



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## "THE THREE SAINTS OF ST. PHILOMENA'S"

When Father Seelos arrived in Pittsburgh in late 1845, he made the third man in the Redemptorist community. He was soon thrown into the work of caring for souls, baptizing, witnessing marriages, hearing confessions, and preaching in three languages.

His religious superior and pastor was the renowned Father John Neumann. Neumann, like Seelos, had come from middle Europe, specifically Bohemia. He was ordained a priest for the diocese of New York and did pioneer mission work in the northwest part of the state. He became a Redemptorist, and after leaving Pittsburgh served for a time as the vice-provincial superior of the Redemptorists in America. Later on he was made bishop of Philadelphia. He died suddenly in that office. He was declared blessed by Pope Paul VI in 1963.

The other member of the community was Father Joseph Miller. He was best described as short of stature and barrel-chested, a Bavarian who was known to "have a way with him." He was doing most of the mission work, and soon Father Seelos was joining him.

Besides St. Philomena's in the city, these three priests also traveled to outlying German settlements in Sharpeston, McKessport, Riceville, Pine Creek, Greensburg. Calls for help came from as far away as Steubenville, Ohio, and Wheeling, West Virginia.

No wonder the bishop of Pittsburgh, Michael O'Connor, called that Redemptorist community, "the three saints of St. Philomena's!"

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



Copies of the life of Father Seelos THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street at \$4.95 per copy. Orders will be handled promptly.

## THE VIRTUE FOR JANUARY: FAITH

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Patrons: St. Peter and St. Paul

Text: I am the light of the world (John 8/12)

Father Seelos was a man of extraordinary Faith, hence he could give advice and instructions on this Virtue. He was asked by one of his followers for an easy method of practicing the Virtue of Faith. The holy priest replied: Just make acts of Faith of what you believe and then put into practice what you believe. Say the simple act of Faith: O my God, I firmly believe these and all the truths the Catholic Church teaches because Thou has revealed them to her. The Church teaches that Jesus Christ is really, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Because you believe this, you make visits to the Blessed Sacrament, you go to daily Mass and Holy Communion. The Church teaches that the Holy Father is the Vicar of Christ on earth, the successor of St. Peter as Head of the Church and is infallible when he teaches in matters of Faith and Morals. Because you believe this, you are loyal to our Holy Father and never criticize or condemn him. Father Seelos said he could go on for hours talking about the teachings of the Church.

Faith given meaning to our way of living. We must see Christ in our every detail of life. We try to act as Christ acted. We must have a favorite ejaculatory prayer always in our heart and ever on our lips, awaiting all the exigencies of the day, of the hour. A wonderful little prayer is: My God I love you. You are insulted, imposed upon, have to live with certain characters, work with them, be associated with them. They annoy you, antagonize you, frustrate you. You do not become depressed ever. You say, "My God I love You." You remain calm and cheerful as Christ would be.

Your home life is hard, your health is poor, your work is difficult, you meet with trying people, you do not bog down under the cross. You say, "My God I love You." Your Faith saves you. You are Christ-like.

Nobody, only God, knows how much you suffer. Your cross is very heavy. Drop into a church and make the stations-take this with you as a guide. You pray:

1. I am falsely accused, unjustly condemned - look at Christ.
2. My Cross is heavy.
3. I fell, I need Patience.
4. Blessed Mother Help me.
5. I must help others.
6. I must say thanks.
7. I need courage and confidence to go on.
8. I don't need sympathy.
9. Perseverance.
10. I must be stripped of all sinful attachments.
11. When Christ was nailed to the Cross, all He could do was to suffer and pray (Stand here an extra moment)
12. Grace of a Happy Death.
13. and 14. I put myself in Mary's keeping.

Practice Faith in an exceptional way in January and make it the foundation for all the Virtues of 1972 and years to come.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I visited your shrine yesterday to give thanks for two favors granted through Father Seelos' intercession. My niece had a slipped disc and thought she would have to have surgery. No operation and she is now back at work. My daughter also had an operation. No malignancy. I promised to tell of these two big favors, along with many others received. Many thanks to God, His Mother and Good Father Seelos."

*Mrs. E. D.*

New Orleans, La.

"I asked Father Seelos for a special favor for my son, who is far away in another state. I promised publication if answered. I received a letter from my son telling me he is considering entering a seminary to become a Brother. That was the favor I asked and I felt it would almost require a miracle when I asked. I will always be grateful and devoted to Father Seelos."

*Mrs. E. D. I.*

Jackson, Miss.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for help in overcoming a severe temptation. I promised publication and an offering."

*E. R.*

New Orleans, La.

"Sixteen months ago it was discovered I had a lump in my breast, which had to be removed at once. On my way home from the Doctor's office I visited Father Seelos' tomb. I asked that it not be malignant, but if it' were God's will then let the Doctor be able to help me. I know it is through Father Seelos powerful intercession my prayers have been answered. I am back working and so far I am doing fine."

*Mrs. N. B.*

Mobile, Ala.

"Many thanks. My prayers have been answered by Father Seelos. I made an hourly novena to him and St. Jude that my daughter would not make a mistake in marrying the wrong boy. My prayers have been answered. She broke the engagement."

*Mrs. L. B. M.*

New Orleans, La.

"...Please, please, publish this letter for favors received from Father Seelos. I promised I would have it published. I want to thank Father Seelos for all the favors I received through him in the past."

*Mrs. S. D.*

Carencro, La.

"...I promised Father Seelos to print thanks for a favor. I prayed to him to find somebody to stay with an old brother. My prayer was answered. I found a very good girl. I am grateful to Father Seelos who obtained this favor for me. If you have a little place please print in your bulletin."

*E. B.*

## SPECIAL NOTES

### A PERSONAL WISH FROM FATHER GRANGELL

May your New Year be holy, happy, healthy, filled with the love of God and His Blessed Mother. You are a part of my daily Mass.

Make one of your resolutions for 1972 to help restore St. Mary's Assumption Church to its former heavenly beauty. Explain the project to your friends and ask them to help. When St. Mary's is restored, Father Seelos will return to its sanctuary.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS FROM THE PERSONNEL OF THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER.

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For blessings for your sick relatives and friends with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, kindly call 525-2495 or 895-6176. Arrangements will be made for someone to call on them.

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Periodically we would like to have a check on the correctness of our mailing list. Therefore, we ask that if your address or name is not correct, please clip same from this letter, giving us the correction. Please give us your correct Zip codes also. If you are receiving more than one letter, we would like to know this also. Thanks a lot for your help in this regard.

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