



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS AND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Father Seelos came to America in 1843, at the age of forty-three. Naturally, one of the first difficulties he had to overcome in this foreign land was the language. Shortly after he was ordained, he gave his first sermon in English. Ever though he gave it his accustomed best effort, his English was labored and halting. An old Irish lady understood very little of what he said, but she added "It does me good to see that holy priest struggle so hard."

That was only in the beginning. Later, Father Seelos' fame as a preacher in English was such that people would walk for miles to hear him on a Sunday afternoon.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

READ THE BIOGRAPHY OF FATHER SEELOS, THE "CHEERFUL ASCETIC", BY FATHER MICHAEL CURLEY, C.S.S.R. IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER FOR \$4.95.

The Seelos Center is most grateful for your letters reporting favors received. We try to acknowledge them promptly. If you do not hear from us, write again, being sure to give your full address and zip code number.

For blessings with the Father Seelos' crucifix, call 895-6176 or 525-2495.

The Seelos Center is in need of volunteer workers always, and especially for mailing this publication. If you are interested, call the Center - 525-2495.

THE MONTHLY VIRTUE OF FEBRUARY - HOPE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Because Redemptorists are Apostolic men, St. Alphonsus gave them one of the 12 Apostles as a monthly patron. St. Andrew is the February patron.

The Scripture text that tells the whole story of this month's virtue is: Because he hoped in Me, I will deliver him; I will protect him because he hath known My Name. (Pa 90/14)

One day a man told Father Seelos he was in trouble, he needed help. He said he lacked hope and confidence in God. In fact, he did not know what hope in God meant. Father Seelos asked him why he came to him. He said "you are a good, holy priest and I know you can help me." "Do you really believe I can help you?" "Indeed, I am sincerely convinced." "Well," said Father Seelos, "just change my name to God's in your story and you are practicing the virtue of Hope." God is infinitely good and holy and has promised to help us. Believing this, just ask for any grace, any favor, any help. He promised 'ask and you shall receive', 'whatever you ask for in My Name, you shall receive.' At baptism, God gave us the virtue of hope. If we don't use it, the virtue will disappear.

Some people never pray, never ask God for help, never tell God they are in trouble, never go to Church, never receive the Sacraments. They have their own ideas about religion. They don't need God. They say they are not like those hypocrites who are running to Church always. They are presuming on the goodness and mercy of God. That's a sin against hope. To justify their godless lives, they condemn others.

Some people give up prayer and the Church because their prayers are never heard, because they had some trouble in their lives and God never helped them. They are committing the sin of despair. That was the sin of Judas. Never give up, always rely on the goodness and the promises of God.

Some people are scrupulous. They worry perpetually about past sins. They sin against hope. The Church teaches that an act of perfect contrition takes away a mortal sin immediately. Sacramental confession is the priest, the ambassador of Christ, telling them to go in peace, their sins are forgiven.

Father Seelos used to Say: Do what you can and leave the rest to God. He liked the saying of St. Theresa: Pray as though all depended on God and work as though all depended on you.

Father Seelos was the "Cheerful Ascetic"! He was always as happy as a child because he knew God would provide.

Jesus Christ, Our Divine Redeemer, did not practice the virtue of Hope. He was the holy, sinless, independent God. He knew all things and could do all things.

Keep reading the Gospels and see Christ, loving the poor, the sick and the crippled and the suffering, if they had faith, hope and confidence in Him. Remember the woman (Luke 8/43), who had suffered from severe bleeding for twelve years. She had spent all she had on doctors, but none had been able to cure her. She said if only she could touch the edge of His cloak. She did and was cured. Remember the blind man (Mark 10), Have mercy on me! I want to see! Your faith has made you well. Remember the leper (Matt 8/1-4), who cried out: If Thou wilt Thou canst cure me! He did. Remember the persistent woman (Matt 15/22-28), who prayed for her daughter. Her persevering hope was rewarded.

Read your Gospels. They are full of stories of hope, of 'Lord, if Thou wilt'. Father Seelos used to tell the people: Never give up! Keep praying! Have hope and trust in God.

Pray that America lives up to its motto. Read it on every coin and dollar bill: In God we trust!

February 11 is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. She told Bernadette the world would be saved by the Rosary.

SPECIAL LETTERS

".....Please accept this offering for a favor that has been granted through Father Seelos intercession. Through his prayers, the Lord heard my petition and made it possible for my sister to return to her home after an absence of 12 years due to illness. Though her health is still not good, it has improved and other obstacles hindering her return have been overcome."(Mrs.) I.G.R.

New Orleans, La.

".....I promised this letter in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for a very special favor granted to me - also a Mass which I am having said in my parish. This will help people elsewhere to know of him. My grandson had to change schools through no fault of his own and I worried if he'd pass the examination. I made a nine-hour novena the day of the examinations, and he has been accepted. This may seem small to other problems, but to our family it was a source of great joy"Mrs. S.B.U.

St. Francisville, La.

".....I prayed to Father Seelos, the Blessed Mother, Christ the King, all the saints of God, for relief of an uncomfortable feeling across the lower part of my shoulder, an itching, and a terrible pain on one side of my ribs. I promised to write a letter to the Father Seelos Center - I am more than thankful that my prayers were answered." Mrs. H.L.H.

(Special Letters - Continued)

Pensacola, Fla.

".....There was a loss of \$1,000.00 in a robbery at my business. I started a Novena to Father Seelos two months after the theft. On the last day of the novena, the police called and advised they had caught the thief and recovered most of the stolen goods. Thanks to Father Seelos."Mrs. R.L.W.

New Orleans, La.

".....I promised if my prayer was answered I would write this letter. My prayer was answered in a few weeks when I was supposed to take over another position in my company, which would have been very hard and would make me very nervous. I prayed to Father Seelos that someone else would be able to take it over and someone did. I am most grateful."F.M.

New Orleans, La.

".....I've been suffering with numbness in my left fingers and have prayed for help. I promised Father Seelos publication - today my hand is much better."

Mrs. A.C.