



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## TRIALS IN PITTSBURGH

In the mid 1840's, Pittsburgh was a metropolis of the west, and still pretty much of a frontier town. Industries were growing and soot blackened the air. Immigrants from all parts of Europe were pouring into the city and the surrounding country. America was the melting pot at that time, and Pittsburgh was very much a part of America.

Foreign languages were as commonly spoken on the streets as was English. Foreign customs kept the various people apart. Even the church services were conducted in their native tongues. It would be decades before the melting process would begin to show its effect.

Hatreds, jealousies, religious bigotry were a part of life at that time. The Redemptorists came in for their share of attacks. One man was convinced that the only trouble with St. Philomena's was that it could not be burned down. The Know-Nothings were particularly vitriolic in their attacks on the Redemptorists. A fire was started in the belfry of the church, but, as the floor was made of brick, little damage was done. The age-old calumny was circulated that the Redemptorists had hidden a quantity of arms and ammunition in the basement of the church. The Redemptorists invited one of the chief calumniators to inspect the parish buildings and he left fully convinced that the charge was false.

All these troubles did not keep this saintly community from working untiringly for the souls committed to their care.

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

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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, Louisiana 70130. They are \$4.95 per copy.

## VIRTUE FOR FEBRUARY - HOPE IN GOD

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Patron: St. Andrew, the Apostle

Text: Because he hoped in Me I will deliver him: I will protect him because he hath known My Name. Psalms 90/14

Father Seelos was asked by one of his penitents to compose an Act of Hope for him. The good priest told him that prayer was talking with God and we have to use the language of our individual hearts in doing so. We all talk to God differently. Some people use form prayers always, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and prayers in pamphlets and folders. Some will spend two hours every day with their little book of form prayers, storming all the saints in heaven to help them. We do not wish to discourage or dissuade anybody from keeping in touch with heaven in any way they please. It is meritorious to sit with God and the saints for two hours, rather than sit two hours at T.V. or spend hours in gossiping. Often, however, they must forget about form prayers and talk to God and their heavenly friends in their own language.

When we were baptized God gave us the theological virtue of Hope. It's a precious gift. We must use it. The little Act of Hope we learn in catechism gives us the reasons for hoping in God -- His infinite goodness and promises and all through Christ Our Lord. Christ taught us "Ask and you shall receive!" He taught us to ask for everything, anything. "If you ask for anything in my name, My Heavenly Father will give it to you." St. Paul says: "By the grace of God I can do all things." The things we ask for in the little Act are forgiveness of sin, eternal life and countless graces, helps, all day long.

In your own way tell God you hope in Him before all others, doctors, hospitals, drugs, family and neighbors help. In all sincerity, like a child, beg for help. My God, I hope and trust in you. I put all my confidence in you. Please help me! Please! please! Keep asking, please, please. My God I don't know what else to say. You must help me. Don't go back on your promises.

In the Hail Holy Queen we say to Mary, "You are our life, our sweetness, our hope." Pray to her much. She will help you always. She is your Mother of Perpetual Help.

HOPE IN THE INTERCESSION OF FATHER SEELOS.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"...I prayed to Father Seelos for my son, who was very sick and out of work for a long time. I prayed that he would get well and find steady work. He is out of the hospital and has a steady job. I worried very much about him being sick and so far away in California. Now I am praying that he will come back to his own Catholic Church. Please pray for him."

Mrs. L.W.S.

Elmhurst, Ill.

"...I received a favor through Father Seelos intercession. My wish was that my daughter have a good delivery of her new and first baby. Father Seelos answered my prayers. She had been very sick through her pregnancy...I am enclosing another request, that my son come through with flying colors in his college work and also that God keeps him under his special protection. Also for my peace of mind through Father Seelos' intercession, and that I will find work where I will truly be happy."

A. L.

New Orleans, La.

"...Sincere thanks for the picture and cloth memento of Father Seelos for Sister. She appears to be rapidly recovering from her operation and feels much better.... My son is still desperately in need of Father Seelos help. Pray for him. I do not feel that I can write more about this now. But I will have to exercise more faith, which has just been bolstered by a special favor from Father Seelos....Night before last we were astonished at the apparent failure in our heating system. The cause was a complete mystery to us. To our knowledge the oil tank was full and the electric motor had been in good working condition and nothing seemed wrong with the fuse box. Possibly we would need a plumber or electrician, both of whom we had paid what we considered a fabulous sum recently and without satisfaction. We could hardly afford a repetition of this. So I asked Father Seelos to help find the difficulty. I switched the fuses around and presto on went the heat. I know it was Father Seelos who helped me in this difficulty."

M. E.

Houma, La.

"...I prayed to God and Father Seelos that my grandson would recover from an accident and that he would walk again and he did both - so many thanks to God and Father Seelos."

Mrs. R. A.

New Orleans, La.

"...It seemed that it would be necessary for me to sell my home. I prayed to Father Seelos asking if it was God's will I would not have to sell. I promised to write if my prayers were answered. Things have worked out that for the present I will not have to sell."

C. D.

(Special Letters continued on next page)

Destrehan, La.

"...Enclosed is offering for a Mass of thanksgiving in honor of Father Seelos for my daughter-in-law's recovery. Someone from the Seelos Center visited her in the hospital and gave her prayers and cloth mementoes. She was hospitalized six weeks. The doctor told us they would do everything they could for her but they had rarely seen a case like hers. She was somewhat better after six weeks and was sent home. She became ill again with blood clots in her lung and her arm and in the back of her head small blood vessels kept breaking. The doctor felt that the blood clots were building up and ordered her back to the hospital. My son was discouraged. I told him to pray to Father Seelos and I would have a Mass offered in his honor and also we would visit his tomb. The doctor removed fluid from her lungs and after that she improved daily. She can start using her hand and arm to drive. She is not able to do all her work but thank God she can manage enough with the help of her family...God bless you all in your work and prayers. All thanks to God and his saints and especially to Father Seelos. The doctor said she is a very lucky woman."

M. T.

### SPECIAL NOTES

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

Just one year ago we began the campaign to restore Father Seelos' Church, St. Mary's! The response has been magnificent by the friends of Father Seelos. We thought we would have reached the \$200,000.00 mark by 1972. We did not. Let's hope before 1973.

Let's try to fill the seminaries with boys, young men who wish to become priests. Send Father Grangell the name and address of any likely candidate and he will send him a personal letter.

We received quite a few Christmas cards from our readers. We appreciate them very much and wish that we could acknowledge each one of them individually, but that would be impossible. Keep your mail coming and most of all don't forget to continue reporting to us favors received through Father Seelos' intercession. This is vital if the cause is to progress.

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