



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

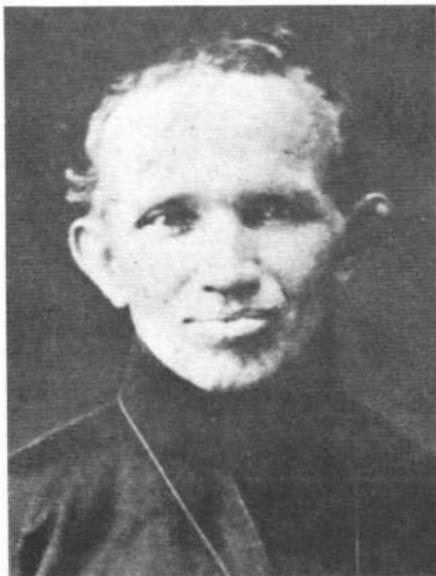
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The Neumann Brothers and Father Seelos

Nearly fifty years ago, young Father Joseph Manton, C.S.S.R., of Mission Church fame in Boston, Mass., wrote a series of articles for the LIGUORIAN about BISHOP JOHN NEUMANN, and called the series "And Now They Whisper Saint." The whisper has become a roar in 1976.

Bishop Neumann was the pastor of St. Philomena's, the Redemptorist parish in Pittsburgh, from 1844 to 1847. During that time he had as his assistants a Father Joseph Mueller and Father Francis Seelos. So great was the religious spirit and zeal of these three that Bishop O'Connor, the then bishop of Pittsburgh, called them "the three saints of Philomena's."



BRO. WENCEL NEUMANN, C.S.S.R.



BL. JOHN NEUMANN, C.S.S.R.

WENCESLAUS NEUMANN, blood brother of Blessed John Neumann, followed his older brother to America and helped him as a layman when Father Neumann worked as a diocesan priest in western New York state. He also followed him as a laybrother in the congregation of the Redemptorists. In 1865 he came to New Orleans and for the next thirty-one years filled the role of sacristan at Notre Dame de Bons Secours church, one of the three churches then under the care of the Redemptorists.

From September, 1866 to October 4, 1867, Brother Wencel, as he was called, and Father Seelos were members of the same religious community. Brother Wencel was present when Father Seelos' remains were buried beneath the floor of beautiful St. Mary's church. In 1896 Brother Wencel's body was buried beneath the same floor and close together they lie in wait for the resurrection.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

FATHER SEELOS WAS ALWAYS HAPPY AND CHEERFUL: HIS WILL WAS GOD'S WILL

by Father Grangell

Virtue for July: Obedience

Patron: St. Philip, Apostle

Text: You are my friends, if you do the things I command you
(John 15/14)

Everybody knows the story of the Wedding Feast of Cana (John 2/1-11) and everybody likes it. At a wedding feast, all are happy, there is laughter and good cheer - and at Cana we see our Lord and His Blessed Mother in the midst of it. That gives the lie to all who take joy out of religion. The Blessed Mother plays the part of man's public advocate with her Divine Son for the first time - the newlyweds are embarrassed, humiliated - the wine of the feast has failed. Mary will intercede for them. She asks her son to work a miracle and save the situation. Listen to what she says to the waiters to have the request granted, how obedience is rewarded: "Whatsoever He shall say to you, that do ye" (John 2/5) - don't ask any questions, don't doubt, just do what He tells you. He told them to fill the big water containers with water!! They are looking for wine. But they obeyed Him as Mary told them to do. The reward of obedience!!! He blessed the water and it blushed into the most delicious wine of the feast.

This is our Lord's first public appearance. He has not yet preached to the people. Mary is introducing Him to history in her words of the wedding feast? "Whatsoever He shall say to you, that do ye." To be His true followers, we must obey - and be happy. Obey means to do God's will. In His first sermon - the Sermon on the Mount - (St. Matthew chs. 5,6,7,) He taught us a prayer for daily use: "Our Father, Who art in heaven — Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" — perfectly.

There is so much disobedience against the Ten Commandments, God's will, and so much disobedience to the church! Rather than obey the Pope (Matt 10/40), many people quit the church. What peace of mind does that give them!!

You ask why God does not punish the world for its sin! He does. All the pains, sickness, disease, malignancies and death are the punishment of the disobedience of our first parents.

Father Seelos made the vow of obedience. His constant prayer was "My God, Thy will be done always." His obedience made him a happy, cheerful man. And yours!

SPECIAL LETTERS

Harvey, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for favor granted. My son had to face a law suit for an accident in which he was involved. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession, he was found not guilty."

A.M.

New Iberia, La.

"I have had trouble with my back for four weeks and was faced with surgery. I asked Father Seelos' prayers that I might get well and now I am back at work and feeling much better."

C.H.L.

Marrero, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for favor granted through his intercession. My husband had hiccups for three days. Nothing we gave him seemed to help. I gave him a prayer to Father Seelos and we both prayed. The hiccups stopped."

J.F.

New Orleans, La.

"I had a bad cough. I had to take shots, cough medicine, all to no avail. I pleaded to Father Seelos for his prayers to stop this cough. After one month the cough left me."

N.H.

San Antonio, Texas

"This is to report a favor received through Father Seelos' intercession. A friend went to have her annual check-up and the X-ray showed a spot on her lung. The doctor decided to perform surgery. We all prayed to Father Seelos for help and received the wonderful favor, the doctor found no spot - it was completely gone."

D.F.W.

New Orleans, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for a great favor granted through his intercession. This is the first month I have been able to pay all my bills and to pay them on time. It is a big burden off my shoulders for which I am grateful."

D.M.C.

New Orleans, La.

"In September 1975 I suddenly found myself unemployed. I prayed to Father Seelos, promising acknowledgment and a gift for suitable employment. In less than one week I was able to find employment which I consider to be much better than that which I lost."

H.L.F.

SPECIAL NOTES

Go to Holy Mass on July 4 - thank God that you are an American. Everybody who carries money on his person carries the name of God with him constantly. It is in our wonderful, holy, national motto: In God We Trust - on all monies.

Our contest for new members for the Father Seelos' Guild, new readers for "Father Seelos and Sanctity" is on until next month. The reason we want thousands of people to know Father Seelos is to be ready for his canonization. He will not be a stranger to them when the good news comes. Pray that it be soon. If everybody sent us four names, we would be over the 100,000 mark in a month's time.

Start a Father Seelos Club in your neighborhood. Get five or ten people to meet every Wednesday in a place designated by you, at any time you agree on, and say the Father Seelos novena. Write to the center for as many copies as you desire. Let's know about your club.

All the High Schools of the U. S. have had the 1976 graduations. Many young men do not know what they are going to do in September. Tell them to think of the Priesthood. If they would like to be Redemptorist priests like Father Seelos, ask them to write to the center for information.

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

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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.