



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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AUGUST 2 - FEAST OF ST. ALPHONSUS

Father Seelos belonged to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, which was founded by St. Alphonsus in 1732. St. Alphonsus was a man of many parts, a genius. He was a poet and a musician; the hymns he wrote are still sung popularly in Italy and have even been heard in our country. He was an artist and occasionally put his hand to architecture. At the early age of sixteen he received his degree in both civil and canon law. He practised law for some years, then he became a priest, became the superior of his missionary congregation, and in his old age, was made the bishop of a diocese (Saint Agatha of the Goths).

Despite his many labors, he still found time to write over one hundred books. No doubt his prodigious output was due to the vow he made when young of never losing a moment of time. St. Alphonsus was declared a doctor of the Church; Pope Pius XII named him patron of confessors and moralists.

As we celebrate his memory on August 2, we shall be thinking, too, of a renowned spiritual son of his, whose mortal remains lie at the feet of his statue in St. Alphonsus Church, Constance Street: Father Francis Xavier Seelos.

Rev. J. Elworthy

COPIES OF THE "CHEERFUL ASCETIC" ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER AND WILL BE MAILED IMMEDIATELY UPON YOUR REQUEST. The cost of the book is \$4.95. WE WILL ABSORB THE COST OF MAILING THE BOOK AT THE CENTER.

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 wick! 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 anyway and Father Grangell or one of the other Fathers or Brothers if at all possible will call on the patient.

FATHER SEELOS AND OBEDIENCE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Father Seelos was asked one day what was the hardest thing in the religious life. He answered very definitely, emphatically, with one word: Obedience. To give up one's free will for the Love of God, to see God's will in the Rule and the commands of a superior is hard on human nature.

The rule maps out the order of the day. To observe that order from day to day is tough. To get up at a set time every morning because it's God's will, no matter how one is feeling, is heroic. Father Seelos lived that heroic life. A half hour after rising, he and his confreres met in the chapel for morning meditation to get his day organized with supernatural motives. Some mornings he was sleepy and had to fight off this drowsiness, but sleeping or wide awake, he was there in obedience, in love of God.

Community bells rang all day long. He heard the voice of God in them. He used to say if he did not hear the voice of God in these bells, he lived just a routine life, a monotonous life, a rebellious life, a life without spiritual motive, so why attend these exercises. Father Seelos lived his life from the motive of the Love of God.

Somebody asked Father if he preferred a strict superior to an easy, lax superior. He answered he did not live his religious life according to the whims of a superior. He said he obeyed to please God. He said he pitied a lax superior because the religious life suffered from his laxness, untold harm was done to the religious, he failed in his commitment. He felt sorry for a superior who could not adjust himself to circumstances. He used to say that God was his superior and his rule was God's Will.

Christ was his model. He saw Christ obedient from the crib to the cross. His perpetual meditation book for the Four Gospels.

The good Catholic is obedient. He is not selfish. He sees God's will in every law and regulation of the Church. When the Holy Father speaks, he hears the voice of God.

July is the month of obedience in the Redemptorist system of asceticism. Just one point for you in your sanctity: never criticize the Church. Pray that all love and obey the Holy Father. Ask the Blessed Mother to help you.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Thibodaux, La.

"...Eleven years ago we were told that our 15 year old daughter had a brain tumor and when she went through surgery we were told she couldn't live. The doctor didn't remove the tumor as it was too deep seated. Five years later she developed the same problem. This time we were given the choice of an operation or X-ray treatment. At this time a priest told us about Father Seelos so we prayed to him....She has now finished college and has also received her Masters degree. She teaches school. She is married and has a beautiful one year old red haired girl....We have all the reason on earth to believe that good Father Seelos interceded for us...."

D. L. L.

Houma, La.

"...My grandson is doing so well since surgery last year. He was very near death. I prayed to Father Seelos for his recovery and I feel my prayers were answered. I will continue to pray to Father Seelos for other favors I am requesting."

Mrs. L. C. M.

Gretna, La.

"...Yesterday I went to church and prayed to Father Seelos to intercede with God that my son would find a job. When I returned home from church he informed me that he had just found work. I have never had a prayer answered so quickly. Thank you Father Seelos."

Mrs. N. R.

Orlando, Florida

"...My neighbor over a long period of time had been suffering from a throat ailment. After being examined by the Doctor, it was discovered he had a small tumor. While tests were being made at the hospital to determine if it was malignant I started a novena to Father Francis Seelos for him, and touched the cloth memento which was touched to the tomb of Father Seelos to his throat. A week later the tests showed that the tumor had been removed in time. My neighbor is completely well now. He is able to speak clearly without any strain on his vocal chords, the hoarseness is gone from his voice and he speaks without any difficulty whatsoever. Father Francis Seelos answered my prayers. I have promised to spread devotion to him and pray that he is canonized a saint soon."

Mrs. C. D.

Bayside, N. Y.

"...Please accept this donation and feel free to publish the favor which I am thankful to have received....My elderly aunt had a severe case of shingles on her face and after I began to pray to Father Seelos she began to recover from this illness....However, at the present time she is dying, and I ask that you please pray for her spiritual welfare."

J. B. L.

SPECIAL NOTES

We received four Air Mail letters from four different men in Ghana Tema, West Africa - all natives - telling us that they heard of Father Seelos. They wish to become Catholics. They are asking for Bibles and Catholic books. If anybody is interested in helping these men, please contact Seelos Center for names and addresses.

People are talking and writing about miracles through Father Seelos. Wonderful! Write and tell us about them. We will publish them.

Do you know that Father Seelos and Sanctity goes to every country of the world? If you wish to spread devotion to Father Seelos - no matter where you live - write to the Father Seelos Center and we will be very happy to send pictures, etc. to you.

Study the picture of Father Seelos! Notice how his fingers are on the beads of his rosary! Be sure to say the Rosary every day in May - June - July - every day of your life!!!

In season and out of season the church is looking for new priests. When the boy in the eighth grade or in any year of high school thinks he would like to be a priest, he must consider that a call from God - a vocation. He must not close his ear and his heart to that call, he must do something about it. Write to Father Seelos Center for contacts. Just write and say: I am interested in the Redemptorist Priesthood; please help me. We will!

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