



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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NOVEMBER, 1972

PASTOR IN BALTIMORE

When Father Seelos came to Baltimore from Pittsburgh in 1854, there was to be no lessening of his labors. St. Alphonsus parish was then in its heyday. The rectory personnel also included the Redemptorist provincial and Father Seelos was one of his consultants.

Besides the main church, St. James', a mile and a half away, and St. Michala's, two and a half miles away, were also under his care. Two more developing missions, one on the Federal Hill section with Holy Cross church, and the other, St. Joseph's Catholic Center on Belair Road, also formed part of this community's responsibilities.

The black Catholics, numbering 500 at that time, came under Seelos' jurisdiction. Various services were to be performed for five convents of sisters. Occasional visits were made to Westminster and New Freedom in Pennsylvania and to Ellicott Mills and Catonsville in Maryland.

Besides, 1300 children were enrolled in the parochial schools. The Catholic school system was just beginning to develop in America. The Children had to go to school in widely scattered buildings under various teaching groups.

It was no wonder that one priest of the community could record in the annals that "there is almost no time left for private study and recreation."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, a book on the life of Father Seelos, please write to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. You will learn more about Father Seelos from this book, his labors for souls, his saintly life, which has led us to working for his cause for canonization.

NOVEMBER MEDITATIONS

BY FATHER GRANGELL

Virtue: Prayer

Patron: St. Jude, the Apostle

Text: Always pray and never become discouraged. Luke 18/1

Father Seelos used to say when we lose interest in prayer, we lose our love for God, we lose our Faith. How true! Just look around you and observe people. Pause a moment and ask yourself: Do I pray now as much as I used to? Am I losing my Faith? Wake up! Pray! St. Alphonsus, the Doctor of Prayer, teaches: If we pray we will be saved. If we neglect prayer we will be lost.

Begin to be a lover of prayer by saying ceaselessly: MY GOD, I LOVE YOU. Make that the breath of your soul. Go to daily Mass and daily Holy Communion. LOVE THE ROSARY.

Father Seelos loved to preach about the OUR FATHER. It is the prayer from the heart of our Lord (Matt. 6/9-13). It is our philosophy of life in a few words. It is the world's philosophy library in a few sentences.

The big fundamental questions of all philosophy are: Who am I? Why am I Living? What happens to me after death? The Our Father gives us the answers. We say the prayer daily so as not to forget our identity. We are the children of God, members of one big family and God is Our Father. How simple! How wonderful!

Our Father is in Heaven! That's our home. That's our destiny. Death opens the door to home. So as not to forget this we address God daily: OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN.

Why are we on earth?

1. To love and worship God - to keep His Name holy in prayer and practice of religion.
2. To spread His Kingdom, the Church, on earth. (Did you ever make a convert to Catholicism?)
3. To do God's will - to keep the Commandments, receive the Sacraments, hear the Church, to see God's will in every joy and every sorrow, in sickness, in failure, in all the trials of life.

We need God's help.

1. Give us the wholesome wheat which becomes our bread. Thanks for all the wonders of nature which take care of our bodily and material needs.
2. Make me charitable to forgive and to forget offenses.
3. It is hard to be holy and virtuous. I am weak against the attacks of the devil, who says the world is his. (Luke 4/6). Do not allow me to be tempted beyond my strength.
4. Protect me against harm as I walk the streets, ride in the car, as I go to the hospital, as I battle with sickness and disease - - Wonderful - - Amen.

This has been sketchy! Fill it out as you kneel in silent meditation before the Blessed Sacrament.

Blessed Mother, pray for me that I be a great philosopher in the School of Jesus Christ, Who is the way, the truth, the life.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Houma, La.

"Our dear Father Seelos has interceded for me and another favor has been granted me. I am counting on your goodness to thank him at the tomb for me. Naturally I will come in person as soon as I can. Monday night my purse was stolen from my car. As soon as I noticed it was missing I asked Father Seelos to find it for me. After eight days it turned up at our Church rectory. Last night it was returned to me just as it was except for outside dirt, a few missing pennies and a broken compact mirror. Five dollars and all my papers were safe inside. Even my new kerchief was put through the handle. This was most unusual. Many thanks, dear Father Seelos, and my God continue to help us through his dear servant who is doing so much good for us all."

G. P.

New Orleans, La.

"I want to acknowledge another wonderful favor I have received through the prayers of Father Seelos. My husband was in the hospital for surgery. I prayed constantly to God and Father Seelos that he would get well without surgery. The day before the operation the doctor dismissed my husband. He said whatever was giving him the trouble had passed through his system. I thank God and Father Seelos for this answer to my prayers."

L. T.

Breaux Bridge, La.

"Enclosed you will find \$2.00 for a mass of thanksgiving for a favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. My daughter-in-law fell off a step and pulled her knee cap out of the socket. We were afraid she might have broken bones, but after X-rays it showed she did not have any broken bones. Thanks to Father Seelos she is back on her feet again. Pray she will continue to recover."

L. C. B.

Metairie, La.

"I promised if my granddaughter tests would prove negative I would write and ask you to publish my letter. I prayed so hard to Father Seelos. Now I ask that you continue to pray that she will improve emotionally. She thinks she is sick, yet they can find nothing wrong with her."

E. L.

Metairie, La.

"In the beginning of the school year I had much difficulty because my son didn't want to go to school. He missed many months of school. I prayed to Father Seelos every day. My prayers were answered and my son went back to school. He caught up in his studies, did very well and passed to the next grade. Many thanks to Father Seelos."

I. L.

SPECIAL NOTES

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call the Father Seelos Center 525-2495 or Miss Addie Buhler 895-6176. The Father Seelos Center is open daily between 7 A.M. and 3 P.M.

November is the month of the Poor Souls! Offer up your daily Mass and Holy Communion and your Way of the Cross and your Rosary for them.

Always sign your name and give us your address (Mr., Mrs., Miss) when you write to the Father Seelos Center. We want to thank you!

Are you thinking about the Pilgrimage to Father Seelos' home in Germany for next summer? Write to the Center for information.

Thanks for your financial help to restore St. Mary's. God love you. Special on all contributions whether for Seelos Fund or St. Mary's Fund. Thanks.

Our annual anniversary Mass on the occasion of the 105 anniversary of Father Seelos death was a very inspiring ceremony. The Mass was concelebrated by Bishop William Murphy, C.S.S.R. of Brazil and ten Redemptorist Fathers. We had a full church and in fact many who were unable to attend the morning services came for the 5:30 P. M. Mass Sunday evening.

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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.