



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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THE PARISH PRIEST

Father Seelos was a very capable administrator of the temporal goods of the parish, and was most zealous in fulfilling the spiritual duties of his office as pastor. His impact on his confreres in religion and his parishioners was most convincing. He excelled in three fields.

He was an effective preacher. Often he preached as many as four times a day, each time on a different subject. His language was simple and direct, calculated to move the hearts of his listeners. His preaching attracted large crowds. He was often called upon to give missions and to give talks for special occasions.

He was even more effective as a confessor. He was kind and humble, but firm. On the other hand, he was never hard or severe. Crowds sought him in the confessional, not only here in Pittsburgh, but later on in other areas of the country.

Nor did Father Seelos fail to take an interest in the school children. He visited them in their classrooms two or three times every week. He explained the Catholic faith in simple language but always with feeling and earnestness. The children themselves would scold the companion who failed to listen to his teaching with attention.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

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

CORRECTION

In the May issue of our paper we erroneously stated that every Wednesday we continue to have devotions in honor of Father Seelos. These devotions are held to offer prayers for the speedy beatification of Father Seelos. This is the first step we must take on the road to his canonization. Please join us in praying for this intention.

FATHER GRANGELL'S MESSAGE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Virtue of the month of June: Purity

Patron: St. James, Minor (There were two James among the Apostles. The James of this month was the younger.)

Text: Blessed are the clean of heart for they shall see God (Matt. 5/8)

When Father Seelos was a very young child, he learned the practice of the three Hail Marys, morning and night, in honor of the purity of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, and for the grace of personal purity. He was faithful to this practice all the days of his life. He preached this devotion to the people constantly and insisted on this practice with his penitents, especially those who had great difficulty in practicing the virtue of purity in their personal lives. Father Seelos was a wonderful Confessor. He insisted on four promises from all his penitents: prayer, reception of Holy Communion frequently, the avoidance of the occasions of sin, and love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. He would say if anybody lived that kind of life, he would be holy. Human nature is very weak and prone to sin, and the holiest of people will stumble and fall some times. But, when the holiest of them all will examine his conscience after a fall, he will discover that he neglected all the four big helps or any one of them, which weakened his resistance in the moment of temptation.

For one to be pure, he must have a great devotion to Mary. Father Seelos had an extraordinary devotion to her. The months of May and October were big festivals for him. He rejoiced with her and congratulated her because of so many extra rosaries and litanies.

When walking down the street he would meet a young mother with a babe in her arms, or a tot at her side, and say to her: "I want to do something big for your children. I want to consecrate them to the Queen of Heaven." Without pomp and ceremony he would lay his priestly hands on their heads and consecrate them to Mary. He would say: "Keep your children pure and holy and close to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Saturday night was the big night in the parish mission. It was Our Lady's night. After preaching all week on the enormity of sin, the rigor of the judgment at the end of life, and of eternal punishment, on Saturday night he preached on Mary, our Hope, our Salvation. He preached: "A child of Mary is never lost, devotion to Mary is a sure sign of Salvation - be faithful to the daily three Hail Marys and she will be with you at your death bed." Ask Father Seelos to pray for you that you have a great love for Mary and for her favorite virtue: Purity in thought, word and action.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Germany

"Greetings from Germany. I am a New Orleans native presently stationed with my husband in Germany. For many years I have prayed to Father Seelos. He has always answered my prayers, but especially lately. My seven month old daughter was recently seen by a physician and we were informed that she could have a congenital dislocated hip. The condition is not so severe as it can be treated, but is uncomfortable for the child as they must be in a brace for six months. I once again asked Father Seelos intercession and when the x-rays were developed, everything was alright....I promised Father Seelos I would write and ask that this favor granted would be published in your paper. Please pray for us."

M. L.

North Branch, Michigan

"This letter is meant to be a "thank-you" note to Father Seelos, who proved to be a friend when I was in need. For seven months, I had been suffering from low blood pressure. And with two parishes and being alone, there were many Sundays I thought I wouldn't be able to say Mass. I started praying to Father Seelos. I was desperate: I imagined cancer and everything else. Finally, I went to the doctor - my blood pressure is normal; and I needed no operation. Even though I learned I was diabetic, I do not have to take insulin. And all is well! I am positive only Father Seelos brought me this peace of mind."

E. P.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for helping me receive the favors I asked. I promised to write this letter if he helped me and he did. I also said I would thank the Blessed Mother, St. Jude, St. Anthony, Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Lucy and St. Odilia for the favors they granted me. I am still praying to Father Seelos and hope my prayers will be answered for my husband who is very sick."

Mrs. L. T. L.

Houston, Texas

"I receive your monthly bulletin and have prayed to Father Seelos for so many favors which have been granted me. I have also spread the name and prayer of Father Seelos to all my friends. My husband's brother, who is not Catholic, has been taking treatments for cancer for some time. I have prayed to Father Seelos and also gave him a relic which I had. He has kept it with him. He was in a Catholic hospital and told all the nuns who came in about Father Seelos. He went home after having three series of treatments which are very new. So far the doctors say they find no evidence of cancer. Of course, he will have to come back for a check-up in several weeks. We do feel that Father Seelos has helped him and I am enclosing a little donation he left with me."

Mrs. W. E. W.

New Orleans, La.

"A few lines in this note to let you know of a wonderful favor granted through Father Seelos intercession. My son had been living for himself for a few months and I have been very worried about him living alone. I prayed with my whole faith in God and Father Seelos intercession that he would return home again. It happened. They broke into his little house Sunday night around 8:30. When my

(Continued on next page)

boy returned home he opened the door to see what a mess. They tore up everything, clothing all around the floor. He was so shocked he called the police. They checked into things, but he called up his landlord to tell him he was moving out immediately and he came home to us. My brother at the same hour my son was heading for home, prayed to God and Father Seelos that something would come up so that he would return home to stay. Believe me, Father, when the phone rang and he told my brother he had been robbed, we felt that strange as this was, it was an answer to our prayers. Nothing could have given us more joy. Thank God he is home again. His watch and a few other things were taken from him. My son and I are trying our very best to attend the Wednesday evening Masses to join in the prayers for Father Seelos' cause. We enjoy the services very much and hope the church will be crowded....I would like to report another favor granted a lady to whom I had given the cloth memento of Father Seelos and the prayer. She could hardly make use of her right arm and leg for seven years. She was so thrilled, she came to tell me of the wonderful help she had received through God and the intercession of Father Seelos."

Mrs. A. L.

SPECIAL NOTES

June is the month of the Sacred Heart. Go to Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion daily during the month. Pray for vocations to the priesthood.

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Do you have a copy of the novena to Our Lady of Fatima, which prayers we are offering for the speedy beatification and canonization of Father Seelos? We will be happy to send you one for the asking.

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Thanks for your continued interest in the restoration of St. Mary's Church. God love and reward you.

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

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