



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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LENT AND FATHER SEELOS

Much as Father Seelos is praised and admired these days, his real life was not without its share and more of trial and suffering. These he bore bravely, always conscious that in doing so, he was following in the footsteps of his Savior.

Lent is the time when we ponder often and devoutly the sufferings of Jesus and strive more courageously to bear the little crosses, and big, that life sends all of us.

— Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



Part of the large crowd that attended the burial of the remains of Father Seelos in St. Mary's Church, New Orleans, on November 9, 1975.

FATHER SEELOS WAS A PERFECT LOVER OF JESUS CHRIST

by *Father Grangell*

Virtue for the month of March — Love of God

Patron — St. James the Greater

Text — Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength. (Mk 12/30)

When St. Peter met our Lord after Easter, Christ said to him: Peter do you love Me? — not a word about his sin of denial on Holy Thursday night. Our Lord asked Peter several times if he loved Him. Then Peter said to Him almost impatiently: Lord, You know that I love You! I did not want to commit a sin when I denied You. At the time I was in the company of your enemies, the Roman soldiers and servants of the High Priest, who did not love You. I suffered from human respect, I was afraid to profess my Faith and tell them that I knew You and loved You. Christ knew Peter loved Him, but He wanted Peter to proclaim his love over and over again.

So with us. We don't want to offend God, but we get into the occasions of sin and become cowards. Let's tell God ceaselessly that we love Him.

Tell God you want to live in a dense, heavy, impenetrable fog of love. Fog is made up of countless tiny drops of water. You want the tiny drops of water to be living tongues, repeating constantly: My God, I love You! You want to move and breathe and think and have your being in holy, sinless love of God.

Father Seelos lived in Catholic Bavaria as a child and growing boy. On every corner of his town there was a religious statue, or a Crucifix or shrine of some kind. He was reminded to say "My God I love You" as he passed by, or knelt for a moment of silent adoration. Wouldn't it be great if together with our traffic signs on the corners, "Stop"—"Slow"—"School"—"MPH"—we had signs "MY GOD I LOVE YOU!" Why not? Our national motto is: "In God we trust." We should have reminders to trust in Him.

Father Seelos as a young child had delicate health. He kept close to his mother. She was a devout, pious, prayerful lady. She taught her little boy how to pray and love God. She laid the foundation for sainthood. Mothers today! Give this a thought! Sow the seeds of holiness in the young, impressionable hearts of your children.

In Father Seelos' native land and in some Catholic parishes of the U.S.A., people have the custom of meeting one another and saying: "Praise be Jesus Christ" and the answer is: "Now and forever." You begin the practice of saying to someone: "MGILY" and the answer is "My God I love You."

True love of God begins with keeping the Commandments. Examine your conscience!

Make the sign "MPH" mean "Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for us." Father Seelos asked the Blessed Mother day after day: Obtain for me a PERFECT LOVE for Jesus Christ. You must too.

SPECIAL LETTERS

St. Martinville, La.

"My neighbor and I are having differences regarding our property boundary line. One afternoon he confronted me. This time he listened to what I had to say and asked for a map showing the survey my father (a surveyor) had made. I gave him one. I prayed to our Lord, the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos, asking Father Seelos if he were pleading with our Lord in my behalf to show me a sign. The following morning my neighbor came over with some home grown tomatoes. His main topic was about the boundary line. I am now praying for a peaceful settlement."

R. G. A.

Baton Rouge, La.

"My grandson had what we thought was a strep throat, however, the doctor took a test which proved negative. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession for this favor that was granted to us."

J. E. P.

New Orleans, La.

"I would like to thank Father Seelos for a special favor granted through his intercession. I had surgery on my right eye. After one week in the hospital I came home. My eye healed very well."

G. F.

Metairie, La.

"Please publish thanksgiving for favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos, the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Mother."

J. D. G.

New Orleans, La.

"I was on vacation in a foreign country. The night before leaving the lock on my suitcase broke. I was very disturbed knowing how careless people were about handling your suitcase. I asked Father Seelos' prayers that all would be OK and my prayers were answered. I am very grateful for this favor."

B. T.

New Orleans, La.

"My sister's husband was desperately ill with cancer and emphysema. He is not a Catholic, however, my sister suggested that he wear the Father Seelos cloth memento. After five weeks he returned from the hospital. He is still under the care of the doctor but doing much better. We are grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession for this favor and are praying for his complete recovery."

E. B.

Belle Chasse, La.

"I promised publication for this favor. I underwent surgery which was a success. I also had pneumonia but I am well again."

I. W.

SPECIAL NOTES

A GREAT MIRACLE!

Father Seelos Center was saved from fire and the complete loss of our files, documents, literature, equipment and all we have accumulated from the beginning of our work for the canonization of Father Seelos. We thought we had a small flaw in our gas heater. The expert who looked it over called it an imminent fire hazard. He wondered why we had not had a disastrous fire. (That's where the miracle is!) We need a new heater and all that goes with it. It will be expensive but we know the friends of Father Seelos will help us. If you send an offering, be sure you give us your name and address. We want to send you our personal thanks.

Thank the good God and Father Seelos that our Center was saved.

March is a holy month. Lent begins on the third, Ash Wednesday. Try to go to daily Mass and Holy Communion and to make the Way of the Cross before or after Mass. Don't be afraid or ashamed to be pious.

Are you interested in the young? Show them a good example by going to Holy Mass faithfully. Invite them to go along. Talk to them about the religious vocation.

If you still have FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY for March, 1975, read it again.

If you really love the Blessed Mother say the Rosary daily and consecrate yourself to Her day after day.

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

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