



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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"DON'T WE HAVE ENOUGH SAINTS?"

"Don't we have enough saints already?" was the lady's question when she learned that we were working to have Father Francis Seelos declared a saint. It was an amusing question, and a startling one; amusing because it came from one who was more a daughter of Abraham than a Catholic, and startling because the "we" was just the reverse of Pope Pius XI's famous dictum, "We are all spiritual Semites."

But really, are there too many saints? We have long grown accustomed to think of canonized saints as people out of this world, people not quite like the rest of humanity. We think of them only too often as plaster statues, in niches in churches, on pedestals, almost beyond human reach. Too many of us forget that they were men and women, flesh and blood just like ourselves, living in human situations that are repeated so monotonously generation after generation.

Many of us have forgotten that sanctity is for all of us. We all have the vocation to be holy, as Jesus said, "You therefore are to be perfect, even as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mt. 5:48) St. Paul put it this way:

"God chose us in Him (Jesus)
before the world began
to be holy and blameless in His sight.
He predestined us
to be His adopted sons through Jesus Christ,
such was His will and pleasure
that all might praise the glorious favor
He has bestowed on us in His beloved Son." (Eph. 1:3-10)

Vatican Council II has this to say in its famous document on the Church: ". . . all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity."

It is time to change our thinking. The number of canonized saints is very small, and most of us will never be included in this group. But holy we must be, and there is no better time to begin than today.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., you may write to the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street. The price is \$4.95.

FATHER SEELOS, A GREAT LOVER OF JESUS CHRIST

by Father Grangell

The Virtue for March: Love of God

Patron: St. James, Major

Text: "Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God, with thy whole heart, with thy whole mind and with all thy strength." Mark 12/30

If you have a picture of Father Seelos, with the big Crucifix in his cincture, notice two distinct cords around his neck. One is holding the big mission cross and the other is holding a small crucifix which is hidden in the fold of his habit. When he began his novitiate, he was given this small crucifix which he was to wear daily. When he received it on the day of his investiture, he kissed it and said: "May I die for the love of Thy love who hast been so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love." That was a challenge for life. He was to be a consecrated lover of Jesus Christ. In the novitiate he learned how to love God. He was taught the system of St. Alphonsus, the Founder of the Redemptorists — how to love God. The system has four points: 1) Really want, desire to love God. 2) Get everything contrary to the love of God out of your life. 3) Make three meditations every day. 4) Take out of your meditation, into your working day, the little prayer which is to be the breath of your life: "My God, I love You." At the end of his novitiate, as he made his vows he could say: "Burning with the desire of consecrating myself entirely to Thy Holy Love, I make these vows, etc." In this month of the Love of God, let us try to fall, heart and soul, in love with Jesus Christ.

I was visiting in the grade school some time ago. I wrote on the blackboard in big letters: MY GOD, I LOVE YOU. They could read it and recited it aloud. I erased all the letters except M G I L Y. I asked them what they meant, and the children screamed: "My God, I Love You." I told them when I meet you on the street, or in the supermarket, or on the playground, I will say to you, M G I L Y and you answer My God, I Love You. It works beautifully. They taught it to their parents and older brothers and sisters, and the neighborhood is vibrant with "My God, I Love You." Try it! Put these letters around your house, on the TV, in the kitchen, on your desk — everywhere.

MAY OUR BLESSED MOTHER OBTAIN FOR US A PERFECT LOVE FOR JESUS CHRIST.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I was to have open heart surgery and it was suggested to me to beg Father Seelos for help, which I did, as did my wife and friends. My speedy recovery and well being after surgery, I attribute to the prayers of Father Seelos."

C. R. Z.

Omaha, Nebraska

"I want to acknowledge a favor received through the intercession of Father Seelos. My nephew had cancer surgery and was not doing very well. I visited him and laid the memento of Father Seelos on his incision and prayed "Father Seelos pray for him" round and round the rosary many times, and every day since. He is improving every day."

R. M. G.

Baton Rouge, La.

"We are very grateful to all who have prayed for our daughter through Father Seelos. She has recovered from a serious head injury. The will of God and the power of prayer made it happen. May God bless you all."

M. P.

Vacherie, La.

"I would like to report a favor I think was received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I had prayed to a number of saints that I would pass my comprehensive exam for my Master's Degree. After taking it I was told that my answers were weak and I would have to take an oral exam. When I went to mass the following day I saw a number of cards with the prayer to Father Seelos written on it. I picked one up and decided to pray to him. When the day of the oral arrived I was able to pass it, even though I was never very good at speaking to a group of people I don't know very well."

K. H.

Houston, Texas

"I prayed to Father Seelos to have my family back together, due to my misunderstandings with my husband. We had been separated for five years. We are together again. I owe it all to the prayers through Father Seelos to God."

H. S.

Wenooski, Vermont

"My petition for employment which I had placed in Father Seelos' intercession has been granted. Also two of my sons have obtained part time work and the oldest, the job he had been wanting. Thanks to Father Seelos and all of those devoted to him for their prayers."

M. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

All of March is Lent! Get into the spirit of this Holy Season. Deny yourself something in penance for your sins and the sins of the world—smokes, alcohol, sweets, sleep, TV entertainment, and come to Holy Mass and Holy Communion daily. Christ taught: "Unless a man does penance, he shall perish."

Celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary, March 19, by going to Mass and Holy Communion.

Send us the names and addresses of people to whom we should send our little paper monthly.

If you receive a favor through prayers to Father Seelos, let us know about it.

If you move, or your name or address is incorrectly printed, please let us know. We wish to keep our files corrected and keep in touch with you.

A Mass is celebrated every Wednesday in St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans, at 4:30 P.M. The intention of this Mass is what we are all praying for, the future beatification and canonization of the Servant of God, Father Francis Seelos.

We owe a debt of gratitude to John Hawkshurst, an internationally famous artist of the Garden District, New Orleans, for the latest portrait of Father Seelos. It will soon be on display.

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

For literature and any other matters pertaining to the cause of Father Seelos, you may write the Center at 2030 Constance Street, or call Mrs. Agnes Bourg at 525-2495.

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