



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## MARY'S MONTH

The statue, pictured below, is the Madonna of St. Mang's Church in Fussen, Bavaria, where Father Seelos was baptized nearly 150 years ago. It was at the foot of this statue and in his home next door that Francis Seelos, as a boy, learned his devotion to the Blessed Mother of God. His earthly faith and devotion to her ended only when he was buried beneath another statue of Christ's Mother in St. Mary's Church, New Orleans, 48 years later.

— Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



# FATHER SEELOS WAS A RICH MAN IN HIS FAITH

by *Father Grangell, C.S.S.R.*

Virtue for May: Poverty

Patron: St. Thomas — the Apostle

Text: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.  
(Mat. 5/3).

Religious polls have appeared in the papers recently. They show that fewer people are going to church on Sundays now, in comparison with figures of ten years ago. Other polls show that more people are going to amusements of all kinds and to sport events now than ever before. This means that people have switched their love and loyalty and adoration from the God of Heaven and Earth to the worship of the Golden Calf — money, a little bit of it, a big bit of it — the mighty dollar has pushed aside the Almighty God — Americans live according to the motto *not* "In God we trust," but, in our wealth we trust.

That brings to mind the words of the prophet Jeremiah: "My people have done two great evils against Me. They have abandoned Me, the font of living waters, and have dug to themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that can contain no water (2:13). And then God threatens (2:19): Know thou and see that it is evil, a bitter thing, for thee to have left the Lord, thy God.

America is known around the world as an opulent country, a rich nation. Everybody has money — some more, some less — and with their money they can buy worldly pleasures and have no time for God.

Money in itself is no evil, you need it, all you can get, you can't live without it. It was on the occasion when a rich young man turned down the vocation to the religious life that Christ used some harsh words about riches. Read Matt. (19/21 etc.) There is a shortage of priestly vocations today! Youth is attached to the pleasures of the world.

When money is preferred to God, when we are too busy making it and enjoying it to go to Holy Mass and Holy Communion and to say some daily prayers, and forget about purity and the Commandments of God, then it is an evil. Use money as you need it, enjoy the licit pleasure of life, but don't let these things ruin your spiritual life. Be satisfied, don't complain when something is missing or if you cannot get what you want. Be generous and good to the poor, and then "yours is the Kingdom of Heaven!" (Matt. 5/3).

Father Seelos got all worldly distractions out of his life. He made the vow of poverty. He promised God he would own nothing, he would imitate the poverty of Jesus and His Blessed Mother. He could honestly say: My God and My All.

My dear reader: Be rich, possessing God.

The stable of Bethlehem was the first Catholic Church in the world. The first people to visit Christ were the poor shepherds, and then three rich wise men came. It is the same today — the poor and the wise rich men go to church.

MY GOD, I LOVE YOU! MY BLESSED MOTHER, I LOVE YOU TOO!

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish thanks for many favors received through Father Seelos' intercession."

M. B.

Clearwater, Florida

"For five years I prayed for a business deal to go through. My prayer has finally been answered, thanks to Father Seelos' intercession."

E. L.

New Orleans, La.

"Soon after my daughter was married she began to have problems but told me nothing until she had made up her mind to get a divorce. I began to pray to Father Seelos and within two weeks things started to clear up. My thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

D. N.

Napoleonville, La.

"On the day of my husband's operation the doctor told me he had cancer. Almost two weeks later he said it was a mistake. I know that my prayers to Father Seelos made the change. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

I. P.

Raceland, La.

"Thanks for favors granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. My grandson had problems that had to be corrected so that he would enter school. I felt it was through the intercession of Father Seelos that this was accomplished. I am very grateful."

B. P.

New Orleans, La.

"I prayed for my nephew who had a dislocated disk in his back. After several weeks of treatment he was told he may have to have surgery, however, the doctor suggested wearing a brace which has been a great help. I am now praying for his full recovery. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

L. K.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to report two favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I was due a raise in pension in January 1976. Due to some error I did not receive it. I called Baton Rouge twice and also wrote to them but nothing followed. In February I received the check and found that they had made a mistake in my name. A second favor which I received was having misplaced something which I continually searched for. I finally found it."

M. W.

## SPECIAL NOTES

May is our Blessed Mother's month. Be sure to say her rosary daily. Saturday is her day, go to Holy Mass on Saturday mornings.

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Everybody liked to make a novena — either by personal presence or by sending petitions to the novena.

We have novena every Wednesday in St. Alphonsus Church at 4:15. It is followed by Holy Mass at 4:30 and then veneration of Father Seelos' crucifix.

During the novena we pray for the canonization of Father Seelos and for all your requests for health, peace and financial help — for everything — for miracles!

All our prayers go through the hands of our Blessed Mother of Fatima to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

If you cannot come personally to the novena, send your written petitions to the Center, we will pray for you on Wednesdays. Your petitions will be kept on the tomb of Father Seelos. If you wish a copy of the novena prayers, write to the Center.

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If your name is in our files, you are a member of the Guild of Father Seelos. Say daily the prayer on his picture card for his canonization, and interest others in his cause. That's all. Send us the names and addresses of everybody you know. The theme prayer of the Guild is: "My God I love You" (MGILY).

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For blessings with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos for your sick please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

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