



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

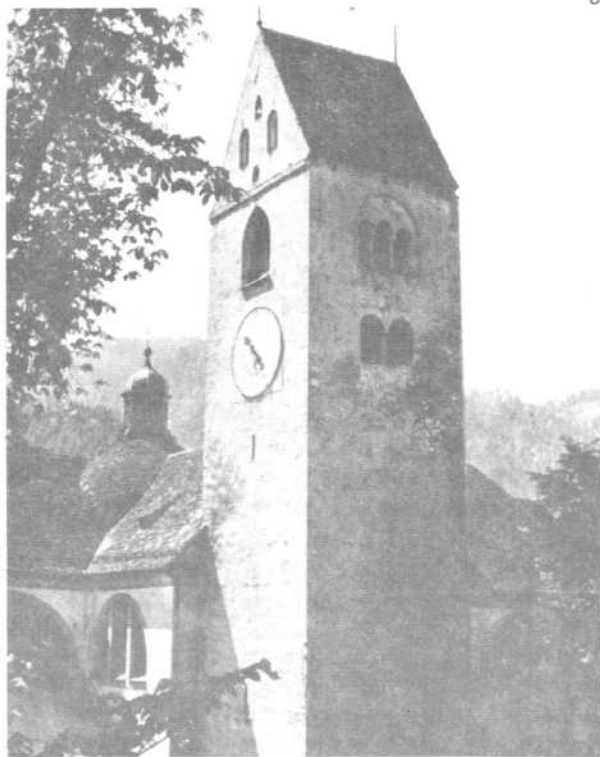
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ALL SAINTS

In the long history of the Church each age has had its share of great men and women who by the practice of virtue and through their union with God have led us into a greater appreciation and living of our faith. This list of great Christians has included popes, bishops, priests, religious, kings and queens, young and old, rich and poor, men and women of low estate as well as high, even beggars. Theirs is formidable testimony to the grace of God operating in their lives, and in them we salute the working of the Spirit of God.

Joseph Elworth, C.S.S.R.



*Exterior view of
St. Mang's Church,
where Fr. Seelos
was baptized and
made his first Com-
munion.*

THE REDEMPTORIST HABIT

by Father Grangell

The Virtue for August: Humility and Meekness of Heart

Patron: St. Bartholomew, Apostle

The Text: Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart (Math 6/29).

Instead of meditation on the monthly virtue, let us talk about the Redemptorist Habit.

I hope you have a picture of Father Seelos with the big mission crucifix in his cincture, the fifteen decade Rosary at his side. Look at it as I describe the habit for you. This habit is very simple, but very beautiful. It is a long black robe with a full white collar, the 15 decade rosary hanging from the cincture on the left side - the beads in constant contact with the wearers fingers, as in the picture of Father Seelos. If you look closely, you will notice two cords around the neck of Father Seelos. One holds the large mission crucifix which Redemptorists use when they preach missions. (The Seelos Center is the happy, fortunate possessor of Father Seelos' mission crucifix. We bless the sick in their homes, in the rectory, in hospitals with it constantly.) The end of the other cord is hidden in the fold of the habit. It holds a small crucifix which is worn always. When the novice receives the small crucifix, he accepts it with this prayer: "May I die for the love of Thy love, who has been so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love." That's a challenge the young novice gives himself. Can he embrace the Religious Life, give up self-love entirely; and live for the exclusive love of God - till death? He will spend a year in the novitiate to answer that question. It will be a year of silence, meditation, examination, prayer. He will meet with his confreres four times daily in community prayer to think it over - always in his habit, in respect of the Divine Majesty in the Blessed Sacrament. That habit becomes a thing of great love for him. It will help him to be recollected, to become an interior man. The old expression goes: the habit does not make the monk! That's 100% true, but it certainly helps. It gives the religious status, it reminds him that he does not belong to the world. When he puts it on, he, as a Redemptorist, realizes he must vest himself with the virtues of Christ: "I live, now, not I, but Christ liveth in me."

Three things make up the Redemptorist habit - the black robe, the 15 decade Rosary, the small crucifix. To omit one of these is to fail in his Church uniform just as an officer in the U.S. Military would fail, if he appeared in uniform without a tie. Nothing is trivial. True, the habit does not make the monk, but it gives him dignity and recognition, and commands the respect of everybody - stress everybody.

I hope God will give me the grace to go to my grave, wearing my holy Redemptorist habit, and I pray that on the last day, when bodies and souls are reunited for the General Judgement, I will meet my God and His Blessed Mother and St. Alphonsus in my habit holding fast for all eternity, the beads of my big Rosary. Pray for me and all Redemptorists.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Marrero, La.

"My father-in-law was very ill with a heart attack. I asked Father Seelos to pray for him to get better especially for the holidays. He was home for Christmas and he's feeling better."

Mrs. E.P.

Baton Rouge, La.

"This is a letter of thanksgiving which I promised for my husband's complete recovery from a stomach operation (from which he almost died) last week. Since he had to have so many blood transfusions (approximately 19 pints) he had liver damage. For ten months he has had monthly liver tests. Some months were good, others bad. During the time he was in the hospital and all the months since then, he has worn the Father Seelos cloth memento. Finally the tests, three weeks ago, were done by a specialist in New Orleans and were very encouraging; however, he did not eliminate the danger of extensive damage. From there we visited Father Seelos' tomb and I promised this letter if the doctor found his condition not to be serious. The word finally came this week that the tests were good and not to worry. He goes back in two or three months for another test to make sure. I have great faith in Father Seelos intercession and I know he will help us if it is Gods will. I have prayed to him for years, for we have had so much sickness in our immediate family and in my husband's family. Everytime we visit New Orleans we go to the tomb of Father Seelos. Very few times have we missed visiting the tomb. I live in a Redemptorist Parish and became acquainted with Father Seelos from literature, prayer cards and cloth mementoes which are placed in the back of the church. I will continue to pray for the canonization of this wonderful priest, for he certainly brought answers to our prayers and I will spread devotion to him wherever I can."

Mrs. J.T.

Huntsville, Ala.

"I promised this letter of thanksgiving for the wonderful help I have received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I also prayed to the Mother of Perpetual Help and other Saints. My son lost his job and after two weeks, he was called back to work by his company. I am sure through Father Seelos intercession our prayers were answered."

Mrs. E.H.

Covington, La.

"My prayer was answered. My grandson did recover from brain damage, but he is not as well as he should be - he recovered, that's all. His brain is badly damaged. I'm asking for further prayers. This donation is for his recovery from a three month coma. Pray that he gets well and normal."

Mrs. L.S.

SPECIAL NOTES

As of June 1 Mrs. Agnes Bourg retired as Secretary of the Father Seelos Center. We are very grateful to her for her many years of faithful service and wish her well. Miss Regina Beck will now be answering the number 525-2495

We begin the month of August with the feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the Founder of the Redemptorist Order, the order of Father Seelos. If any boy or man would like to join the Redemptorists as Priests or Brothers, get in touch with the Vice-Postulator at Seelos Center.

August 15 is the feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. Love her, say your Rosary daily! Make a public novena in her honor weekly.

Please give us your correct name and address. Give us the names and addresses of everybody you know. We want everybody in the world to know Father Seelos.

For blessings with Father Seelos' crucifix, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the life of Father Seelos by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., write the Father Seelos Center. The price is \$4.95 per copy.

For literature about Father Seelos you may call the Seelos Center or write - 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130 (phone 525-2495).

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Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.