



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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In Memoriam

On December 2 Father Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R., died in Brooklyn, N. Y., after an illness of several months. He was the author of "The Cheerful Ascetic," the life of Father Francis X. Seelos, C.S.S.R.

Father Curley lived 72 years. In 1971 he celebrated his fiftieth year as a Redemptorist. He was born in Brooklyn in 1900, studied for the priesthood in Northeast, Pennsylvania, Ilchester, Maryland and Esopus in New York. He was sent as a missionary to Puerto Rico. He gained a doctorate in Church history at the Catholic university of America. At one time was the vice-rector of Catholic University of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

He was the author of a number of books, one the life of Blessed Bishop John Neumann, and another, the above-mentioned life of Father Seelos.

All of us at the Father Seelos Center as well as all the readers of this Bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, owe him a great debt of gratitude. It took him years of patient research and the dogged tracking of the least details of Father Seelos' life on two continents to accumulate the material for the life of our Servant of God.

All of the readers of this bulletin will join in spirit, if not in person, at the memorial Mass to be offered for the repose of Father Curley's soul at 4:30 P.M., Wednesday, February 28, at St. Alphonsus Church, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans.



REVEREND MICHAEL CURLEY

FATHER GRANGELL'S MESSAGE

BY FATHER GRANGELL

The Virtue for the month of February is Hope.

The Patron is St. Andrew, the Apostle

The Text for our daily meditation: Lord, my daughter is this moment dead: Come now and lay Thy hand on her and she will live. Matt. 9/18.

Father Seelos used to say to practice the Virtue of Hope we must know God. We know God from the Bible, the whole Bible, the Old and New Testaments. In our Bible reading we see that God is infinite Love and Goodness. He loves us and wants our love and service. He will reward us if we love and serve Him. He will punish us if we fail to do so. That's the story of the Bible, that's God.

We begin the Act of Hope by saying: Oh, my God, relying on Thy infinite Goodness and Promises, we hope for many things. So realizing that God is all loving and true to His word, we ask for anything and everything. Nothing is impossible with God. The Ruler in Matthew, Chapter 9, asked that his dead daughter be raised to life. We hesitate sometimes.

The first thing we want is a sinless heart, forgiveness of sin, according to the Act of Hope. Then His Grace, which means His Help, which we need continuously. If we are sick, we ask for health; if we have health we ask for continuation of health. Holy Scripture tells us: By the Grace (Help) of God, I can do all things.

Never despair - that's a sin against Hope. Always remind God of His Goodness and Promises and then ask for anything and everything.

People who do not pray are guilty of the sin of Presumption - that's a sin against Hope. God says without Me you can do nothing. Ask and you shall receive.

Apparently we do not need God. We deceive ourselves. We must pray, pray always.

The big request in the Act of Hope is that God will give us eternal life, Heaven.

Father Seelos' one hope and desire in life was to be holy. That should be ours. Let's love God and try to get others to love Him.

Father Seelos was a great preacher, a wonderful missionary, because he loved God and wanted everybody to love Him.

We call the Blessed Mother, Our Hope! Her life was hard. She never lost Hope even when she saw her Son dying on the Cross. When everybody was against Him, she was with Him.

The Conclusion! STAY WITH GOD AND MARY WHEN THINGS LOOK DARKEST - HOPE AND PRAY.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Hessmer, La.

"I have prayed many times to Father Seelos for his help with problems in my family and my prayers have been answered. A month ago one of my sons had an operation which the doctor told us may not be successful. I prayed to our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of Father Seelos. At his check-up last week, the doctor told him the operation was successful. I am so thankful that my prayers were answered. I love to read your monthly paper. I have lots of faith in Father Seelos intercession."

D. G.

New Orleans, La.

"About two weeks ago I sent a request to the Father Seelos Center asking for prayers that my daughter would get over her nervous condition. The doctor put her in DePaul Hospital for several days and then let her come home. Well, there is some improvement but she still is under the doctor's care. I did want to thank you for the prayers and if you will, put this letter in your monthly paper."

C. P.

Gretna, La.

"A couple of weeks ago my brother became ill. X-rays showed a large tumor. When he was operated on the doctors said they could not remove it because it was entangled with the bloodvessels leading to the heart. They told us that it was malignant and there wasn't much they could do for him and didn't know how long he would live. After begging Father Seelos(intercession, the doctors told us they had made a mistake. The tumor was not malignant, which they could hardly believe themselves. They were sure he would be fine."

D. W.

New Orleans, La.

"I invoked Father Seelos to intercede for us that my sister who was very sick would recover. I wish to report that my favor was granted. Please publish."

J. D.

Franklin, La.

"Enclosed is donation for your work in thanksgiving for a special favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. Please publish this and just sign a client of Father Seelos from Franklin, La."

New Orleans, La.

"Father Seelos has certainly been good to me. My daughter had breast surgery several weeks ago for cysts and they were non-malignant. I thank Father Seelos for his intercession. I pray to him daily and I also spread the prayers around giving them to everyone who believes in God."

C. P. A.

New Orleans, La.

"I begged Father Seelos' intercession for my two sons and daughters-in-law who had had a misunderstanding and did not talk to each other for a year. They have been reconciled and we are a family again instead of strangers. I am asking Father Seelos intercession for another special favor. Please pray that I obtain this favor."

F. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

A BIG PROJECT: Let's finish the restoration of St. Mary's Assumption Church in 1973 and bring Father Seelos back to its sanctuary.

If anybody desires a copy of the Father Seelos Novena, please write us.

Send us the names of friends of yours to whom we might send out little paper.

Please report all cures and other favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos.

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

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC may be obtained from the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, at \$4.95 per copy.

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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.