



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS' NOVITIATE

The young Francis Seelos was in the port city of Le Havre before the seventeenth of March, 1843. Early that day he boarded the "St. Nicolas," a new American ship, a three-master of 800 tons. At 10 A.M. the "St. Nicolas" left Le Havre, carrying Father Seelos on his one and only trip to the New World.

With him were two Redemptorist lay brothers and Father Blaunach, from Austria, who was destined to be his novice-master in America.

The "St. Nicolas" arrived in New York on April 20. Without much delay in that great city, Seelos continued his trip to Baltimore. For a little more than a year he was a novice in the Redemptorist congregation.

Of this time of his life he left little record. The Redemptorist novitiate of those days was almost Trappist-like in its silence and austerity. This is his description of that year:

In peace and quiet I was able to make my novitiate while learning to practice the duties of a cleric. I learned to love the spiritual life and its treasures more and more. God planted deep in my heart the desire to offer myself completely to Him. This desire grows from day to day, so that I want to give God more than I have ever done before, all I ever held dear, all to which my heart was once attached. I want to offer it to God over and over again. When I think of my home, my indelible memory of my parents and brothers and sisters and all the others dear to me, I offer them all anew to the dear Lord. Always I recommend all of you to God's care and have only one wish, namely, that all of us will meet again in heaven.

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 - \$4.95 per copy. This book is the life of Father Seelos.

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

THE VIRTUE FOR JULY - OBEDIENCE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Patron: St. Philip, the Apostle

The Text: You are my friends, if you do the things that I command you.

(John 15/14)

Somebody asked Father Seelos why he was always so cheerful, happy, smiling, agreeably met. He was always the same, not moody, cast-down, morose one day, hard to approach on another. The reason he gave was that he was happy in his holy vocation, a Redemptorist Priest and Religious. But, your vocation is hard! As a matter of fact, he said, every good Christian's life is hard. Did not Christ say: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. Father Seelos admitted he had to practice much mortification and self-denial as a religious, a priest, but the hardest thing about his holy vocation was obedience. That was his cross. He said he tried to give a sincere, supernatural, blind, cheerful obedience; hence he was happy; "to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to labor and not seek for rest, to work and ask for no reward except to know that I am doing God's Will."

St. Alphonsus, the Founder of the Redemptorists, wrote a booklet "The True Redemptorist" for his confreres through the centuries. In it he states that 'one enters the Congregation to obey - for no other purpose.' The Rule and the Superiors tell the religious what they are to do.

Father Seelos heard the voice of God, awakening him from his night's sleep to begin a new day - - and all day long as the bell rang and his Superior spoke and his work piled up, he heard the voice of God in every detail, he saw God's Will in everything. He gave a sincere, supernatural, blind, cheerful obedience and hence was happy, always - hence became a Saint.

I am sure if Father Seelos were living today, he would kneel for long minutes before the Blessed Sacrament and tell the good God that he was sorry to see so much disobedience in the world - so much disloyalty - to the Holy Father and the Bishops, so many defections from the priesthood and religious life, so much disregard for all law, ecclesiastical and civil, and he would add some penances to appease the heart of God.

All disobedience comes from selfishness, pride, unwillingness to give.

The Blessed Mother proved her obedience when she said to the Angel: Be it done unto me according to thy word.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"...I promised publication of the wonderful help Father Seelos has given me. I made a novena and I prayed very hard to Father Seelos for my prayers to be answered. I truly believe Father Seelos has interceded for me."

R. A.

Westwego, La.

"...I have been ill for two years and have now lost the use of my legs. I am praying every day to Father Seelos to regain the use of my legs. A year ago the doctors said it was the end, but I am still alive, thank God. I know it is only the prayers that were said for me that have brought me this far. Please pray that I can walk again."

S. M.

New Orleans, La.

"...I want to acknowledge another wonderful favor I have received through the prayers of Father Seelos. I have a brother in the hospital, who had a major operation and after the operation for days he was suffering very much. I prayed very hard to Father Seelos for the operation to be a success and for the pain to completely disappear. It seemed like a miracle. Overnight the pain was gone and my brother is now on the road to recovery. Thanks to God and the prayers of Father Seelos."

D. M.

New Iberia, La.

"...I am writing to say that a good lady gave me the special prayer to Father Seelos. My husband had been out of work for almost five months. I started saying the prayer five times a day starting with Monday. By Thursday my husband had a call to come to work. He is a dragline operator and work had been slow. I thank God and Father Seelos for granting my favor."

R. J. S.

Gretna, La.

"...One year ago my son went to the doctor for pains in his chest. He was told it was agina pectoris. I started to pray to Father Seelos. I feel that Father Seelos has helped him, because for two weeks he would not leave the house. The doctor talked to him and made him see that was the wrong thing to do. He is now very active. Thanks to Father Seelos, he has listened to the doctor and has been working."

E. S.

Gretna, La.

"...This is a letter of thanksgiving for the answer to a very special request for help. I had decided to learn to drive a car and found it difficult to do at the age of 37, trying for the first time. With the help of a friend I learned and applied for a license. The man said I needed more practice. So I practiced more, but I was becoming very discouraged and was losing my confidence. It became extremely important for me to conquer this thing. I prayed and prayed to Father Seelos to give me confidence, knowledge and to help me pass my driving test. I was confident he would help. I passed very easily and I will always be grateful and have faith in him. I often pray to him when I'm driving, asking him to help me always to be alert and help my children and keep them and me safe when driving. I have had other requests answered through prayers to Father Seelos, but this was very special to me. I will always recommend him to friends who despair with a problem too big to handle alone."

L. D.

SPECIAL NOTES

According to the way people all over the U.S.A. are helping us, St. Mary's Church should be restored to its former beauty by mid 1972. Thanks for your cooperation. When you send a gift, be sure to designate it: for the Restoration Fund.

Encourage by your prayers and good advice any young boy or man trying to make up his mind to accept the Vocation to the Priesthood. The Seelos Center is always ready to help.

Rev. Benedict A. Galloway, Pastor of Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church, St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans, wrote the following words to Archbishop Hannan of New Orleans:

"The Benevolence Committee of our Church would like to make a small donation of \$50.00 toward the restoration of St. Mary's historical Church. We wish that we had more to give, but the size of our gift does not in any way indicate our interest in this project. We hope that you will send this check on to the proper person with our love and best wishes for success."

The Archbishop thanked Rev. Galloway and we all join the Archbishop in thanks. If you know a member of this Church, please thank him most graciously for the Restoration Committee and all friends of Father Seelos.