



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY, 1977

## BLESSED JOHN NEUMANN TO BE CANONIZED JUNE 19

Blessed John Neumann, fourth bishop of Philadelphia, will be canonized at St. Peter's in Rome on June 19 of this year. This friend, confrere, and one-time superior of Father Francis Seelos, was born in Prachatitz, Bohemia (now Czechoslovakia) on March 28, 1811. As a seminarian of 24 years of age he came to America and was ordained a priest for the diocese of New York on June 25, 1836. After spending four years as a diocesan priest in western New York state, he was admitted to the congregation of the Redemptorists on January 16, 1842. He was the first Redemptorist to make his religious profession in America.



For ten years thereafter he was alternately a missionary, pastor, then superior of all the American Redemptorists. He was consecrated bishop of Philadelphia on March 28, 1852. As bishop he organized the first parochial school system in his diocese and he instituted the regular diocese-wide observance of the Forty Hours Devotion. He founded an order of nuns, the Sisters of St. Francis (Glen Riddle). He was also instrumental in promoting the growth of other sisterhoods, in particular, the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

While performing an act of charity he was fatally stricken on the street near 13th and Vine and died shortly after in a nearby home on January 4, 1860. Pope Paul declared him blessed in 1963 and is scheduled to rank him among the saints this coming June.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R

# ARE YOU CONFUSED? DISTURBED? WORRIED?

*(Father Grangell's monthly conference to the Guild)*

The Virtue for February: Hope

Patron: St. Andrew, Apostle

Text: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set Him on high because he acknowledges my name (Psalms 90:14)

When people called on Father Seelos for guidance, consolation, peace, in all mental and physical disturbances, he would say to them: Let's begin with prayer — without God we can do nothing. Let's say the Act of Hope. Do you know it? You must use it often, it's a prayer to keep the sunshine in your life, to make you a happy saint: "Oh, my God, relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope for the pardon of my sins, for Thy grace and for life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, Amen." Now let's see what it means. We like to deal with good people, kind, understanding, sympathetic, helpful, ready to do anything we ask them, to give us everything we need. We want people with hearts, who listen to us, always approachable, never moody, always reliable, who mean what they say, who keep their every promise, are most sincere. Where can we find a human being like that? Where? Humans are finite, limited, not perfect. Actually we are looking for God in our lives. He is not only good and all virtuous, He is infinitely good, His goodness is without limit. Now, this infinitely good God has promised to help us. He is infinitely generous, no end to His generosity. He has promised in His goodness to forgive us our sins — why worry about them after an Act of Perfect Contrition and a good confession! They are gone. He has promised to give us every grace for body and soul — even miracles — if we have good Faith and Confidence and Perseverance. **HE HAS PROMISED ALL THIS AND HEAVEN, TOO.**

Father Seelos would tell his caller to change his mental attitude, to get out of the area of depression and despair, to develop a happy cheerful disposition! If he answered: "That's easy to say," Father's rebuttal would be: "Of ourselves we can do nothing, but by the grace of God we can do all things — Pray! Go over to the Blessed Sacrament, leave your troubles in the Tabernacle, visit the shrine of the Blessed Mother and leave the Church with the words of the Act of Hope on your lips and in your heart — memorize it.

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We thank the many priests and religious who are devotees of Father Seelos, for making Father Seelos known in their parishes and schools and hospitals. God love them.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Gretna, La.

"My seven month old daughter was hospitalized for an acute case of meningitis. She was on the D.I. list for 14 days. A friend gave me a cloth memento and prayer of Father Seelos. I pleaded with God and Father Seelos for her recovery. My prayer was answered."

T. W.

Arnaudville, La.

"Four years ago my husband was badly burned. Infection set in and the doctors gave no hope for him. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession, he is still alive and able to hold a small job."

C. L.

Morgan City, La.

"For forty-two years my niece and I had not seen each other. I had prayed to have this favor granted. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

N. D. S.

Luling, La.

"I was having a problem with one of my co-workers who was making trouble for me. I said the Father Seelos prayer and the problem was taken care of. I also prayed for a nephew who had a drinking problem. He left home and could not be found. After three days he returned safely to his wife and family. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

A. O.

St. Martinville, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession for improvement of my cousin's condition. He was in critical condition after having open heart surgery."

O. M. F.

Cut Off, La.

"My son was in a horrible wreck and almost killed. For days we did not expect him to live. Through Father Seelos' prayers he has recovered."

O. P.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession for favor granted. My Father had two operations from which he has recovered."

F. D.

## SPECIAL NOTES

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 23. Father Seelos most certainly would suggest that during this holy, penitential season, you go to daily Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion, make the Way of the Cross (the Center has a short form if you want it) and say the Rosary daily, meditating on the five sorrowful mysteries. If you still have the December number of **FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY**, see in it some possible penances.

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Every Catholic should have some kind of an Apostolate in his (her) life, something for the good of souls. Let your Apostolate be the Guild of Father Seelos. The more people who know Father Seelos, the closer will be his canonization, because of more prayers. Spread devotion to Father Seelos far and near.

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The members of Catholic Societies and Sodalities meet monthly with their chaplains for a conference. The 30,000 plus members of the Father Seelos Guild cannot meet for a conference, so we send you one in **FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY!** It's actually a message from Father Seelos. It takes five minutes to read. Read it in church and leave it in the pew of your church. It will help to spread devotion to Father Seelos.

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For blessings with the crucifix of Father Seelos for the sick, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176. Come personally to St. Alphonsus Church for the blessing after the 4:30 Mass on Wednesdays and after the 4 o'clock Mass in St. Mary's on Sundays.

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When furnishing us with a change of address, please furnish us with your prior address and also give us your full name, i.e., Mrs. John Smith — Mrs. Mary Smith. In this way we will not be filling our files with duplicates, which is costly to us both in the cost of printing and the postage. Thanks a lot for your cooperation.

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