



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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THE SAINTS ARE THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST

The Master once said, "You are My friends, if you do the things I command you." Who, more than the Saints, accepted the will of God and performed the tasks He set before them? Who, now in their glory, are closer friends of Christ?

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



To Cumberland, Maryland, Father Seelos came in 1857. Here he performed three tasks: he was pastor of the parish, director of the seminarians, and professor.

FATHER SEELOS WAS A HOLY MAN

by Father Grangell

Virtue for the month of June — Purity of heart.

Text — Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. (Mt. 5/8)

Patron — St. James, Minor, the Apostle.

Welcome to all our new readers of "Father Seelos and Sanctity." We are happy to have you. Introduce Father Seelos to others. Send us names and addresses. God love you.

Let me explain the meaning of our name: "Father Seelos and Sanctity." To put it briefly: Father Seelos became a Saint because he followed faithfully and conscientiously a system of asceticism. It was the system of the twelve monthly virtues. He was a Redemptorist Religious. When St. Alphonsus Liguori, inspired by God, founded the Redemptorists, he had in mind to give the Church a Congregation of men who would be perfect imitators of Jesus Christ. They were to work out their perfection according to the Rule, which the Saint submitted to the Holy See. The Rule was short, 12 virtues, 12 Scripture texts, and the 12 Apostles as models and patrons. There was a given virtue for each month of the year to be studied and practiced. Father Seelos kept his Rule faithfully. His sanctity was the twelve virtues. So must yours. This little paper carries a short, sketchy meditation on the respective monthly virtue. As a new reader, if you desire, the Center will send you a copy of all the months of 1974.

The virtue for the month of June is Purity. Father Seelos loved that virtue and practiced it perfectly. Like all human beings he had temptations against this holy virtue — the devil probably tortured him — but he overcame them with prayer and penance, the Sacraments and our Blessed Mother.

These four devotions just about sum up his whole life. How about yours? You must remember, a "bad" thought is never a sin unless you want to offend God. Don't worry about your past and become scrupulous. All your Confessions were good if you wanted them to be good. You cannot accidentally commit a sin. You sin deliberately. Your constant thought must be: MY GOD I LOVE YOU! It will keep you pure.

Dirty, impure, vulgar mouths are a sign of unclean hearts. Never tell suggestive, sex stories or listen to them. Never.

The Governor of Louisiana and the Mayor of New Orleans declared April 12 and 13 as DECENCY DAYS. They recognize the danger to our society in the mushrooming of illicit sex and violence in all forms of entertainment, today. All that is necessary for evil is for good men to do nothing.

Father Seelos preached these four great helps to be pure.

1. Avoid the occasion of sin.
2. Pray to be holy.
3. Keep your tongue clean by receiving Holy Communion often.
4. Ask the Immaculate Mother of God to help you.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Charleston, S. C.

"I appreciate the prayer to Father Seelos and the cloth memento to wear. I am recuperating very well. The doctors feel that all the cancerous cells were removed at the time of surgery. For this I am ever grateful to God. As I prayed before I went to surgery, I asked God, if it was His Holy Will, to let me live that I may continue to rear Cathy (she is 16) and guide her in His footsteps. My complete dependence upon God has been such a sweet part of my life that I hope I am successful in passing this on to Cathy."

C. B.

Kenner, La.

"Another favor has been granted me through the intercession of dear Father Seelos. Five years ago I had an operation for a tumor in my neck. I prayed to Father Seelos and was blessed with the crucifix. The tumor was cancerous, one of the worst type. There was no treatment for it, but I knew the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos would not let me down. Well, I had reached the five-year mark from that operation when I discovered a lump in my breast. Tests showed a lump in both breasts, so I had to face another operation. I prayed again to Father Seelos and was blessed with the crucifix. One side turned out to be a cyst, the other a tumor, and neither was cancerous. The doctor told me God had given me a second chance. I always wear the cloth memento and will never stop thanking Father Seelos."

R. T.

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish thanks for many favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I want to thank him for favors granted."

H. F. H.

Cupertino, Calif.

"I had to undergo surgery for a lump in my breast. My sister had given me a novena to Father Seelos and I prayed that it would not be malignant. The lump was benign. Thanks to Father Seelos, who interceded with God for me."

N. P.

Church Point, La.

"I am writing to thank Father Seelos for favor granted. I was very sick and could not use my right hand. I started to pray asking Father Seelos' intercession and on the second day I found that I could use my hand and by the fourth day I was so much better I was able to go back to work. Many thanks to Father Seelos."

D. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Are you faithful to your First Friday Holy Communion every month? If you dropped it — why?

Somebody wants to know why we do not print every year in pamphlet form the meditations of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. The answer is — no money.

We will inform you when St. Mary's Church is finished and when Father Seelos will be returned to its Sanctuary.

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

Thanks for your gifts to the Center to carry on our Father Seelos' work. God love you.

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

Say ceaselessly "MY GOD I LOVE YOU". Teach everybody to say this prayer — the old, the sick, teen-agers, small children — everybody. BE AN APOSTLE OF THE LOVE OF GOD.

Affective love of God is the love of personal affection (MY GOD I LOVE YOU). Effective love of God is affection at work (loving our neighbor). You can't have one without the other.

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