



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SAINTS REMIND US

The poet long ago said that the lives of great men remind us that we, too, can make our lives sublime, and "departing, leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time." This is one of the reasons why the Church holds up the example of the Saints before us. The Saints have gone through their lives in the same circumstances as we, and with God's grace in their hearts, they have loved God and their neighbor. In their lives we now see God. The Saints well understood the loving task before all of us, as expressed by St. Paul: "God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we might in turn make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ." (2 Cor. 4/6)

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



The high altar in Father Seelos' parish church in his birthplace, Fuessen, Bavaria. It was here he drew his inspiration to be a missionary and a man of God.

Father Seelos Put His Trust In God

by FATHER GRANGELL

Virtue for the month of February — *Hope*

Patron — *St. Andrew, the Apostle*

Text — *Because he hoped in Me, I will deliver him. I will protect him because he hath known My Name. Psalm 90/14*

Father Seelos loved his Redemptorist Missionary vocation, because through it, he brought Hope to many.

In the confessional he would say: Don't you worry about a thing. God has sent me to you as a Priest to tell you that all your sins are forgiven and forgotten by him. You tell God ceaselessly: My God I Love You. It means I hate myself for having ever offended You. He rejoiced if someone came to confession after 40 or 50 years of sin, determined to love God in the future. He used to say that such confessions proved that the Mission was a success.

He preached and talked about being hopeful that God would give to all the graces (help) they needed. He liked the texts: "Ask and you shall receive!" — pray. 'By the **grace** (help) of God I can do all things.' — pray. He liked our American motto: 'In God we trust.' In his sermons he used to say he loved America because it was a holy land. People prayed and went to Church — God prospered the young country. If Father Seelos lived today, 100 years later, he would see the U.S.A. the greatest nation in the world, but now in 1975, a restless nation, having trouble of all kinds. America has lost something. It is looking for something stable, for something satisfying. America is looking for God!!! St. Augustine, centuries ago, prayed: Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless 'til they rest in Thee!! — Pray that the planners of the Bicentenary Anniversary of our great Country in 1976 will set aside a month to make our people conscious of the fact that our greatness comes from God — In God We Trust.

Father Seelos was a most eloquent preacher when he would plead with his audience: Save your Soul! Work to get to Heaven! It's your most important business. You can fail in everything else, you can't fail in this. It has eternal consequences. It's a personal affair - you must do it yourself - you must keep the Commandments and receive the Sacraments. It's an urgent business - get out of mortal **sin** now, go to Confession tonight - tomorrow will be too late. Tonight you might die - death is the most uncertain thing in the world - we know not when, nor where, nor how. He always preached a sermon on the Blessed Mother, our Hope. He preached: a child of Mary is never lost, devotion to Mary is a sure sign of Salvation.

Often say the 'Act of Hope.' You will find it in the catechism.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Villa Park, Ill.

"I want to thank Fr. Seelos for a favor granted through his intercession. I prayed for a mortgage to go through, which at this time in the state of Illinois is very hard to get. Also for a quick sale of our boat. The mortgage went through and we sold the boat in only one week-end. Our prayers were answered. I shall continue to pray for Fr. Seelos canonization and to him."

C.W.

Lafayette, La.

"For the past 15 years I have been suffering with a milk leg. Last summer my doctor told me that there was a tumor in the soreness and it would have to be removed. I was always told that if the leg was ever cut on that I would never be able to walk again. I prayed that the operation would go off without any complications whatsoever. The operation was a success. It took a year, but the leg did heal and it now feels normal. I can walk and there is no limit to what I can do. I feel that through Father Seelos's intercession my prayers were answered and I am most grateful."

M.P.B.

Metairie, La.

"I want to thank the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fr. Seelos, St. Jude and St. Anthony for a favor granted. My grandson had an accident with the lawnmower. He split the big toe in half, the next full joint was cut off. I prayed that no infection would set in and that it would heal with no trouble. I was afraid with the big toe cut he would lose his balance when he walked, however, God was extremely good to him. He is doing fine and if he continues to improve he will be discharged by the doctor. I have been praying to Fr. Seelos for some time and through his intercession many favors have been granted to me. I am more than grateful for this favor."

A.B.

Seminole, Fla.

"Thanks be to God and to Father Seelos. I recently asked God to grant me a special favor, that the growth in my left breast would not be malignant and would not require surgery. I wore the cloth touched to a relic of Fr. Seelos and asked his intercession. This favor was granted to me by Almighty God through the intercession of Father Seelos. Thanks to God, our Blessed Mother and Father Seelos."

M.M.N.

Metairie, La.

"I had a ruptured disc that needed surgery. The doctors were reluctant to perform surgery but it was a necessity. Finally I had it done and now six months later, I have made continuous progress. It will take 18 months for a complete recovery, but since I have confidence, with the prayers of Fr. Seelos I will make it."

A.C.H.

SPECIAL NOTES

It's not too late to encircle all the Tuesdays on your 1975 calendar. That's to remind you to make the Mother of Perpetual Help novena. By all means make big squares on the dates November 29 to December 7. Those are the days of the Big Annual Novena. Let the whole family get in a huddle and plan **now** to make 1975 a Marian Year — Our Blessed Mother's Year for your family. Watch the results.

Get everybody you know interested in Father Seelos. Send us new names and addresses and zips and we will send them the monthly 'Father Seelos and Sanctity.'

Spend a few hours every month working at Father Seelos Center. Call 525-2595 for best times to come.

We are most grateful to Brother Clement, C.S.S.R. (522-6748) for visiting the hospitals with Father Seelos crucifix, and to Miss Addie Buhler (895-6176) for arranging these visits. God love and bless both.

For literature about Father Seelos please call or write the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. are available at the Father Seelos Center at \$4.95 per copy.

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