



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS FIRST YEAR AS A PRIEST

Father Seelos' advent into the priesthood was prosaic enough. He was stationed at St. James' in Baltimore. He said Mass in the Church and in nearby convents. He baptized, taught Catechism to the German children. He even gave a smattering of Latin to boys who had the desire to become Redemptorist priests. He heard confession in German, French and even English. He felt deficient in the latter, but his first try was successful and gave him confidence.

On April 13, 1845 he preached his first sermon on the patronage of St. Joseph. He was most happy about that, since he had a great devotion to St. Joseph.

There were many things in America that were not to his natural liking. But he felt that it was God's will that he should be here. He was most happy in his vocation. He declared:

All the riches and pleasures of this earth would not be able to make me change my present place in work. With both my arms and all my enthusiasm and fervor, I have embraced the prosaic life of a missionary in North America. The poverty and state of abandonment among the majority of the Germans here, the work of instructing their children, and as time passes by, I hope the instruction of neglected negro people, offer me more than enough occupation as a priest in the complete service of souls.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street - \$4.95 per copy. While they last we have copies personally autographed by the author of the book, Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R.

THOUGHTS FOR NOVEMBER

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Virtue for November - PRAYER

Patron: St. Jude, the Apostle

Text: We ought always to pray and never be discouraged (Luke 18/1)

Read this as a conversation between Father Seelos and a friend.

It seems to me, Father Seelos, you like to pray! You are right, my friend, I do like to pray, but I do not get enough time to pray. I thought your whole day was prayer. It is. As a matter of fact so is yours and everybody's if you make the Morning Offering and give all your thoughts, words and actions of the day to God. My prayer life, said Father Seelos, is regulated for me as a Redemptorist. We call that the Regular Order of the Day. St. Alphonsus insisted on it so firmly when he lived. He used to say the Redemptorists would flourish as a great institute in the Church or wither away and die, according to the way we prayed or ceased to pray. I am living 100 years since the days of St. Alphonsus and the first Redemptorists and we have the same wonderful Alphonsian prayer order day after day.

The Community, immediately after rising, meets in the Chapel for morning meditation and to plan the day for God. At noon, in the Chapel, again for a few moments to examine our consciences on how generous we are with God. In the evening before supper, for another Community Meditation. This time the theme is the Infancy of Christ during the Christmas Cycle, and on the Passion of our Lord the rest of the year. This meditation is a challenge to our love of God. The day ends with Community night prayers and the Litany of the Blessed Mother. The good man said he always knew the Redemptorists had devotion to Mary. It's an heirloom from St. Alphonsus, the author of the greatest book ever written on Mary: *The Glories of Mary!* There are other Redemptorist traditional devotions during the day - visits to the Blessed Sacrament as often as one passes the Chapel, the Way of the Cross, the Rosary, a private afternoon meditation, spiritual reading. How do you get in all these prayers and do your priestly work of visiting the sick, giving instructions, school work, taking the census? Well, we don't get them in every day. One just leaves God for God.

If I am called away on a work of zeal at a prayer period, my obligation as a priest gets priority. I envy you. I wish I were a Religious. Why don't you become a Redemptorist Brother. The Brother lives the same life. May I? You are a widower, not old, and healthy. Come around and let's talk about it. Not everybody can be a Religious, but everybody can have a daily private regular order of prayer and be a man, a woman of prayer. Work out an order with some Priest. You must live a balanced life.

Nobody ever prayed as the Blessed Mother did. Ask her to help you to love prayer.

The books of St. Alphonsus Liguori may be purchased from Redemptorist Fathers, Liguori, Missouri, 63057. St. Alphonsus wrote a beautiful Christmas book with novenas for Christmas in it.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"...Thanks first to God and then Father Seelos for a favor granted...My sister had a hernia operation in February 1971. The second night after surgery she stopped breathing. She was almost gone, but thanks to God her life was spared. She was given the last Sacraments. After a week at home she lost her voice off and on. A throat specialist treated her. Finally he said she needed surgery. We thought it was cancer. The operation was a success - no cancer. She can now speak with no trouble."

J. L.

New Orleans, La.

"I promised publication if my prayers were answered. My brother had a very serious operation and many of his friends and also many members of the family thought he would never be strong enough to return to work. Not returning to work seemed more important to him than anything else. Thank God for the intercession of Father Seelos and my prayers and sincere confidence in Father Seelos, my brother has returned to work a week now and is feeling much better mentally and physically."

Mrs. D. M.

Marksville, La.

"Please publish my petition. My brother was down with heart pains to where he had to stay in bed and was not able to work. He has a family to take care of. I prayed to Father Seelos and now he is doing better. He expects to be back to work soon. Please continue your prayers for his recovery."

Mrs. E. N.

Chalmette, La.

"Enclosed is offering I promised to further the work of the Father Seelos Center if I passed my test at school. My favor was granted as it has been so many times before."

Mrs. A.D.

New Orleans, La.

"A twelve year old great niece of ours was severely injured when she fell while riding her horse on April 18. When found she was unconscious and hung between life and death for 10 days. When she regained consciousness she had no sight, no hearing and no voice. We started our Wednesday Novena to Father Seelos and the child now has her hearing, voice and sight. She is receiving therapy for paralyzed left arm and leg. We hope to have a normal child back with us soon. Our thanks to God and Father Seelos."

A. B.

SPECIAL NOTES

We are making great progress in the restoration of St. Mary's Church - Father Seelos' Church. We are grateful to all who have contributed to this drive. When you send us a gift be sure you write your name and give us your address. We want to thank you.

We had a letter from a young man who is in his senior year in College, who wants to be a Redemptorist Priest. Pray for him. Pray, too, that we receive many such letters through the inspiration of Father Seelos.

November is the month of the Poor Souls. Be sure to go to daily Mass and Holy Communion if possible and pray for your dead. Eternal joy give unto them, O Lord, and may they be happy with you forever. Amen.

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call 525-2495 or 895-6176. Arrangements will be made.

The annual solemn Mass comemorating the anniversary of the death of Father Seelos was a splendid occasion. All who attended were very much impressed with the beauty and solemnity of the ceremonies. As for us who work so closely with the cause, we also were impressed with the great devotion which was shown to this great priest who walked in the very same aisles of the church in which we all walked and whose remains were there with us in the church.

The continuous amount of letters which we receive reporting favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos, both great and small give us the inspiration and incentive to carry on with the promotion of the cause of Father Seelos.

Please continue to pray that the miracles necessary for the canonization of Father Seelos will soon be obtained and that the devotion to Father Seelos will continue to spread.

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