



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## FATHER SEELOS' FAREWELL TO HOME

Once he resolved to be a Redemptorist missionary in America, naturally Father Seelos had to undergo the emotional strain of saying goodbye to his family. He was away from Fussen at the seminary when all the permissions were given for him to make the journey to the United States. Without returning home, he set off immediately for the port of embarkation.

Was he thinking of our Lord's words, "Once a man has set his hand to the plow, let him not turn back?" He said he did it to imitate his patron saint, Francis Xavier. But it would seem that Seelos, most sensitive to the feeling of others, thought it best to make a clean break without running the risk of upsetting everyone at home. Only his father had known of his plan and had kept the secret. For his farewell, he wrote a common letter to his family, addressing his father, mother, sisters and brothers in turn.

He never saw them again in this life!

*Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.*

FOR FURTHER INTERESTING DETAILS OF FATHER SEELOS' LIFE READ THE "CHEERFUL ASCETIC" BY FATHER MICHAEL CURLEY, C.S.S.R. IT IS AVAILABLE AT THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER, 2030 CONSTANCE STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130 \$4.95 A COPY.

If you wish a member or your family or a friend who is ill and hospitalized blessed with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, call 895-6176 or 525-2495 (Father Seelos Center.)

## THE MONTHLY VIRTUE - - LOVE OF GOD

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Patron for the month of March is the Apostle, St. James Major. The text for daily meditation, how well we know it, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and with thy whole soul and with thy whole strength" (Mark 12/30)

Father Seelos used to say he wished all our Catholic Services, especially every Holy Mass, would begin as the Synagogue Service began. Read it - thrill to its excitement - Deut 6/4 - 9. The President of the meeting would always begin with the words: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord. Then the text above would follow. The people were exhorted to carry these words around with them - tell the children about them - meditate on them - have them written on their walls, etc. God did want their love. All this inspired and thrilled Father Seelos as he dreamed dreams of a whole nation dedicated to the love of God - and hoped and prayed that Americans would be great lovers of Jesus Christ. Father Seelos thanked God for his vocation as a missionary, because he could preach love of God constantly - keep that fire ever burning in the hearts of his listeners.

He loved St. Paul because his epistles are full of the love of God and because he suffered so much to make Christ loved. While he admired 1 Cor. 13/ (read it) he thought the text from 1 Cor 16/22 "If any man love not our Lord Jesus Christ, let him be anathema" should be written in bold letters everywhere, even on bill boards on the highways and on the walls of our homes and where we work.

What good is the man who does not love God? What does his life amount to, if he does not love God? What will his judgment be when he meets Christ after death? Anathema means cursed.

St. Paul says: Faith, hope and love are the great virtues, but love is the greatest. We practice faith and hope in this life, but love goes with us to heaven. Loving God will be the only virtue in heaven.

How do we practice the love of God now? Let's practice it the way Christ practiced it in the gospels and the way we will practice it in heaven, living in the presence of God always and telling God ceaselessly we love Him. Make the prayer "My God, I love You" the theme prayer of your life. Go to Holy Mass daily and tell God in an infinite way you love Him. Receive Holy Communion daily and be one with God in love. Affective love must be effective. Spread the devotion of "My God I love You" among children and the sick and the old - to everybody. There is no generation gap in the LOVE OF GOD!

Love Mary, the Blessed Mother and ask her to help you love God. At our weekly Perpetual Help novena we pray: obtain for us a PERFECT LOVE of God. That's all that counts.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Judging by the variety of favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos by those devoted to him, Father Seelos is a helper in every need. We do not have the space to print all of the letters we receive. We give you a few below. In individual cases each of these favors was a miracle to somebody in distress. Each letter says "Thanks to Father Seelos."

New Orleans, La.

"A relative of mine gave me a card and some information on Father Seelos. At the time my husband was serving in Viet Nam. We were praying for him to get home early, although it was almost impossible. She told me to pray to Father Seelos and if my prayers were answered to report the favor. Two weeks after I started praying to him my husband returned home safely."

*Mrs. C.F.M.*

Houma, La.

"We sold thirty acres of property in four days time with a very small ad in the local paper. Ask Father Seelos to continue to pray for my petitions."

*Mrs. G.P.*

New Orleans, La.

"I had been in Charity Hospital with stomach ulcer for two months and had to use a wheel chair and walker to learn to walk again...At the time I was discharged from the hospital under circumstances I had no control over, I did not have any place to go, so I was recommended to a nursing home. There I was visited by members of the Legion of Mary and also by my wife whom I had been separated from for 18 years . . . I prayed to Father Seelos and was able to leave the nursing home and take care of myself, which was to me a miracle in itself."

*R.H.M.*

Braithwaite, La.

"My husband had an infection and the medications were not helping him in any way. He was hospitalized and many tests were made for tumors to see if there was any chance of the infection being malignant . . . I had been praying to Father Seelos to help him and ask God to let the doctor come from surgery and tell me he was all right. Within 30 minutes the doctor called and told me my husband was fine that he had found no malignancy . . . I believe with all my heart that God and Father Seelos were with my husband in that operating room."

*Mrs. G.B.M.*

Baton Rouge, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos and our Mother of Perpetual Help, I did not flunk out of college this year (things seemed pretty dark) and am a candidate for a B. A."

*M.C.K.*

It looks like everybody is interested in the restoration of St. Mary's Assumption Church - making it the National Shrine of our Lady of Fatima and returning Father Seelos to its sanctuary. We thank everybody who is helping us to raise the \$200,000.00 necessary for the project. Many like the idea of the piggy bank! They can help with nickels and dimes, and when the bank is \$10 rich, Father Seelos will get it all. If the 20,000 readers of Father Seelos and Sanctity do this, 1972 will be a golden year. (specify when sending your gift that it is for the restoration fund.)

If you do not sign your name and give us your address we cannot thank you for your restoration gift. Your name will go in the Gold Book as "An unknown friend."

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We pray for all friends of Father Seelos at the Wednesday weekly novena in St. Alphonsus Church. Be with us in spirit and prayer at 5 P.M. Central time.

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If any boy or young man wishes to be a priest like Father Seelos, a Redemptorist, write or call the Seelos Center for information.

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LOVE GOD AND DO WHAT YOU PLEASE is one of the best books ever written on the love of God. The writer is St. Alphonsus Liguori, C.S.S.R. It's a paperback. Write to Redemptorist Fathers, Liguori, Mo. 63057.

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If any of our readers wish to become members of the Catholic Church, please contact the Seelos Center and we will try to help you.

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Much of the work of sending this paper into your home each month is done by volunteers at the Father Seelos Center. If you have a little spare time which you can offer us, please call us.

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