



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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TRIALS OF THE MISSIONARY

It goes without saying that the first step a foreign missionary has to take is to leave home. When a man chooses to go on the foreign missions it does not mean that he has little feeling for his father and mother and the other members of his family. On the contrary, he could be most attached to all his relatives and still because of the higher good, he could heed the command of the Master, "Go therefore and teach all nations."

While Father Seelos was serving St. Philomena's parish in Pittsburgh, two events happened in far-away Fuessen that left their mark on his soul. The first was the unexpected death of his younger sister Kunigunda. She was helping her brothers store hay in the third story attic of their home when somehow she lost her balance and fell to earth on her head. She lapsed into unconsciousness almost immediately and died within three hours.

On receiving the news, Father Seelos was heard to give a cry of human anguish. He had always been close to this sister.

The second event was the death of his father. Mang Seelos' death was not sudden. He was confined to his bed for some time before the end came. Father Seelos had learned much from the upright life of his father. What hurt him even more at this time was the fact that he could not be with his mother and brothers and sisters to console them in their great loss.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of the CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the life of Father Seelos, are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. The price is \$4.95.

Much effort and research went into this book by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. of Brooklyn, New York. It is very interesting reading and would be of particular interest to you as a devotee of Father Seelos.

FATHER GRANGELL'S MESSAGE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Virtue for May: Poverty

Patron: St. Thomas, the Apostle

Text: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for their's is the Kingdom of Heaven.
(Matt. 5/3)

Father Seelos, like all religious, made the vow of poverty. He would own nothing, never voluntarily dispose of anything that had a money value. He would live like a child in a family, get permission for everything he needed. He denied himself the comforts of life because Christ had none. He took good care of things in his charge and wasted nothing. He loved the poor. He, like all others, made the vow of poverty, so as to practice the virtue of poverty perfectly.

The virtue of poverty is detachment from all material things. Every Christian must practice this virtue. One may possess kingdoms and yet be poor in spirit. We have canonized kings and queens in the history of the Church. Many people lose their faith or practice it poorly because of their attachment to money and all that money can buy. The name of those who never go to Holy Mass or receive the sacraments because of money is legion -- there are so many of them. Father Seelos used to say his riches were his faith and his religious life. He loved the Church. He considered it a gift from God of priceless value.

He looked forward morning after morning to his Holy Mass. He was ordained a priest to bring Christ to the altar and to offer the Holy Sacrifice in Christ, with Christ, through Christ. He became one with Christ in Holy Communion. What greater possession could anyone have than Holy Communion. He knelt a long time after Mass, thanking God for making him so spiritually rich, the richest man on earth.

His Redemptorist vocation was a treasure for him. He lived in a palace with the Blessed Sacrament. He could visit with the 'King of Heaven' as often as he desired. He considered the order of his Redemptorist day a rich privilege. He was up early for community prayer and meditation; at noon a rendezvous with Christ in the Chapel to check on the monthly virtue; an even meditation with the suffering dying Redeemer. He loved his religious habit with the small crucifix hidden close to his heart and the big rosary at his side to keep him in touch with Mary, his Queen and Mother.

He thanked God for the crosses of life, his mental and physical pains. He bought heaven with their merits.

You, too, must practice the virtue of poverty, be detached from money. Get all you can, but don't let it enslave you and take you away from God, your Faith, your Sacraments.

Read the gospels and see how poor Christ and His Blessed Mother were -- then, never complain when some creature pleasure is denied you, if you have little of the world's goods.

CONSIDER YOURSELF RICH IN THE POSSESSION OF YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Washington, D. C.

"I had a long letter written giving some details about a conversion, but decided to give the most important part....A gentlemen 88 years old had hardening of the arteries and was confused. Doctors say they don't know how he lives. When I received literature about Father Seelos I visited his home and left some of the literature. The gentlemen was suffering with severe pain in the upper left chest. He was blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos. He read the prayer (didn't think he could because he reads only Italian and this was English, but he did so.) The next morning after Holy Mass his wife told me he had asked for a priest and when she left for Mass he again requested a priest. (I don't know how long he had been away from the Sacraments). The gentleman received Holy Communion from our Parish priest. I am happy to report this favor through the intercession of Father Seelos."

H. A. B.

New Orleans, La.

"This letter is in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for a favor that was granted to me concerning my mother. She first visited an eye clinic on September 22, 1971. Her vision was blurred. She was told she had cataracts and had to be operated on. One eye was covered with the cataract and the other eye had one just starting to grow. I was distressed over this discovery. I was asked to and immediately started working on Father Seelos cloth mementoes. I promised Father Seelos I would continue to do this work to help promote his cause if he would intercede for help for my mother. I am happy to say on her second visit, September 30, she was told surgery would be postponed. Her doctor expressed surprise at the vast improvement. Her vision is clear."

Mrs. A. J. P.

Cottonport, La.

"Father Seelos has answered my prayers on many occasions when I requested small favors, but I would like particularly to tell you of one favor I obtained through his intercession...My daughter, 20 years of age, was born with an extreme eye problem and muscle paralysis required constant medical care. She has undergone seven eye operations. She reached the point where use of her eyes was limited, which in turn limited what she could do. She attempted college but could not stand the eyestrain - went on to take a secretarial course and completed it by sheer determination. Then job hunting. Even with her qualifications, what she could actually do was very limited. She accepted one job and after four weeks had to quit. For nine months we prayed for something to happen and had already exhausted all friendly contacts for help. Finally when things were at their lowest ebb, I heard of Father Seelos. So I started asking him for help and within a week she had three job offers which enabled her to select the one she knew she could do with no eye strain. She is now employed as a secretary in a college - loves her work and all the people she is associated with, and no eye problems for the first time in twenty years. This is indeed a scant picture of my daughter's problems, because being unable to focus for any length of time, using only one eye, plus fighting to overcome a muscle paralysis, the road was not too bright for a youngster. But Father Seelos answered our prayers and I will be eternally grateful. I will do all I can to spread devotion to him."

Mrs. L. G.

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. Arrangements will be made for you.

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We would again like to ask that you advise us if your name is correctly spelled on the copy of this paper which you receive. Also please advise if you are receiving more than one copy. We try very hard to keep our records correct, but sometimes in spite of ourselves we find duplications of names in our files.

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For those who live in the New Orleans area, we would like to remind you that every Wednesday we continue to have devotions in honor of Father Seelos. Mass is offered at 5:30 P. M. in St. Alphonsus Church, however, try and come early as prayers are said before Mass. Petitions are placed on the tomb of Father Seelos. The days are getting longer now and we hope you will find time to come. You should be leaving church before dark.

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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.