



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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IN BALTIMORE -- 1854 - 1857

One of the most trying episodes in the life of Father Seelos occurred while he was pastor at St. Alphonsus in Baltimore. During that time he acted as one of the two consultors to the provincial, the superior of all the Redemptorists in America.

It happened that Father Provincial was called to Rome for a general chapter, and he appointed Father Seelos' fellow consultor as the acting provincial. During this time the acting provincial became mentally ill, and it was up to Father Seelos to make the painful decision to put him in a hospital.

This was not the most pleasant task, as can be imagined. After some weeks Father Seelos allowed the sick man to come back home for a few days. This action was interpreted by some of the confreres of Father Seelos as a sign he wanted to place the sick man back in office again, and they roundly criticized him. Whatever Father Seelos may have done in charity to the mentally ill, priest, his last thought was to bring him back to fulfilling a task of which he was no longer capable. This is clear from a letter he wrote to his superiors in Rome the day after he put the good man away.

Seelos confessed that during the summer of 1855 his sufferings were so great that he lost all appetite for food and drink and did not sleep well. Father Joseph Wissel said, "If ever Father Seelos gave proof of sanctity, he did so then."

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC are available at \$4.95 per copy. Just write the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130, send them your check and they will be happy to mail you a book.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

BY FATHER GRANGELL

The Virtue for the month of April is CHARITY, fraternal love, brotherly affection. It's the Love of God in action. If any man says he loves God and hates his neighbor, he is a liar. (1 John 4/20).

The Patron is St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist. Read his two epistles in the Bible. They are short, one has five chapters and the other, just one. Both are full of Charity.

The Text for the month is the entire 13th Chapter of St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. You must read it. St. Alphonsus wrote a book on this 13th Chapter. He entitled it: Love God and do What You Please. Get a copy of it from Redemptorists, Liguori, Mo. 63057.

Father Seelos used to say he could see a thousand ways of practicing Charity - be kind, agreeable, forgiving, never offend, be helpful, be polite, give alms, be mortified and self-sacrificing to help others, be cheerful, smile and laugh, visit the sick, be patient with the old, the young, put up with the eccentricities, disturbing hobbies and idiosyncracies of others, take people as they are, never be sullen or gloomy or morose, never show that you have been hurt or discriminated against or slighted, be zealous for the soul's salvation of others, pray for sinners, never scandalize another or lead one into sin by bad example or speech. Father Seelos used to say: watch your tongue - too much gossip, detraction (revealing the hidden faults of others), calumny (lying about others), disputes and quarrels, sarcasm, ridiculing one.

Father Seelos used to say there were too many sins against Charity in thought - suspicion, rash judgment, envy, jealousy, hatred, planning revenge.

Father Seelos used to say that flattery was bad, but a little praise is good for everybody all the time.

Father Seelos' name was Charity. He loved God and man perfectly.

Ask the Blessed Mother to help you to be charitable always.

Easter is April 22nd! I do not have a pretty colored card full of lillies and bunnies to send you, but I send you my Easter Greetings in these few sincere words: GOD BLESS YOU AT EASTER TIME AND FILL YOU WITH HIS LOVE! I WILL REMEMBER YOU IN A SPECIAL WAY IN MY EASTER MASSES. PRAY FOR ME.

Father Grangell

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I am grateful for Father Seelos intercession for my grandchild. She was very sick in the hospital having her baby and I begged Father Seelos help. His prayers helped her, she is doing nicely now and so is the baby. She had to be put in intensive care for a week. Thanks to our prayers and those of our friends she is doing alright. . . . I have been praying, asking Father Seelos' intercession, for 24 years for my son, my daughters and my husband. I have received many answers to my prayers."

C. A.

St. Martinville, La.

"I began begging Father Seelos intercession about two weeks ago. A week later my son told me, almost miraculously my white blood-count went up a little by itself." He is under the doctor's care for malignancy of lymph gland with complications. Before that, any time he took medicine, the white blood count dropped dangerously. I would like more pamphlets to give to friends who will help me ask Father Seelos intercession in my son's behalf."

C. P. R.

Corpus Christi, Texas

"I promised publication for the wonderful and speedy help I received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I had internal bleeding. The doctor gave me a powerful shot and I know it was through Father Seelos prayers that I did not have to go to the hospital. I am doing better and pray that everything will continue to get better. Also please pray that I will be able to walk better. I have sciatic nerve trouble and arthritis in my back and hip joints and it is very painful."

S. K. C.

New Orleans, La.

"I am writing this letter of thanksgiving. My daughter was operated on for breast cancer five months ago. Her breast was removed. Last week she found another lump in the other breast. We were so worried that it would be the same thing. We begged Father Seelos to intercede for her. She got the report today and it was not cancer. I feel sure it was the prayers offered for her that saved her. Please continue to pray that she will feel well and her nerves will get better."

M. J.

San Francisco, Cal.

"I am fulfilling a promise I made to Our Lady of Perpetual help and Father Seelos. I asked them to intercede for my intention - for help to sell our home, if it was God's will for us. Shortly afterward we were able to sell and buy the home we wanted, even though it had been sold before to another party. I am convinced that Our Lady interceded for us and through her intercession and that of Father Seelos, everything was settled satisfactorily."

E. P.

Houma, La.

"Please publish this letter for favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos and St. Jude, for my brother. He underwent surgery and is at home and doing very well. Thanks for all the favors I have received from Father Seelos and St. Jude."

C. P.

(Continued on next page)

Chalmette, La.

"I prayed that I would pass my test at school and asked Father Seelos' intercession also. My favor was granted as it has been so many times before."

A. D.

New Orleans, La.

"In June my sister underwent open heart surgery. So far she is doing fine. I know it is by praying and asking Father Seelos intercession that she has done so well. I asked help also for my husband who was not working. I asked Father Seelos intercession and he has now returned to work. So many thanks to God and Father Seelos. I will keep on praying."

A. B.

SPECIAL NOTES

A REPETITION! We send you the gold envelope every month as an all-service help for you. We want you to have a self-addressed envelope on hand when you wish to write to us - sending a petition or vigil light or Mass offering, sending an account of a favor received which you consider miraculous, sending a gift to the Seelos Center or toward the restoration of St. Mary's.

Thanks for spreading devotion to Father Seelos. If you need pictures or mementoes write to the Center. Send us the names and addresses of your friends all over the U.S.A. and we will send them literature.

If you know any boy who wishes to be a Priest like Father Seelos, C.S.S.R., tell him to write to the Seelos Center for information.

For blessings for the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call the Center, 525-2495, or Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176. Arrangements will be made.

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