



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME X, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1971

FATHER SEELOS AND HIS VOCATION

His decision to leave immediately for America without returning home to say goodbye brought consternation to the members of Father Seelos' family. To all but father the news came totally unexpected. His sister, Antonia, wrote to say how much the whole family was afflicted.

One can suppose that Father Seelos was thinking of the calling by Jesus of the first Apostles - how Christ promised to make them fishers of men, and added tersely, "Come, follow Me." Scripture records their simple reaction: "They left all things and followed Him."

To his younger brother, Adam, Father Seelos wrote:

It is God's holy will that I go to the land which I have shown you many times during the summer on the maps when we were alone . . . If this concerned me alone, I would always remain with you and the family, but I cannot resist the inner call, and I will not oppose it but freely follow it.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of the CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. This is about the life of Father Seelos.

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

THE VIRTUE FOR APRIL - LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Patron: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

The Test: This is My Commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15/12)

Father Seelos used to say there was little real fraternal charity, brotherly love in the world, because there is very little real love of God in the hearts of men. Real, genuine, Christian, supernatural love of our neighbor is an effect of a cause. The cause is God. You cannot have an effect without a cause. "I love my neighbor" means nothing unless it follows "I love God!" There is so much uncharitableness and selfishness and unhappiness in many homes because there is no love of God in them. How can we love one another if we do not love God. We love God by prayer and the sacraments. Some people are total strangers to any kind of home prayer and to Sunday Mass and Holy Communion.

One day Father Seelos was visiting in a poor home. He noticed a framed declaration in bold letters on the wall: 'Christ is the Head of this house, the silent listener in every conversation, the unseen guest at every meal.' He said to the father of the family: 'You must have a very charitable family.' The man's family was young. He told Father Seelos he was training his children to curb their tongues.

Father Seelos had a beautiful saintly personality. He was always cheerful, always smiling, always approachable, always had a happy greeting for everyone. He used to say he pitied a sad, sullen, selfish, morose, taciturn problem child, especially if an adult. He said he should pray for the grace to smile. He hoped he was not angry with God. He seemed to be angry with everybody else. Selfish people do not love God not their neighbors.

He told a woman who was suspicious of others that she was guilty of the things she suspected in others. Suspicion works that way. Never judge or interpret another's actions or writings. You will be usually wrong.

Don't be envious or jealous. If so, you are mental.

Don't hate! Pray for those who persecute you!

Read what Christ has to say about Charity in the sermon on the mount. (Matthew Ch. 5, 6, 7)

Before you close your New Testament read 1st Corinthians, Chap. 13. Don't be moody! Learn how to laugh.

See Christ in everybody and then you will love the old, the sick, teen-agers, everybody. You can adjust yourself to your company. Somebody told Father Seelos that he loathed the very sight of a certain self-centered, proud individual. He was giving him ulcers, high blood pressure. The good priest smiled. He said he knew that kind. They are 'psychopathic.' They are crosses in one's life.

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Father Seelos' advice was: To calm your emotions, keep smiling and say often "My God, I love You," and don't lose your balance. At least talk to him in passing.

A young student told Father Seelos he was working for a "Master's in Sociology. The priest congratulated him and suggested that he go to daily Mass and Holy Communion if Possible, because anybody working with the problem of the soul, human conduct, social service, guidance, psychiatry, should be prayerful, spiritual men of God. Zeal prompts them.

Learn to get along with everybody. Don't be sensitive, touchy, selfish, easily hurt. You cannot change people. You can't get your way always. Remember: 'It's easy enough to be happy when the world goes on like a song, but the man worth while is the man with a smile when everything goes quite wrong.'

Our Most Holy Redeemer practiced the virtue of Charity perfectly because He loved His heavenly Father perfectly. Read your gospels. The Blessed Mother is our CREATURE MODEL OF CHARITY.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I am sending a small donation I had promised for my daughter's successful operation. It was very serious and after the operation the Doctor said it would heal very nicely and not to worry . . . I prayed very hard to Father Seelos with God's will that her operation would be a success and it was. I have also had many favors granted through Father Seelos."

Mrs. C.W.M., Mrs. J.P.I.

New Orleans, La.

"I have had poor vision and have been wearing glasses since childhood. A few months ago I was advised to see an eye specialist because of visual disability such as cloudiness and cataracts...I started to pray to Father Seelos every day that my eye sight would improve...I was very nervous while waiting to see the doctor. After he examined my eyes he said they were very good. I was so surprised when the doctor told me I had no cataracts or glaucoma...I have been offering prayers of thanksgiving to God and Father Seelos for granting my favor."

Mrs. L. R.

Bunkie, La.

"Last year was a very unsettled period in our lives. My husband and I were faced with the possibility of a divorce. A friend told me of Father Seelos, and after receiving information, I started a novena in hopes of resolving this period in our relationship and bringing about a change for the better...I am happy to report that everything has turned for the better. Our relationship has strengthened and made better people of both of us. Thanks to Father Seelos for favors received. I have had a Mass for his canonization and promise to further his devotion whenever possible."

Mrs. L. R.

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New Orleans, La.

"My thanks to Father Seelos for favors granted. I was operated on for a growth in between the neck and shoulder. The night before my operation I kissed the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. The lump was removed and found to be malignant. The doctor said they removed all of the malignant tissues and all the roots...I pray to Father Seelos every day in thanksgiving for my recovery and will continue to spread his word to everyone who may need his help, and to promote the devotion by distributing pictures and relics."

J. A. T.

Baton Rouge, La.

"About one year ago my cousin was shot while in Viet Nam. Because of this he was not expected to live. I prayed to Father Seelos and he improved. Now he is fine - making unbelievable progress...Father Seelos always helps me when I need him. He never fails to intercede for me to Jesus Christ. Now I am praying for a friend to help him get a job he wants. Please pray with me for this."

P. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

A very happy, joyous Easter to all our readers and lovers of Father Seelos. God bless all.

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When sending money to the Seelos Center, be sure to sign your name, address, and indicate your purpose in sending it - either to the general Seelos Fund or for the restoration of St. Mary's Church.

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God bless and reward you for your interest in Father Seelos.

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