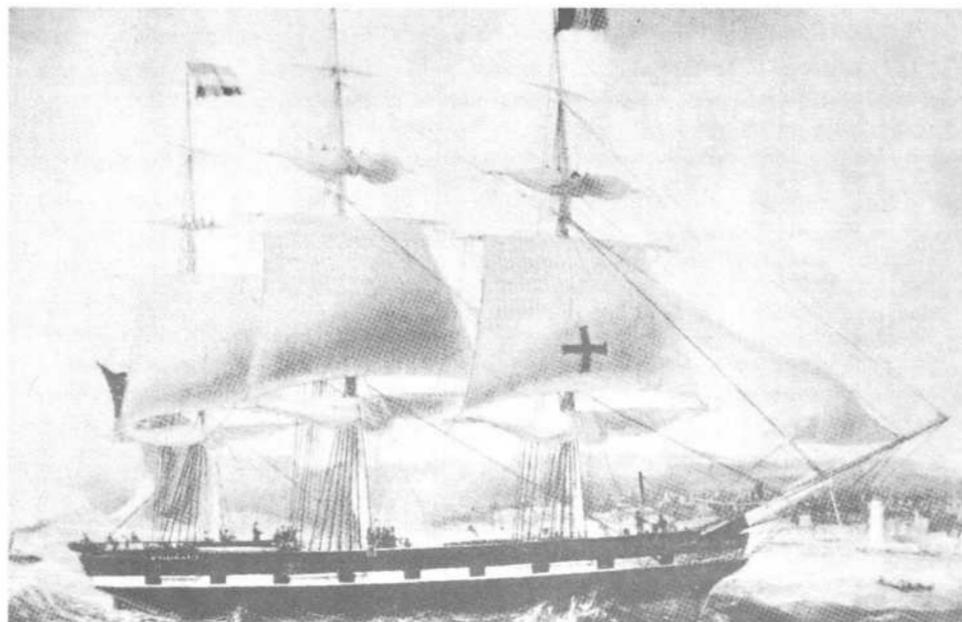




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1977



THE GOOD SHIP, ST. NICOLAS

This frail looking ship, the St. Nicolas, brought young Francis Xavier Seelos from Europe to the new world. It sailed from Le Havre, France, on March 17, 1843, and arrived in New York harbor on April 20 — a voyage of nearly five weeks, a far cry from the speed of passenger ships and jets of today. It was an American ship, a three-master of 800 tons, 148 feet long and 34 wide. 156 crowded immigrant passengers were aboard, five of whom were religious and priests. This was Father Seelos' one and only venture across the sea. Never again did he return to Europe and his homeland. We are grateful to the holy bishop for whom this ship was named for this gift to the new world.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

LITTLE THINGS MAKE PERFECTION

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for the month of March: Love of God.

Patron: St. James Major, Apostle

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.

— Mark 12/30

Father Seelos began all his community prayers: "Come Holy Spirit of love and make the fire of Thy divine love to burn within my creature heart." His desire in life was to be on fire with the love of God, and to have the grace to enkindle that fire in the hearts of all with whom he came in contact.

When people asked Father Seelos to train and guide them in the practice of the love of God, he would begin by telling them not to want to do big things, such as long hours of prayer and hard penances, but to make all the little things of every day so many acts of love of God. He used to say our lives were like great mosaics — no one piece of glass or stone of a mosaic is worth anything, but each little piece put in its proper place makes the masterpiece. Our every day is made up of countless words and bodily movements — in themselves unmeritorious for eternal reward, but each offered as so many acts of love of God, makes our lives perfect, makes us saints. God loves the soul that desires to love Him.

Little things! Did you ever realize that all God's material creation is made up of little things? The sea coasts of the world and the vast mileage of desert land are made up of tiny individual grains of sand! The waters of the oceans are made up of tiny drops of water, as small as the drops that make the fog! And if all material creation, the highest mountains and all the eye can see, were reduced to dust, it would be as fine as the dust on highly polished furniture — and every speck of dust of creation can be counted. There is a number of them. There must be a number. They are finite.

In this month of the Love of God, let's say a prayer like this, often: "MY GOD, I OFFER YOU, FOR MYSELF AND FOR EVERYBODY LIVING IN THE WORLD NOW AND WHO WILL LIVE IN THE WORLD TILL THE END OF TIME, AS MANY ACTS OF LOVE OF YOU, AS THERE ARE ATOMS OF CREATION AND SMALLEST DROPS OF WATER IN THE WORLD, AND I WANT THAT NUMBER — WHATEVER IT IS! YOU KNOW, GOOD GOD! — MULTIPLIED BY ITSELF EVERY SECOND OF TIME, AS LONG AS TIME MOVES ON TO ETERNITY. MARY, MY BLESSED MOTHER, OBTAIN FOR ME A PERFECT LOVE FOR GOD."

SPECIAL LETTERS

Arabi, La.

"The son of my friend was seriously burned in a fire at work. I prayed to Father Seelos for his recovery. He has passed the crisis and is improving. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

J. D.

Alexandria, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession for improvement in health and helping my son who was in trouble."

O. G.

Metairie, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers for what I consider a miracle. My husband returned to the sacraments after 42 years and my daughter and her husband were reconciled."

R. P. C.

Opelousas, La.

"My child was diagnosed as having an eye cyst. After visits to several doctors who recommended surgery, my mother began a Father Seelos novena. The cyst was dissolved without the need of surgery which might have left a permanent scar and which was a risky procedure for a young child."

M. L.

Lockport, La.

"I have received three favors through Father Seelos' intercession. I had trouble with my breast and have had four operations, however, all have proven negative. My brother who is an epileptic has been having less seizures and my mother who has diabetes and has been very depressed is getting better. Thanks to Father Seelos for all favors."

A. J. C.

Clearwater, Fla.

"I had a weight problem which I could not control. I prayed for the will power to lose and within four months I lost 25 lbs. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

H. K. L.

Chalmette, La.

"My son had an accident in which his truck was completely demolished. He was hurt but not very bad. We were very worried about expenses. My mother-in-law gave us prayers and relics of Father Seelos and within a few days we were notified he had insurance which we did not know about as we thought we were paying only on his trailer house. We are very grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession."

E. F. J.

SPECIAL NOTES

We have the prayers for the canonization of Father Seelos in Spanish. Write for them.

The whole of March is Lent. Do some penance for yourself and for others. Go to daily Mass and Holy Communion. We have short forms of the Way of the Cross.

If you send a gift to the Father Seelos Center and do not receive a note of thanks from us within a week's time, your letter was lost. We answer in sincerest gratitude very promptly.

Some little things: 1. A little child loves and wants to be loved. Tell him the story of the Crib and the Cross. He will love God. He cannot say big prayers. Teach him to say the little prayer: "My God, I love you!" It will grow to adult years with him. 2. Everybody has little pains and aches. Don't complain; offer them to God as little splinters of penance that make up your cross in life. 3. IT TAKES JUST A LITTLE TIME TO SAY A "HAIL MARY" OR THE ACT OF CONTRITION FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS, BUT IT PAYS BIG ETERNAL DIVIDENDS.

Do we have your correct address and zip number? Do we spell your name correctly? It is MR., MRS., or MISS? Please do not use just initials.

Talk to your neighbor and the sick about Father Seelos. Give them his picture and memento. Write for them.

In your prayers to Father Seelos demand a "MIRACLE" from him. Pray with Faith, Confidence and Perseverance.

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

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