



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS' PRAYERS

When we hark back to the days of Father Seelos at St. Philomena's in Pittsburgh, even then as now tales were told of the power of his prayers over the sick.

Once a man on crutches called on Father Seelos at the rectory and asked him to cure him. Seelos replied he had no such power. At that reply the man tossed his crutches out of the window and said he would not leave until the priest blessed him. Father Seelos was amazed at the power of the man's faith - and he blessed him. The man walked out the door and on his way - without the crutches.

A young girl was brought to him, who was an epileptic. He took the child to the Blessed Mother's altar and prayed over her. Since the parents had sought to hide the child's illness, they had never sent her to school. Now, Father Seelos told them, they were to enroll her in the classes, but still fearful, they did not. When several months later another attack occurred, the mother once again sought Father's aid. Again he took the child to church to the altar of the Blessed Virgin and prayed over her. He repeated his wish that the child go to school. This time the parents followed his instructions. The girl never had another attack.

Does this all sound so familiar? Even today . . .

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

You may obtain copies of the book on the life of Father Seelos, the **CHEERFUL ASCETIC** by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. by writing the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. Send check or money order for \$4.95 for your copy.

HUMILITY

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Virtue of the month of August is Humility
The Patron Saint - Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
The Text - Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart. (Matt 6/29)

Father Seelos used to preach in season and out of season, and always in the confessional, that Humility was the fundamental virtue of true sanctity. It's the one and only virtue that our Lord introduced to the world in a very formal way: Learn of Me, because I am meek and humble of heart. And, to encourage us to practice the virtue He promises us that we shall find rest for our souls. Just relax, Father Seelos would say and think: I am nothing! I am nobody! I am what I am in the eyes of God. All I have, I have from God. Nobody can deny or doubt that. Just pause for a few minutes and think about it. Humility is Truth.

Disobedience was the cause of the fall of Lucifer and his legions in heaven and of Adam and Eve in paradise. But the reason for their disobedience was pride. Lucifer would raise his throne above that of God and was hurled into hell. Please read Isias Ch. 14, verses 12 to 16. The devil told Eve she would be like God if she would eat the forbidden fruit.

Pride vitiates and destroys all the virtues of the soul. However virtuous any soul may have been, as soon as it gives itself up to pride, its virtue grows daily more feeble, only to disappear altogether in a short time.

The proud soul doesn't go to Holy Communion. He doesn't need it. In the meantime, that soul languishes and dies because of lack of sanctifying grace and all the sacramental graces of the Blessed Sacrament.

The proud soul doesn't pray. It is self-sufficient and doesn't need God's help. That soul will be lost.

The proud soul will not forgive and God does! But he is against God. He has enemies.

Father Seelos was always happy and cheerful. Somebody asked him what happiness really is. He replied: doing God's Will is happiness. That's the reason he was so humble, he was obedient to the Will of God in all things. Morose, sulen, sad people are not humble. Somebody or something is going against their wills.

The first time we meet the Blessed Mother in the Bible, she is saying to an Angel: Be it done unto me according to thy word --that was her whole life--humble submission to God's Will.

Make your constant prayer: JESUS, MEEK AND HUMBLE OF HEART, MAKE MY HEART LIKE UNTO THINE. MARY, HUMBLE MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR ME.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"..This note is in thanksgiving. My brother-in-law, 59 years old, had never been baptised and was dying of cancer of the lungs. I wrote several months ago asking for prayers. Thanks to Almighty God through the intercession of Father Seelos, my husband, a convert himself, was able to get a priest to visit his brother and eventually baptize him. We are all thankful for this favor granted us...Please pray for another deferment for my son, who is about to be drafted. He won't finish school until November. Also please pray for my sons to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion. Both seem to be drifting away from the Church. I pray constantly for this favor. We are also in need of financial aid due to so much sickness during the past few months."

H. C.

New Orleans, La.

"We wish to publicly thank God through the intercession of our Lady of Perpetual Help, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our dear Father Seelos. Good news we received recently tells us that our prayers are now being answered. With the continued help of our good Lord, His Blessed Mother, and our dear Father Seelos, the day will come when our son-in-law will be completely cured."

A. P.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession in behalf of a cousin of mine who was on the critical list with a brain hemorrhage and in a coma for several days. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession she has made a complete recovery. Am now praying there will be no recurrence."

L. M. D.

New Orleans, La.

"I have been meaning to write and tell you before now how many of my prayers have been answered through the intercession of Father Seelos. He has helped my teams win many ball games. He has also answered quite a few of my prayers for personal favors."

C. A.

New Orleans, La.

"I would like to let you know about the three times I was helped through the intercession of Father Seelos...The first occasion was during the illness of a little boy close to our family. The doctors told us he had an incurable disease. I prayed all night that the diagnosis was wrong. In the morning we heard from his mother that he was better and would leave the hospital in a week ... Twice I prayed to Father Seelos for my son who was accused wrongly. When he went to trial after I prayed the first time his trial was postponed. The second time he was proven innocent. At the end when we were sure he was going to jail, the jury brought in a not guilty verdict. I have great faith in Father Seelos' intercession."

E. C.

(Continued on next page)

Gretna, La.

"A friend of mine came to my house at a time when she was having a severe attack of asthma. I gave her a prayer card and cloth memento of Father Seelos and asked her to pray to him for help. Three days later she told me her asthma left and it was the first time she didn't need a shot to help her. Thanks to Father Seelos."

L. R.

St. Francisville, La.

"For those of us who have emotional problems and sometimes they get pretty rough, I want to know that Father Seelos is a wonderful friend. One night I was in terrible distress. I prayed to Father Seelos and he helped me through. I became calm very quickly. He has helped me so many other times. I hope many will pray to him when in trouble and all times."

M. M.

SPECIAL NOTES

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

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Father Seelos loved the month of August because it is the month of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists. The feast is August 1st. He used to pray hard for vocations to the Redemptorists - to the priesthood and to the brotherhood. If you are a friend of Father Seelos encourage vocations to his Order.

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The restoration of St. Mary's Church in New Orleans, Father Seelos' Church, is progressing slowly, but progressing. Please keep up your gifts to this worthy cause. Students of Tulane University often come to St. Mary's to study the beauty of its architecture. Once in a while we find a gift envelope from a Tulane student. God bless them all.

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Our letters of thanksgiving are a source of hope and confidence for our many readers. That's the reason we publish them.

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We have some beautiful colored postcards of St. Mary's Assumption Church - 25¢ a piece. We have some big colored pictures of St. Mary's 15-¾ by 11-½ - \$1.00 each.

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