father Seelos Center and others close to Sister attended.

Josie Becker

NO GENERATION GAP!

BY FATHER ELWORTHY

One reviewer of Father Michael Curley's life of Father Seelos remarked that when Father Seelos was in charge of the young Redemptorist seminarians at Cumberland, Maryland, there was no generation gap between them.

Father Seelos in those days, more than a hundred years ago, was saintly looking; he had a gentle benevolent spirit. Certainly his technique in handling youth was not of the drill-master kind.

He exacted obedience from his charges by exhortation rather than by command. He was always available to them and approachable, going on walks with them and joining in their recreations. In a short time by his gentleness and kindness he brought a spirit of peace and unity among them.

Truly an example for our day!

OBTAIN YOUR COPY OF "CHEERFUL ASCETIC" BY FATHER MICHAEL CURLEY, FROM THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER, 2030 CONSTANCE STREET. THIS IS THE LIFE OF FATHER SEELOS AND IS VERY INTERESTING TO READ. THE PRICE IS \$4.95.

FATHER SEELOS AND DETACHMENT

BY FATHER GRANGELL



One day a man asked Father Seelos what the end of the Congregation of Redemptorists really is; what St. Alphonsus, the founder, had in mind, when under inspiration, he wrote the Holy Rule. Father Seelos answered: It is very simple. "Let me read the first sentence of the Rule Book for you:" The end of the Institute of the Most Holy Redeemer is no other than to unite priests to live together, and earnestly strive to imitate the virtues and example of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, devoting themselves especially to the preaching of the word of God to the poor!

That Rule made of Father Seelos a man truly poor, a friend of privation, free from all attachment to the things of this world, devoted and consecrated solely to the imitation of Our Most Holy Redeemer, to the love of God and to the salvation of souls. He saw Christ from His poverty at Bethlehem, through the humble years of a poor unknown carpenter at Nazareth up to His thirtieth year, through the three years of the public ministry, during which years He had not whereon to lay His head, (He had no home,) - to His death on the cross, deprived of everything. Christ was his Exemplar, his Model, his Mirror!

The monthly virtue for May for Redemptorists is Poverty. So Father Seelos checked on how he practiced Poverty in his daily Examination of Conscience, at noon - in his daily meditations morning and evening - in his monthly retreat. Like all Christians, he had to practice the virtue of Poverty-to be detached from all material things. But to practice the virtue perfectly, he made the vow of Poverty. He would never dispose of anything without permission of his superior, he would never receive anything as a personal gift. He would never complain if something were missing or denied him. He would always be satisfied. All superfluous things were out of his life. He denied himself all comforts. He was humble, obedient, prayerful, cheerful. He was Christ-like.

You who read this: Are you attached to material things? Read the Book of Job! It will take about four hours to read! See what happened to a man who lost his possessions, his family, his health. See his reactions. It is a great story on how to use material things. Read the CHEERFUL ASCETIC - the life of Father Seelos. SEE HOW HE PUT GOD FIRST IN HIS LIFE.

You will come to the conclusion: If we love God, we are attached to Him alone, we are always satisfied, we never complain.

Some people lose their faith, give up their Catholic religion, because they are attached to the things of this world.

Think about these things! Ask the Blessed Mother who was so poor in material things, to help you to suffer privation. You must become a CHEERFUL ASCETIC.

THANKS TO FATHER SELOS

Metairie, La.

"...I gave birth prematurely to a set of twins. The boy born first weighed 3 lbs. 5 oz. and the girl weighed 2 lbs. 15½ oz. When they were born the doctor said they had a slim chance of surviving. The pediatrician gave us no hope. They were progressing very well until they were three weeks old. Then the doctor told us that our little boy had fluid on the brain. He was too small for an operation and his chances of permanent brain damage were very great. My mother started us praying to Father Seelos. I also gave the prayer to several friends, who also interceded with us to him for our little Tommy.... The operation was finally performed and our baby's reactions were very good. He recovered very rapidly and gained in weight so that at about two and one half months he weighs eight pounds. Every day we thank Father Seelos for interceding with God for us and helping to save our son for us....We are still praying to Father Seelos because it is too soon to tell whether Tommy has suffered brain damage, but he shows no sign of it and we feel that God and Father Seelos have brought him thus far and they are going to take care of him the rest of the way."

Mrs. T. H. H.

New Orleans, La.

"...On my first doctor visit it seemed an operation would be necessary should the treatment prescribed not clear up my condition. I asked the help of Father Seelos. After three weeks I returned for a checkup. The condition was remarkably improved and after another three weeks I was advised that no operation was necessary. I have fulfilled my promise but would not mind if you care to publish this."

Mrs. M. M.

Metairie, La.

"...Last August my nephew age four became very ill and was in a coma for five days. The doctors said he had encephalitis and were afraid he would not recover or would have brain damage. I began praying to Father Seelos and promised to write if he recovered.

Thanks to Father Seelos he fully recovered and is normal again. I also prayed to Our Mother of Perpetual Help and St. Gerard."

Mrs. C. M. I.

New Orleans, La.

"...Thanks to Father Seelos. We received excellent reports on my husband's kidney X-rays and cystoscopy. My husband's back ailment, due to a pinched nerve, has improved considerably without surgery, for which we also prayed to Father Seelos...Please continue to pray for my husband's health and for me."

Mrs. A. T.

Blytheville, Ark.

"...I was to have an operation on my head, but I am fine now. I promised to report the favor granted me through Father Seelos, for publication in your paper."

Mrs. A. M.

OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP

When Pope Pius IX saw the picture of Our Mother of Perpetual Help the first time in St. Alphonsus Church in Rome, he kept exclaiming "Oh, how beautiful! Oh, how beautiful!" He turned to the Redemptorist Fathers who were in the Church at that time and he commanded them: "Make Our Mother of Perpetual Help known to the world!" They have done so. The whole world knows Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

Every Tuesday in St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans, at 10:30 A. M. and 5:30 P.M. we have a beautiful novena in connection with Holy Mass. Come to her shrine with your petitions for help and bring your friends with you. Begin a novena in our Lady's month of May 1970.

SPECIAL NOTES

Those of you who live in New Orleans should make an effort to come to the Father Seelos Mass on every Wednesday at 5:30 P.M. Bring your sick! Put your written petition at the tomb in St. Alphonsus. Those of you who are out of the city send your petitions and we will put them at the tomb for you.

Every Friday Father Grangell visits the local hospitals and blesses those who have requested it with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. If you have a relative or friend whom you wish blessed, kindly call 895-6176 and the names will be placed on Father's list. If you wish someone visited at another time other than Friday, or if the patient will not be hospitalized on Friday, call any way and Father Grangell or one of the other Fathers or Brothers if at all possible will call on the patient.

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