



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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IN BALTIMORE - 1854 - 1857

Father Seelos was the pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore for three years. It was a bustling parish in those days, gaining parishioners every day as the immigrants poured out of Europe toward "the land of the free."

Not only was he pastor of the parish and superior of the community of Redemptorists, but he also served in the capacity as principal advisor of the superior of all the Redemptorists in the United States in those days. The time came when a new superior general was to be elected in Rome. Besides the provincial who would go to Rome by reason of his office, two other Redemptorists in America were to be elected by the American missionaries to participate in the election in Rome.

Father Seelos was given to understand by many of his confreres that he would be one of those chosen to go to Rome. And so it was with a great deal of pleasure that he informed his family in Fussen, Bavaria, that he might just be paying them a visit in the near future.

As the matter turned out, Father Seelos was not chosen to go to Rome. To say he was disappointed needs some explanation. That his confreres did not choose him as their representative was their privilege and that fact he humbly accepted. He was chagrined, however, that by his announcement to his family of a probable visit he had aroused their hopes only to see them dashed to the ground. This hurt him.

Father Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the life of Father Seelos by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. are available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130 - \$4.95 per copy.

FATHER GRANGELL'S MESSAGE FOR MARCH

Virtue: LOVE OF GOD.

Patron: St. James, Major

Text: Jesus said to Simon Peter: Simon, lovest thou me more than these? Yes, Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee. (Jno 21/15)

Make the text above personal and hear Christ say to you: Do you love Me more than all others love Me? Indeed, I wish to be Thy greatest lover on earth. That is a noble ambition - to be the greatest lover of Jesus Christ on earth. To be such, you have to have a plan, a system to follow. St. Alphonsus worked out a system of the Love of God which he gave to his penitents to follow and to those who came to him for spiritual guidance. He preached it on the missions and he made it the regular order of the day of his Redemptorist followers. It is very simple. It has four points.

- 1) To want to love God
- 2) To avoid all habits and practices of sin - any kind of sin
- 3) To make four formal meditations every day
- 4) To take a short ejaculatory prayer out of your meditation and make it the breath of your day and night.

Father Seelos, being a Redemptorist, lived that life of Love of God.

- 1) On the day of his profession as a Religious, he said very solemnly: "Burning with the desire to consecrating my life to the Love of God, I ----- make these vows -----. He not only desired to love God, he consecrated his life to the love of God.
- 2) There was no attachment to any sin in his life.
- 3) He made three meditations every day, one with the Community at rising and another in the evening, and one in the privacy of his room at 2 P.M.
- 4) His meditations consisted of talking with God very affectionately and making resolutions to be holier. His favorite prayer was "My God, I love You."

How about you living the same kind of life of love of God. The only difficulty with you will be the three formal meditations daily. Well, set aside a few minutes, morning, noon and night, to read a spiritual book, and tell God over and over again: My God, I Love You, and make that prayer the breath of your days and nights. "MY GOD, I LOVE YOU."

Ask the Blessed Mother to obtain for you a perfect Love for Jesus Christ.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"A few months ago, I asked Father Seelos to intercede for a nephew who had an operation some months ago. He had varicose veins on the inside of his legs and they formed ulcers and a large hold on the inside of his ankle. I asked Father Seelos to intercede that he would find the proper doctor for his case. Thanks to God and our Blessed Lady and Father Seelos everything worked out fine. That was almost one year ago. About two months ago it gave him trouble again. The doctor said infection had set in again. He gave him antibiotics for three months. Thanks again to our dear Lord and Blessed Lady and Father Seelos. He is better and on the go again."

E. M.

New Orleans, La.

"My youngest sister was on the verge of a break down and I begged Father Seelos to intercede to our Blessed Lord that she may soon get better. Thanks to Father Seelos for her, for she is lots better. I promised Father Seelos I would be glad to publish and let it be known. I ask that you join in my prayers that she will continue in good health."

E. M.

Jutt. Falls, Mi.

"Another favor has been received through the intercession of Father Seelos. My babysitter was told that she would never be able to have a child due to circumstances concerning her. She had been married ten years and had three major operations. She now has a little boy, four months old. I truly believe this favor was granted through Father Seelos intercession. Another favor - my mother-in-law, it was thought, had cancer. Through my prayers for Father Seelos intercession to make her well, so far they have found no sign of cancer."

C. K.

Mobile, Ala.

"Please - I want to thank the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos for his intercession for favors granted. I prayed that my granddaughter would not get married before finishing her college education and this favor was granted. You may publish this."

E. B. B.

New Orleans, La.

"This is a letter of thanksgiving to Father Seelos for a special favor granted through his intercession. I asked him to help me sell my house which I had been trying to sell for so long. needless to say I sold it. Through his prayers my favor was granted once again."

L. R. T.

New Orleans, La.

"I promised Father Seelos that I would have this letter published if my prayer was answered. For a long time now I had been having an odd sensation around my head. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for me that this would pass. It did. But that's been about a year ago and I didn't take time to send this letter. Now I am getting the same feeling again. I get afraid. Again I am asking Father Seelos to intercede for me that I will feel better."

B. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

March 7 is Ash Wednesday! It is the beginning of Lent. Do some penance for your sins and the sins of the world. Get up early, go to Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion. Make the Way of the Cross before Mass or after Mass. Just walk from station to station and say: "Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me as Thou wilt." If you are sick or have continuous pains and aches offer them up to God for penance as you say "MY GOD, I LOVE YOU."

Have your sick blessed with Father Seelos crucifix. Call Miss Buhler 895-6176 to make arrangements. During the day you may also call the Father Seelos Center 525-2495.

If you send a gift to the Seelos Center, let us know if it is for the Center, or the Restoration of St. Mary's Church. Sign your name Mr., Mrs., or Miss. We are grateful for this.

Don't forget your daily Rosary. In lent meditate on the sorrowful mysteries.

May we ask a special remembrance in your prayers for the happy repose of the soul of James A. Bourg, who died on January 12. Jim was the husband of our secretary at the Center, Mrs. Agnes Bourg. He himself spent many volunteer hours working at the Center.

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