



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1972

OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Ten years have gone by since the first issue of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. It was in May 1962, that one piece of paper, typewriter size, was mailed to the friends of Father Seelos, who at that time came mostly from the New Orleans area. In July the paper had increased to legal size mimeograph. In October of that same year FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY was done professionally by a printer. In April, 1963, Father Seelos' picture appeared on the cover for the first time. FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY took its present form in August, 1969.

In this year of our Lord 1972, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY reaches over 27,000 subscribers. These people are found in all 52 states of the union and in these foreign countries: Japan, Germany, Thailand, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, West Africa, Australia, Spain, Ireland, France, New Zealand, Brazil, Paraguay, El Salvador, the Phillipines, Nicaragua, Honduras, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Canada.

As much a part of this FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY as anyone is Josie Becker, who has been the sole editor of these pages throughout the past ten years. Congratulations to Josie and our heartfelt thanks!

These pages reach you each month because of the efforts of Mrs. Agnes Bourg in the mailing room, helped by a long list of wonderful volunteer workers... Our congratulations to all of them and our deepest thanks!

Not the least, by any means, our congratulations and thanks go to Father William Grangell, the vice-postulator of the cause of Father Seelos, faithful contributor to the pages of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY!

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, 2030 Constance Street. This is the life of Father Seelos and should be of great interest to all of you, devotees of Father Seelos. The price is \$4.95 per copy.

LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The virtue for the month of April: Love of our neighbor

The Patron for the month: St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist.

The Text: This is My commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. John 15/12

The love of God is twofold - affective and effective - we tell Him we love Him and then by our actions we prove we love Him.

Just to pray is not enough. Just to say times without number: 'My God I love You' is not sufficient. It is the necessary, essential beginning. Christ tells us the first Commandment is to love God and the second is like to it, love our neighbor. We love our neighbor, first of all, by praying for him, that he save his soul, that he gets to heaven, and then we help him in his temporal needs.

Father Seelos in a private night prayer used to offer up to God his every breath during his sleeping hours as so many acts of love of God and as so many acts of sorrow for having offended God. When he inhaled it was an act of love and when he exhaled it was an act of contrition. Then he would think of the millions of people in the world who never thought of God. For them Father Seelos used to pray: My God I offer up all the breathing of all people in the world as so many acts of love of Thee and as so many acts of sorrow for their sins. He used to say he was building up a spiritual, meritorious bank account for all men in heaven, so that when they died they would have something to their account in eternity. Father Seelos used to offer up all the Masses being said now in the world and that would be said til the end of time for all sinners to pay their debts of adoration, petition, thanksgiving and atonement in an infinite way. He was adding always to that heavenly bank account.

Father Seelos made acts of Spiritual Communion for the millions in the world who never received our Lord sacramentally. One day someone asked how he could invite God into such sinful, irreligious, blasphemous hearts. He answered we were never to judge anybody to be a sinner. Even though they were sinners, Christ prayed on the Cross: Father forgive them for they know not what they do.

Daily Father Seelos consecrated himself and everybody in the world to the Blessed Mother. He would say: Mary, they are all your children, and a child of Mary is never lost.

Father Seelos used to say the easiest way to practice Charity in Action was to see Christ in everyone - the sick, the poor, the old, the young, in all. That's making Charity supernatural as it should be.

The lesson we learn: pray for sinners and see Christ in all. It's easy.

St. Theresa's ambition was: I don't care if every saint in heaven will have a greater degree of glory than I, but I don't want anybody in heaven who loved God more than I did on earth -- Ditto for us!!

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

...“I asked the intercession of Father Seelos for the recovery of my husband from a stroke. He has regained his speech, can walk and has almost entirely recovered from paralysis of the right arm. Yesterday he was able to sign his name to a check.”

Mrs. A. J. N.

“My daughter was operated on for cancer of the breast 4-½ years ago. Recently she was operated on to have a tumor removed from her leg. At first it was thought to be malignant and that it would be necessary to remove her leg. Through the intercession of Father Seelos it was found to be benign and her leg was saved. Later, due to backache, my daughter had x-rays taken and upon their examination the doctor concluded cancer had returned and suggested treatment; once again we prayed to Father Seelos and upon examination of the x-rays by two cancer experts it was found that treatment was not necessary because the disease was arrested. The two cancer experts and ourselves feel that this great favor was obtained through the intercession of Father Seelos.”

B. L. P.

Willowdale, Ontario, Canada

“This letter is written partly in thanksgiving for a successful cataract operation on my husband's eyes and also for a better position for my husband. I would also like to ask you to pray to Father Seelos for an answer to my prayers for our daughter. We would like her to meet a good Catholic boy, as she is an only child and a teacher. Please put these petitions at Father Seelos' tomb.”

A. I. D.

Baton Rouge, La.

“I wish to acknowledge a favor received through the intercession of Father Seelos. My father was in a hospital in New Orleans and the doctor wanted to place a plastic tube in his leg to relieve pressure from an artery. The operation would have been a risk because he has a bad heart. I prayed to Father Seelos asking him that the operation would not be necessary. Another doctor was called in. He decided not to operate and sent my Daddy home. I am forever grateful to Father Seelos.”

M. G.

New Orleans, La.

“A few months ago my grandson was very sick. He had difficulty in breathing. He was taken to the hospital for oxygen. The doctors could not determine what was causing the trouble. They said it was rare and it was hereditary. When I heard this I began making a novena to Father Seelos. The doctor also said in a month he may have another attack. He is feeling fine now. He is going to school and working. Thanks for the help of Father Seelos. I wish also to express my thanks for another favor. It concerns a young man who was in the service and very ill.”

F. J. F.

SPECIAL NOTES

The little envelope which accompanies FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY every month is an all-service help for you. You will always have a self-addressed envelope to send a petition for the weekly novena, or a thanksgiving, or to tell us about a great favor received, or to write a personal letter, or to send us new names and addresses, or to send a donation toward the restoration of St. Mary's Church, or for the maintenance of the Father Seelos Center. This is the explanation of the little gold envelope.

Have you seen the revised novena in honor of Father Seelos? We are saying this novena every Wednesday at 5 P.M. in St. Alphonsus Church. If you desire a copy of this Novena, send us your name and address and 8 cents postage. The reason we ask for postage is that we are expecting thousands of people to write for this novena.

Easter Greetings to you! May God love and bless you in this Holy Season! May He reward you for all you are going to spread devotion to Father Seelos! May He reward you for your gifts toward the restoration of St. Mary's Church. Every dollar helps! Continue the good work.

Send Father Grangell, the names and addresses of 8th Grade Boys and High School students who you think have vocations to the priesthood. He has a booklet for them.

If anybody anywhere wishes to spread devotion to Father Seelos, please write to the Center and we will send you pictures and mementoes.

Thanks for the many donations of pennies for the Restoration of St. Mary's. Pennies make dollars!

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call the Center 525-2495 or after hours 895-6176. Arrangements will be made.

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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.