



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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PASTOR IN CUMBERLAND

Father Seelos was just 38 years old when he arrived in Cumberland, Maryland. Besides being rector and professor in the seminary, he acted as pastor of the German congregation in the town. As parishes go, it was small, having only three hundred communicants.

With characteristic energy, he threw himself into pastoral work. At first, however, he refrained from much preaching because of the malady in his throat. He was much in evidence in hearing confessions and teaching religion to the children. He saw to the material needs of the church buildings and that the festivals of the Church were carried out in becoming dignity and ceremony.

A rather typical story of his zeal is told. A non-Catholic from Germany had come to settle in the woods surrounding Cumberland. He gained his livelihood by hunting. He spoke only German but he married an English-speaking wife who bore him two children. Without religion himself, he requested baptism for his children from three ministers of religion. They did not respond.

Seelos heard about the case and went to visit the family. The old soldier laid down an ultimatum: the children would be baptized this day or never. Father Seelos countered with: who is going to see that these children are raised Catholic? The man replied that his wife could become a Catholic. Surprisingly, she readily consented to take instructions, while the hunter said he was too old. But faithfully he brought his wife to instructions. Finally after some weeks he too asked to become a Catholic to Seelos' great delight.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., please write to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. The price is \$4.95 per copy.

FATHER SEELOS WAS A MAN OF PRAYER

by Father Grangell

The Virtue for November: Prayer

Patron: St. Jude, the Apostle

Text: It behooves us always to pray and never weaken. (Luke 18/1)

Father Seelos was indeed a man of prayer. That's the reason he was so saintly. He had the spirit of prayer. He prayed ceaselessly. If anybody had asked him where he got that great love for prayer, he would have answered: "From my devout, holy mother and father." It developed through the years and finally he was on fire with the love of God. The vocation to the religious life appealed to him because he knew that religious prayed much. He became a Redemptorist because he knew they had a strict order of daily prayer. He loved mental prayer, meditation. He would kneel for a half hour before the Blessed Sacrament, or in his room, and think of God, the things of God, and eternity — repeating "My God I Love You." In his zeal, he wanted everybody in the world to love God. He would make acts of love for all. He would gather the hearts of everybody in the world, put them in all the tabernacles of the world and have them say over and over again, "My God I Love You, I am sorry for having offended you." He would put the tongues of everybody in the world in the sanctuary lamps of the world and make the tongues of fire say from them ceaselessly: "My God I Love You." His meditations were never forced. He did not need a book. His imagination was book enough.

He thanked God that he was a priest because he could say Mass daily. He understood the Mass, the infinite sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, going on continuously in the world. Before his Mass he would say: "Oh, my God, I, a finite, limited, dependent, sinful, proud human being want to give you something infinite! I offer my Mass to give you infinite adoration, (love, praise, glory, honor, blessing), infinite thanksgiving for everything that I have and especially for the great work of my eternal redemption, infinite atonement, satisfaction, reparation for my miserable, hateful sins and for the sins of the world, infinite petition — in Christ, with Christ, through Christ. He had a little book full of petitions. He prayed for himself and he prayed for others. He helped others in an infinite way.

Why can't we be people of prayer? Why can't we have the spirit of prayer and talk with God ceaselessly? We can. Try some of the things above.

DON'T FORGET THE BLESSED MOTHER IN ALL YOUR PRAYERS.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Omaha, Nebraska

"Please send me three of the prayer cards and three of the little Father Seelos cloth mementos. I want to acknowledge a favor received through the intercession of Father Seelos. My nephew had cancer surgery and was not doing very well. I visited him and laid the memento on his incision and prayed 'Father Seelos, pray for him.' Thanks to Father Seelos, he is improving more and more every day."

R. M. G.

St. Rose, La.

"I wish to acknowledge a favor granted to me. I say the Father Seelos prayer daily and have been for several years now. I have been granted several small favors and been helped quite a bit while I was in school and since I have been married as well. There is one special favor I would like to make known. My husband had been working on a job where the conditions were no longer pleasant and the pay very poor. Financially, we were headed downhill. Then he heard of a new job opening that sounded really great. I asked Father Seelos, the Blessed Mother and St. Jude to intercede for him. The morning my husband applied for the job, I burned a blessed candle, while praying the rosary, begging that the job would be worthwhile and my husband would get it. He was hired the next day. Now I continue to thank God through the prayers of Father Seelos, the Blessed Mother and St. Jude."

Vacherie, La.

"I would like to report a favor I feel was received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I had prayed to a number of saints that I would pass my comprehensive exam for my Master's Degree. After taking it I was told that my answers were weak and I would have to take an oral exam. When I went to Mass the following day, I saw a number of cards with the prayer to Father Seelos. I picked one up and decided to ask Father Seelos to intercede for me. When the day of the oral arrived I was able to pass it, even though I was never very good at speaking to a group of people I don't know very well. . . . I would like these intentions recommended to the prayers of those praying before the tomb of Father Seelos — that my mother's health does not worsen and she is able to work a little better; that my brothers are able to save all of their sugar cane crop before Christmas; that my sister is able to get a part time or full time job she can handle; that my older sister will have a healthy normal baby."

K. H.

New Orleans, La.

"I have prayed desperately to Father Seelos to intercede for my daughter that she would improve in her studies and follow in the footsteps of the Blessed Mother, as I found her straying away from the Church for some time. I found her selection of new friends was having a terrible influence on her belief in the Church and way of living. Thanks to St. Jude, she is receiving the sacraments regularly and wears the Father Seelos cloth memento and her Immaculate Conception medal. We both have improved our relationship and with the Grace of God and Father Seelos' continued prayers, I pray that she will continue in her faith and her return to school this year will be successful."

C. W.

New Orleans, La.

"My brother was dying with cancer and there was no hope for him. I thought my prayers for him were hopeless. One of the patients across the hall scribbled down a prayer to Father Seelos. I said the prayer just once and asked him to beg God to take my brother as soon as his suffering was unbearable. That same evening God was merciful and gave him peace. Just last week I said this same prayer for a friend. He has a very bad heart and the doctors wanted to do a very dangerous test on him to see if he could have heart surgery. There was a chance that he might die while the test was being made. He came through the test with no trouble but will not be able to have the surgery. At least his life is spared a little longer. I feel that on both these occasions Father Seelos prayers for me have been answered.

Mrs. A. S.

SPECIAL NOTES

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos for hospital patients, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

If you wish prayer cards or other literature about Father Seelos, please call Mrs. Agnes Bourg at the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495, or write to her at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. Your requests will be given prompt attention.

Don't forget to pray for the Poor Souls in Purgatory during the month of November. The 2nd of November is Poor Souls Day. We call them poor souls because they cannot help themselves. Write the Center for information about St. Joseph's Mass League.

We invite you to attend the 4:30 P.M. concelebrated Mass every Wednesday in St. Alphonsus Church. We pray for Father Seelos canonization and for our personal intentions. The novena and veneration of Father Seelos' crucifix follow the Mass.

Thanks for helping to make our Las Vegas Party for the restoration of St. Mary's Church a success. The trip to Las Vegas was won by Mrs. Anna Meltzer, 8315 Birch Street, New Orleans, and the Volkswagen by Mrs. Gail Zoller, 88 Versailles Blvd., New Orleans.

October 16 was the feast of St. Gerard Majella, patron of young mothers and children. Write to the Center for his picture and medal.

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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.