



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 7

AUGUST, 1973

## MOVE TO CUMBERLAND, 1857

Father Seelos' respite from his serious illness was shortlived. After a month of quiet at the novitiate in Annapolis, he was sent to Cumberland. Cumberland was in the mountains of western Maryland—a beautiful place in spring and autumn, but rather miserable in the winter with interminable mud and snow.

Here a three-fold task awaited him. He was pastor of the parish and superior of the community. He was also to teach in the major seminary, and above all he was to be director of the students preparing for the Redemptorist priesthood.

As far back as 1849 the Redemptorists had come to Cumberland to take care of the German-speaking Catholics. These people had been part of the congregation of St. Patrick's parish, but when their number grew too large, they were urged on to build their own church, Sts. Peter and Paul's. Bishop Neumann, who at that time was the vice-provincial of the Redemptorists in America, was the moving force behind the project. In fact, so charmed by the location of Cumberland, Bishop Neumann laid plans for the Redemptorist seminary to be built there.

Once again Father Seelos had his hands full. In the community with him there were 42 students, eight priests and four brothers. Hard work seemed to be Seelos' lot. At first the change caused him to write:

"I was driven out again of my terrestrial paradise and (am) now in Cumberland with about 60 persons. . . . The difference was very great, but there is no paradise on earth. I should have known that long ago."

*Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.*

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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. This is a book about the life of Father Seelos.

## BE HUMBLE

by FATHER GRANGELL

The Virtue for August: Meekness and humility of heart.

Patron: St. Bartholomew, Apostle.

Text: Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart. (St. Matt. 6/29)

My Dear Reader:

If you are a monthly reader of my short meditation, please do not look upon it as something monotonous, the same thing, time after time. No! We are following the system of Asceticism which made Father Seelos a saint — the system of the monthly virtue. It is the system of the Greek Doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus Liguori. We practice all the virtues all the time, but we study one in particular each month to become master of it. We do not choose our own virtue, we follow the system, the virtue which St. Alphonsus gives us — and, that's year after year.

This month's virtue is Humility. You may practice it any way you desire. You may make your own plans and make your own resolutions. But the easiest way to practice this virtue is to follow Our Lord. He says: Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart. He is inviting us to read the Gospels and see how He lived. There are 91 total chapters in the four Gospels, which means if you read 3 chapters a day, you will read the whole life of Our Divine Savior in the month of August.

The over-all Gospel picture of Christ is meekness and gentleness and forgiveness and understanding and approachableness, calmness, happiness. He was humble in His birth and humble in His death.

He is represented as a Lamb, the meekest of animals.

His teaching about who is first in His Kingdom is summed up in one sentence: Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter the Kingdom. A little child is an humble creature.

The Little Flower of Jesus wrote a philosophy on Little Things! She based it on how children live. The prayer of her life was 'My God, I love You.' That's all a little child knows — Love. The proud man knows nothing about genuine love, especially the love of God. If everybody in the world said 'MY GOD I LOVE YOU,' we would have no proud people in the world.

Humility is 'TRUTH' — truth is: I am what I am in the eyes of God and nothing more. All that I have, I have from God. If everybody prayed: Thank God for what I have, I love You, we would have a world of Saints. Think it over!

May our Blessed Mother keep us as humble as was Father Seelos.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Patchogue, N. Y.

"I underwent surgery one week ago and asked Father Seelos and all the saints to intercede for me for a safe and speedy recovery. They found the very beginning of a malignancy which they assure me was caught in time. I am certain the prayers of Father Seelos and all the Saints were answered. I hope you will pray with me for my complete recovery, without any recurrence of this condition."

J. C.

Belvedere, S. C.

"My father was very, very sick and almost died, but thanks to the intercession of Father Francis X. Seelos, and it being God's Holy Will, he is now recovering. He is still sick, but getting better and home."

B. C.

Mobile, Ala.

"Please publish in your news program — I received a great favor from God through the intercession of Father Seelos — my son will be stationed in Alabama this year."

M. B.

New Orleans, La.

"My brother had a brain tumor removed and it was benign. He is still under doctor's care and unable to work. Thank God through the intercession of Father Seelos and my prayers for this favor which was granted. Please continue your prayers for his complete recovery. Thank you."

C. P.

Houma, La.

"Another favor has been granted me through the intercession of dear Father Seelos and I am counting on your goodness to thank him at the tomb for me. Naturally I will come in person as soon as I can. Monday night my purse was stolen from my car. As soon as I noticed it was missing I asked Father Seelos to intercede for me that it would be found. After eight days it turned up at our church rectory. Last night it was returned to me just as it was except for outside dirt, a few pennies missing and a broken compact mirror. The other money and all my papers were safe inside. Even my new kerchief was put through the handle. This to me was quite unusual. Many thanks dear Father Seelos and may God continue to help us through his dear servant who is doing so much good for us all."

G. P.

New Iberia, La.

"I am reporting a great favor granted to me through the intercession of Father Seelos. After waiting three weeks for a company to call to hire my disabled son, I begged Father Seelos to intercede with God for the company to call soon. After about forty minutes, the manager of the company called and hired my son. This is one of the many favors granted to me through Father Seelos' intercession."

W. P. L.

## SPECIAL NOTES

August 1 is the feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, Founder of the Redemptorists. He was a great lover of Jesus Christ. Read his books. Get them from Redemptorist Fathers, Liguori, Mo. 63057.

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This is the time of year when boys look forward to entering the Seminary. Many a poor little fellow is denied that grace because his mother refuses to let him go. What a disservice to the Church! Pray for these mothers.

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Send us the names and addresses of your friends. We will send them literature about Father Seelos.

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

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To help in the restoration of St. Mary's Assumption Church we are having a "Las Vegas Night" benefit party at the Fairgrounds Race Track Club House on Sunday, August 12, 1973. You buy a ticket for \$5.00. It entitles you to a chance on winning a Volkswagen or an all expense paid trip to Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. The lucky winner need not be present. When you present the \$5.00 ticket at the gate, you receive \$5,000.00 in chips which you use in gambling or to buy and bid on prizes. There will be fabulous prizes.

You can meet State Governor Edwin Edwards and other celebrities. Get your tickets from Seelos Center or at the Rectory, 2030 Constance Street. This is a very attractive event. Talk it up in your family and among your friends.

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Kindly send your requests for literature or any information concerning Father Seelos and his cause to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. If you wish any information by telephone please call Mrs. Agnes Bourg and she will be happy to talk with you and be of all help possible to you, 525-2495.

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Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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