



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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TEACHER IN CUMBERLAND, 1857-1862

Besides being pastor of the small German-speaking congregation in Cumberland, Father Seelos had also to teach the young seminarians. The Redemptorists were still small in number in the United States, the demands made on them were many, and perforce more than one priest had been called upon to perform diverse and multiple duties. Now it was the turn of Father Seelos.

For the first three years at Cumberland he taught dogmatic theology and Sacred Scripture. For the last two years he taught Sacred Scripture and ecclesiastical history.

Seelos entered into his teaching duties with characteristic and great enthusiasm. He wrote to a nun during this time: "It is my greatest pleasure, for I love nothing more but to enter more and more into the depths of what is all beauty and reality. I feel sometimes compelled to invite all creatures to admire with me the beauties of our holy Religion."

He prepared himself well for his lectures. He wrote a detailed outline for each class he gave. The style of clear and lively expression that he had developed in his pulpit presentations stood him in good stead in the classroom also.

All the evidence points to the fact that he applied himself to deeper and deeper study of the subjects he taught and was able, in the language of today, to communicate that knowledge to his students.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., are available at \$4.95 per copy. Send your order to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130, and it will be given prompt attention.

FATHER SEELOS LOVED THE CROSS

by Father Grangell

The Virtue for December: Self-denial and love of the Cross.

Patron: St. Matthias, Apostle.

Text: If any one wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up the cross and follow me. (Matt. 16/24)

Father Seelos used to keep his mission cross on his desk. He would often kiss it and say: "May I die for the love of Thy love who wast so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love!" He loved the crucifix because it reminded him of how Christ loved him and died for him. His crucifix was his mirror. He wished to be Christlike. His outstanding virtue was self-denial and love of the Cross.

Christ suffered from the time he was the Babe in the stable of Bethlehem until He was the agonizing victim on the cross. His sufferings were His Father's Will. Father Seelos learned from the crucifix that all his sufferings were the will of God. When he was sick, in pain, feverish, he would see the will of God in this. He was on the cross with Christ. When he was humiliated and offended, he saw the will of God in this. When he was refused or denied something, he saw the will of God in it. When others were preferred to him, when he felt abandoned, he saw the will of God in it. This is what you call self-denial and love of the Cross.

There is a difference between self-imposed mortification and penance, and self-denial and love of the Cross. We choose the mortifications. God sends sickness, mental disease, accidents and insults and humiliations. We accept them—we say "God's will be done,"—we are practicing the virtue of self-denial and love of the cross. This is heroic! This is sainthood.

Very few people want the cross. They want just a few splinters from it. When you are sick and in pain, don't ask for a miracle to be cured, rather ask for the grace to do God's Holy Will. What He wants, you want.

When kneeling at the Christmas Crib, just think how that little Babe must have suffered. It was for our redemption, to save us for heaven. Your prayers must be "Thanks, dear God!"

At the Annunciation, the Blessed Virgin Mary said to the angel: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word." She had the virtue of self-denial and love of the cross.

I am very grateful to the very many friends of Father Seelos for having sent me get-well cards and for having prayed for me during my recent operation.

Father Grangell

SPECIAL LETTERS

Memphis, Tenn.

"About three years ago I visited the Seelos Center. Mrs. Bourg showed me the Center, St. Alphonsus Church and the tomb of Father Seelos. She also gave me prayer cards and cloth mementoes so I could spread the word of Father Seelos in Memphis, which I have done. Several people have asked for prayer cards, which they pass on to their friends. Two months ago, the doctor told my fifteen year old son he had a hole in his heart. He would have to undergo tests to determine the size of the hole and if surgery would be necessary. I prayed very hard that nothing would be wrong with him when the results of the tests came through. Once again my prayers were answered through the intercession of Father Seelos. The doctor called me and said "He's a normal, healthy boy. Let him play fast ball and other sports!" They want to check him again in three months. I promised Father Seelos I would continue to spread his literature."

L. C.

New Orleans, La.

"I was to have open heart surgery. I was told to ask Father Seelos for help, which I did. My wife and friends prayed with me. My speedy recovery and well being after surgery, I attribute to Father Seelos' intercession."

C. Z.

Metairie, La.

"About two weeks ago my nephew became ill and it was necessary for him to be brought to the hospital. A lung specialist was called in and we were afraid he would have to undergo a very serious operation. Immediately we called on Father Seelos to intercede for us for his recovery without an operation. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers he recovered and the doctor has discharged him. He still has to be very careful."

R. R. O.

Arabi, La.

"The last six weeks I was doing very poor in Math. So I asked Father Seelos intercession to help me improve my math. Yesterday I received my second report card and I was very pleased with my math grade. I also brought up some of the other grades too. I want to thank Father Seelos for helping me in school. I am eleven years old and I'm in the sixth grade."

M.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to report a favor from Father Seelos. My daughter was in danger of having heart trouble. I prayed daily to Father Seelos to intercede for help for my little girl. On her next visit to the doctor she had improved so much that she was out of danger."

M. H.

San Antonio, Texas

"Last spring I had a very bad sick spell and was ordered to the hospital by my doctor. After a thorough examination and surgery, the doctor found I had cancer. My four children and the Sisters at Blessed Sacrament Academy began saying the Father Seelos prayer, asking him to intercede for me. I am doing very well and am at work again in the school cafeteria. My husband has been ill for almost three years and he is praying and wears the cloth memento of Father Seelos."

M. L.

SPECIAL NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE WONDERFUL ATTENDANCE AT THE FATHER SEELOS MASS

I want to give you your best Christmas Gift — a personal remembrance of you and your dear ones in my Masses on Christmas Day and during Christmas week, and in my Mass on New Year's Day and on every day in the year 1974. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS.

Father Grangell

The Father Seelos Center wishes all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PRAYERFUL NEW YEAR. May we take this opportunity to thank all the wonderful Seelos' volunteers. Believe me, without you there would be no FATHER SEELOS CENTER. THANKS, FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS AND GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.

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

For literature about Father Seelos and regarding any other matters relative to the cause of Father Seelos, you may call our office secretary, Mrs. Agnes Bourg, 525-2495, or write to her at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.

Again we remind you if you should receive a favor through the intercession of Father Seelos, please write us.

If your address on the copy of this newsletter is incorrect, or if your name is spelled incorrectly, or if you are receiving more than one copy, please let us know so that we can correct our records.

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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.