



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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OCTOBER, 1972

BACK TO BALTIMORE

Father Seelos spent nine years of his priestly life in the city of Pittsburgh, six as assistant and three as pastor. This would be the longest consecutive time of his adult life spent in one place. He was 26 years old when he was sent to Pittsburgh, 35 when he left. In 13 more years he would die. Yet there were many things for him to do before that day would come.

He was appointed as pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore on January 30, 1854. Now he was to return to that city on the Chesapeake Bay where he had been ordained a priest and said his first Mass. In his previous stay he had found Baltimore to be "one of the loveliest and most beautiful cities of all North America." It was called the "Monumental City," because seen from a distance, its numerous spires, columns and towers appeared as a forest of monuments. It had a large and spacious harbor, where ships came from all over the world. There was a great deal of culture among the educated class. However, this was predominantly non-Catholic. Most of the Catholics were of the lower middle and poorer classes. Among these latter were the immigrants from Europe who were struggling for a new life in this new land.

St. Alphonsus Church was then the German-speaking national parish in Baltimore. This was the parish Father Seelos was called to direct.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. write to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. The price is \$4.95. This book is on the life of Father Seelos and represents many months of work on the part of Father Curley.

OCTOBER'S VIRTUE: SILENCE AND RECOLLECTION

BY FATHER GRANGELL

Patron: St. Simon, the Apostle

Text: Having dismissed the multitude, He went into a mountain alone to pray (Matt. 14/23)

Father Seelos used to say he envied the sanctuary lamps of the world. They stand as sentinels close to the Blessed Sacrament in the many Catholic Churches and speak to Christ continuously and silently with their tongues of fire until there are no more tongues. He wished he could spend hours with the Blessed Sacrament in silent recollection. He used to say, however, that there was no such thing as silence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. All one has to say is "My God I love You!" and a dialogue begins.

As an active priest and missionary, he was among the people constantly, listening to them, consoling them in their troubles and congratulating them in their successes. So, to get away from everybody and to be alone with his Eucharistic God was a bit of heaven for him. There was always so much to talk about with his God. He used to advise people to spend much time with the Blessed Sacrament.

I wonder what Father Seelos would do today if he lived among us. We live in perpetual noise and distraction. We hear the sound of radio and T. V. day and night. The message is not God and things of God, but the world and all its allurements. The Churches are empty during the day and in many places locked and barred against the thief. Poor Blessed Sacrament! God's best gift entirely neglected. Religious, virtuous silence and recollection are forgotten things.

We would like to talk! I would like to suggest that when you go to Mass, you go fifteen minutes or a half hour earlier and also spend that much time in Church after Mass. Just sit! You will begin to talk! You will experience a great peace.

Did you ever make a retreat in some religious house for three days? That's silence and recollection at their best. You become so attached to God, you want to make hundreds of resolutions to become a saint. Father Seelos was a wonderful Retreat Master. Can't you imagine him talking about the love of God!

Our Lord did not need solitude to be united to His heavenly Father, yet we read in St. Matthew 14/23 "Having dismissed the multitude he went into a mountain alone to pray," and Luke 5/16 "and He retired into the desert and prayed." Ask our Blessed Mother to Help you to be a recollected soul.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"Recently a member of my family got into a little trouble and had been found guilty and was to return to court the next day to be sentenced. After praying and asking for this special favor the judge gave him a suspended sentence with no probation. I really think my prayers through the intercession of Father Seelos were answered."

G. F.

Omaha, Neb.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for my husband. He had a blood disease for years and now is much better. He had a cancer removed from his nose about two years ago and now has a sore on his nose again. I am praying to Father Seelos for his intercession on behalf of my husband. Please pray with me. Thank you and God bless you."

F. S.

Belle Chasse, La.

"I promised publication if my request was granted. My son was due to take a captain's examination. I felt he could do it but he had it in his mind that wanting it so bad he was not going to make it. He passed the test. Thanks to Father Seelos. We feel he is the one who gave him the confidence to pass the test."

C. P. H.

Metairie, La.

"Some months ago I was having a problem and went for a checkup and X-rays. I was told my trouble was a polyp and was thought to be malignant. I was so very upset by all this, so I entered the hospital for surgery. I prayed very hard for everything to be ok. After surgery and all the tests were made the doctor told me everything was fine. Thank God! I am so grateful to God and want to thank the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Joseph, Father Seelos, St. Anthony and the Infant Jesus of Prague for their intercession on my behalf."

J. L. H.

Chalmette, La.

"In January of this year my little granddaughter was born and the doctors didn't hold much hope for her survival. We suffered and prayed to Father Seelos for four long days of extensive tests on this little new born, until their suspicions of being born with no kidney or one malfunctioning one was proven false. I had seen a piece in the newspaper not long after her birth about Father Seelos. I asked his intercession on behalf of our baby and I feel that it was through his intercession that we have our little baby to cherish and love."

A. M.

New Orleans, La.

"Many times in the past I have received favors through the intercession of Father Seelos. Recently the niece of a friend became gravely ill. Though the family are non-Catholic, they accepted the prayer gratefully and said it. The woman, only 25, was operated on for an aneurysm at the base of the brain - a very delicate and serious operation. The surgeon was able to remove the injured part and clamp the blood vessel together. She is now home and getting about."

E. S.

(Continued on next page)

New Orleans, La.

"I have received two favors through the intercession of Father Seelos. My husband's six month checkup and cystoscopy was again excellent and the report on my sister's examination after surgery was also very good. I am so grateful to Father Seelos for answering my prayers and shall do my utmost to continue spreading devotion to him. I shall never cease praying for Father Seelos to become a Saint of the Church if it be God's Holy Will."

A. T.

SPECIAL NOTES

We are planning a pilgrimage to Fussen, Germany, the birth-place of Father Seelos, for the summer of 1973. If you are interested write to the Center. The first 50 will be the privileged ones.

For blessings with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos, please call the Center 525-2495 or call Miss Addie Buhler 895-6176.

October 16 is the feast of St. Gerard Majella, C.S.S.R. He lived at the time of St. Alphonsus Liguori, C.S.S.R. He was a lay brother. He is known in the Church as the Mothers' Saint. He died in his early thirties. He is the Patron of Redemptorist Brothers. If any young man or widower would like to be a Brother please write to the Father Seelos Center for information.

Pray for vocations to the priesthood and brotherhood.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary! Say it daily before your daily Mass or after Holy Mass. Say it all day long. Please our Blessed Mother.

If you desire pictures and mementoes of Father Seelos to give to your friends or to scatter where people congregate - to spread devotion to Father Seelos - write to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.

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Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Mrs. James Bourg, and Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.