



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS

First and foremost among the saints in the veneration of the Church is Mary, the holy Mother of God. The fact of her motherhood of Jesus, the Son of God, places her as the one human being closest to God. Because of her sublime vocation she received God's grace in abundance, and was most faithful in hearing the word of God and keeping it. Throughout the centuries the Church has sought her intercession. May is a good month to renew our devotion to her.

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



This is Fuessen, Bavaria, as it is seen today. The Alps were there even in Father Seelos' time.

## FATHER SEELOS LIVED A POOR LIFE

*by Father Grangell*

The Virtue for May: Poverty

Patron: St. Thomas the Apostle

Text: Blessed are the poor in Spirit. (Matt. 5/3)

Father Seelos used to say nobody ever wanted to be absolutely poor, except Our Lord, Jesus Christ. He chose poverty as an outstanding virtue of His life — born in a stable, died on a cross, and during His life He had not where to lay His head. He had no home. He had one garment. Nobody is asked by Him to live that kind of a life, yet everybody must practice the virtue of Poverty. That means, not to be attached to the material, transitory money-things of the world. Money-things means anything that has a money value. To practice the virtue of Poverty does not mean that you cannot have money, millions of dollars. Canonized kings and queens of history had plenty of it. If money, or the material things of the world keep you from Holy Mass on Sunday and the Sacraments, and you just live for the world, you are failing against the virtue of Poverty. Apparently, few rich people have any kind of religion. Why? So many young people are pleasure-mad. Why are they not lovers of Jesus Christ and spend some time in prayer? In your life, who is first, God or Mammon? Christ taught: You cannot serve two masters. He says we must seek first the Kingdom of Heaven.

The vow of Poverty is something different. People in the religious life make this vow. They give up the possession of all things of money-value. They live by permission. They are like children in a family. They depend upon the Order to support them, to give them a bed and a dining table and some modest, never expensive or abundant, clothes. Father Seelos was a holy religious. He owned nothing. He took what was given to him, he was always satisfied. He never complained, he never wasted. His Redemptorist vow was strict. He slept on a straw mattress. Could you? The Infant Jesus did. Father Seelos was poor because Christ was poor. He made the vow of Poverty to be able to practice the Virtue of Poverty perfectly.

Thank God for what you have. Never complain, never waste. Deny yourself something to give something to the poor, especially in your Church Welfare Collections. Give a few nickels every week to the St. Vincent de Paul Society or drop them in the St. Anthony Poor Box. Help support a seminary.

Nobody was poorer than our Lord's Blessed Mother. Ask her to help you to put God and His service first in your life. Father Seelos pray for us.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Clearwater, Florida

"My son had oral surgery last month and my prayers to Father Seelos have been answered. There were two factors involved: cyst on the bone and the blood clotting time. We had extensive blood testing done on him, and then when the tissue test came back from the lab it proved negative and my fear of cancer was removed. My prayers through Father Seelos' intercession have been answered once again."

*H. K. L.*

Odessa, Texas

"I have asked Father Seelos for many favors and all have been granted. In some way may I say thanks to God for such a person as Father Seelos to pray for me. I am now asking for the speedy recovery of my sister and my niece, the mother of two small children. Also for a neighbor's eye sight. She is the mother of three small children. Last October coming from Mass I fell and was in the hospital for two weeks and had to sit up for seven weeks. I didn't dare lay down. When I fell the ambulance brought me to the hospital and the doctor was going to operate on me that night. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for me, if it be the will of God not to have them operate on me. The doctor came in the next morning and told me that we would leave it to God and not operate. I have 30% disability, my socket was broken in my right shoulder, but thanks to God I can do many things and many, many more I can't do."

*Mrs. E. C.*

Houma, La.

"Our dear Father Seelos has granted me another petition 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. As soon as I noticed it was missing I asked Father Seelos to find it for me. After eight days it turned up at our rectory here at St. Joseph's. Last night it was returned to me just as it was except for outside dirt, a few missing pennies, and a broken compact mirror. The five dollars and all my papers were safe inside. Even my new kerchief was put through the handle. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession and may God continue to help us through His dear servant, who is doing so much good for us all."

*G. P.*

Metairie, La.

"Would you please print this thanksgiving letter in honor of Father Seelos. In answer to my prayers, my son sold his lot. Please help me to pray for my other son and his family, that they may come back to the faith."

*Mrs. B. L. D.*

## SPECIAL NOTES

We call this little paper "The Newsletter," because it tells you of many favors received from God through prayers to Father Seelos. The people call them miracles and are so grateful. We have hundreds of them on file. Let us know of all the favors you receive.

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Our mailing list grows month after month. Keep it growing. Send us names and addresses of people all over the world.

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May is the month of Our Blessed Lady! Be sure you say your Rosary daily and her Litany from time to time, and Hail Mary's all day long.

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We are very grateful to Mrs. Antoinette Desplas for a very beautiful oil painting of Father Seelos. God bless her.

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

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For all matters pertaining to the cause of Father Seelos and for literature about him, please call Mrs. Agnes Bourg, 525-2495.

We still have copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC for sale at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130, \$4.95 per copy.

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