



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XI, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1972

## THE MAKING OF A BOOK

Most of us who have never written a book stand in awe of authors. How were they able to put so many words and ideas together? Maybe some of us think that they just sat down at the typewriter and the words came as easily as getting water from a tap. That may be for some type of books, but certainly not for history or biography.

As a case in point, take "The Cheerful Ascetic," the life of Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R., written by Father Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R., of Brooklyn, New York. The printed text of this life covers 314 pages. There are 87 pages of references and notes, and the bibliography takes 13 pages. Five drafts were made before the printer ever saw it.

When the material for this book was recently shipped from Brooklyn to the Father Seelos Center in New Orleans, it took a station wagon loaded with 14 large boxes to carry it all. When one considers the time alone it took to amass that much material, it is staggering.

Before the material started on its long journey, six full days were spent in duplicating approximately 9000 pages of original documents. The retracing of the steps of Father Seelos' pilgrimage in life from Fussen, Bavaria, where he was born to New Orleans where he died, to all the places where he was stationed: Baltimore, Annapolis, Cumberland, Pittsburgh and to all the places where he said Mass, or preached, the visits to city, state and federal archives both in Europe and the U.S.A., the poring over documents in dusty files, the tracing down of letters written by Father Seelos over a century ago, the traveling of thousands of miles - all this went into the neat and readable package we call "THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC."

Our hats are off and our hearts are grateful to the one man who put it all together, Father Curley!

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

COPIES OF THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER. THE PRICE IS \$4.95.

## FATHER GRANGELL'S MESSAGE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Virtue for the month of July: OBEDIENCE

Patron: St. Philip, the Apostle

Text: You are my friends if you do the things I command you. (John 5/14)

Father Seelos used to say to be obedient one must have lots of good, simple Faith and be humble. He was a good observant Religious because he possessed these two great virtues in an eminent degree. He saw Christ in his Superiors, he saw the Will of God in his Holy Redemptorist Rule, he heard the voice of God in the ringing of the Community bell calling him to the spiritual exercises of the day. In his faith and humility he obeyed blindly. He summed up all humility in one word: Truth. Truth is: I am what I am in the eyes of God and nothing more. All that I have, I have from God.

Because he was obedient he was happy. All eternal and temporal woes come from disobedience. The rebellious Angels of Heaven lost their principalities when they shouted against God: We will not serve You. They became devils and hell was created. Because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve we have all the sorrows of life. The proud today lack faith and humility and are disobedient to God and all lawful authority. They live by the philosophy: I am what I am in my own opinion, all that I have, I have by my own ability. Nobody is going to tell me what to do.

Father Seelos loved the Holy Father. He saw the Pope as Vicar of Christ on earth. When his Holiness spoke, his word was final.

The cry of man today is that of Pharo to Moses: Who is this God that I should hear His voice! God speaks throught the Church: You must go to Mass on Sunday! You must receive the Sacraments. The answer is: Who is this God that I should hear His voice!

Let us pray that our youth have the correct balance in life - to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. All is easy with faith and humility. Obedience spells happiness.

My dear reader! How do you practice obedience! Do you find fault with the Church and her priests and criticize them? Check. Do you see the Will of God in everything and accept joys and sorrows in the spirit of obedience - God's will.

To see obedience in all its perfection, read the life of our Lord as the Evangelists tell it to us. Christ was the most obedient of men and He was a God.

Pray to the Blessed Mother of God who was so obedient, for the grace to be obedient to lawful authority -- the Church and the State.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Kenner, La.

"This is my note of thanksgiving to Father Francis Xavier Seelos. I promised to write and thank him for keeping my daughter safe through her operation and sparing her from cancer. I will keep praying to him and spreading his devotion."

*Mrs. H. P.*

New Orleans, La.

"My son was in an automobile accident and he completely destroyed his elbow. The doctors said he would have a stiff elbow and he would not be able to bend it. He has three pins in his arm and also screws. We requested the Crucifix of Father Seelos to be brought to the hospital and his arm was blessed with the Crucifix. We offered prayers every day at the tomb of Father Seelos. Today his arm is out of the cast and he is able to have full use of his arm. Thanks to Father Seelos for his help."

*Anonymous*

New Orleans, La.

"Through the prayers of Father Seelos the Lord heard my petition and made it possible for me to find a comfortable home. The doctors thought I had bleeding ulcers and after running tests they found my blood count was very low. Through Father Seelos' intercession my health is improving daily."

*C. L. G.*

Palestine, Texas

"I invoked Father Seelos intercession in prayer and promised to report the favor if through his intercession my grandchild would be healthy and strong. I am glad to report this favor was granted."

*M. P. K.*

Shreveport, La.

"The cloth memento of Father Francis X. Seelos was given to me several years ago by a friend at a time when I was having a little bit of trouble with one of my daughters. I was so afraid that she would marry a divorced man with whom she was keeping company. I put the memento under her pillow and after a time she began to see the light and broke off with this young man. She is now married to a very fine young man and a devout Catholic. For five years now they have been praying for a child. I feel that God has blessed them so far and will continue to do so."

*C. C.*

Huntsville, Ala.

"I promised this letter of thanksgiving for the wonderful help given me through the intercession of Father Seelos, Mother of Perpetual Help and other Saints. After saying the prayer to Father Seelos every day for many weeks, my prayers were answered."

*E. H.*

(Continued on next page)

New Orleans, La.

"My sister suffered a stroke on her right side and could not speak. I immediately prayed to Father Seelos, asking him to intercede to God, if it was His Holy Will, she would be spared and not be crippled. The doctors were very concerned and it was necessary two days later for the neuro surgeon to remove a blood clot from her brain. Her arms and legs are back to normal; although she does not have her speech completely, she can be understood. I promised to report this favor. Thank God and Father Seelos she is, in one month's time, almost back to normal."

C. W. D.

New Orleans, La.

"I want to thank you for asking your congregation to pray for my grandson who was suffering from severe headaches. After all of our prayers to God and Father Seelos he is doing much better. The doctor suspected a tumor, but now feels sure there is none. Thanks to Father Seelos my prayers are being answered."

M. L.

### SPECIAL NOTES

**A NOTE FROM FATHER GRANGELL:** I thought that St. Mary's Church would be renovated and paid for by this time! That was a wild thought on my part. If you know somebody who can help us in a big financial way, please contact him or her in your love and devotion for Father Seelos. In the meantime, do what you can personally. God bless you.

It is never too late for a young eighth grader or high school student to decide to become a priest. Father Grangell is interested in all youths who want to be priests. Get in touch with Father at the Father Seelos Center. Drop him a line.

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. Go to Mass daily and make your heart a living tabernacle of the Blessed Sacrament by daily Holy Communion.

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please contact Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176 or the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495. We will make the necessary arrangements.

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

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.