

# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1977



**FATHER FERREOL GIRARDEY, C.S.S.R.**

Father Ferreol Girardey was one of Father Seelos' students in the Cumberland years. When there had been some danger of Girardey's not coming to the seminary, Father Seelos had decisively intervened. Girardey was born in France in 1839, but his parents brought him to this country when he was one year old. They settled in New Orleans. Ferreol Girardey was the first of St. Mary's Assumption parish to be ordained a priest. He gave important testimony to the holiness of Father Seelos when the process of beatification was begun.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## HEED THE WORDS OF AN ANGRY PERSON

*(Monthly conference of Father Grangell)*

Virtue for the month of April: Love of the neighbor

Patron: St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist

Text: This is my Commandment: That you love one another as I have loved you. (St. John 15/12)

A disturbed man called on Father Seelos one day to tell him of a very humiliating experience he had had. This man thought that he had a good reputation, and that everybody spoke well of him. He never dreamed that his secret sins of years ago were known to anybody. He was disillusioned, however, by an angry man who tore his character to shreds in a few moments of wild passion. He was accused of being a liar, a sneak, an arrogant proud fool, insincere, a hypocrite, suspected of unmentionable things, a lazy selfish dodger of work and responsibility, who took advantage of everybody, a coward who could not look one in the eyes, everybody hated him and talked about him, even his family. He said he almost dropped dead in shame when the secret sins of his youth, which he thought were known only to God were flung in his face. He said he was battered to pieces, he was knocked out speechless.

Father Seelos listened patiently and then told him that in every angry quarrel people are merciless. They are truthful, but cruelly so, especially in bringing up the past, opening up old wounds. Father Seelos said to him: "You have been through a closed retreat. You have had your conscience examined. Now, go over to the church and get as close as you can to the Tabernacle and say: Good God, is that who I am! Is that what people think of me! Is that how I stand before You, my God! Think! Do not plan revenge. Forgive this man sent to you by God. Forget the incident.

This could be everybody's story. If you think nobody ever talks about your faults, even your sins, you are deceived.

This is the month of Fraternal Charity. Remember "MY GOD I LOVE YOU" is the same as "MY GOD I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR."

Make your charity supernatural, see Christ in everybody, the old, the sick, the poor, the uneducated, in tenn-agers, too.

KEEP SMILING, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, SURELY OUR LORD AND HIS BLESSED MOTHER WERE ALWAYS PLEASANT, EASY TO APPROACH. IMITATE THEM.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, La.

"I was operated on for a cancerous kidney which was removed and I have recovered completely. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

M. R.

New Orleans, La.

"My mother had a nervous condition which put her in the mental hospital for long periods of time. Through Father Seelos' prayers she made a wonderful adjustment. My husband was hospitalized with a lump in his body which was diagnosed as a very bad cancer case, however, his case was a mild one and he has never had to take medication or even go back to the doctor. Our prayers through Father Seelos' intercession were answered."

C. P. L.

Metairie, La.

"I am 26 years old and have had Hodgkins Disease since the age of 24. I was put on new medication which had a terrible effect on my intestines. The pain was so great I could not walk. On the Sunday that Father Seelos' remains were moved to St. Mary's my mother and friends insisted that I attend. I placed my hands on the coffin and within the next 24 hours was relieved from my suffering. I firmly believe this was through Father Seelos' intercession, for which I am very grateful."

S. H.

Metairie, La.

"On Christmas Eve my grandson was hit in the head with an object thrown from a car. We were informed that he had a fractured skull and if he lived would possibly have brain damage. I immediately prayed to Father Seelos and his life was saved. We are now asking Father Seelos' prayers that his defective speech and blurred vision will clear up."

I. A.

Covington, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for finding two articles which had been misplaced and also for being able to locate for our old car the parts needed after breaking down in North Carolina."

F. E. O.

Metairie, La.

"My son had an emergency operation for which the doctors had very little hope. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

V. M.

## SPECIAL NOTES

When approaching the altar to receive Holy Communion, fold your hands and whisper prayers of love of God, sorrow for sin and welcome, over and over. When you receive, return to your pew with your hands folded, eyes down and talk with our Lord within you. Teach the children to do the same.

The whole Catholic world is talking about the canonization of Bishop John Neumann, C.S.S.R., which will take place on June 19 in Rome. Through him the world will get to know Father Seelos, C.S.S.R. They lived together in the same Redemptorist community, they prayed in the same church, said Holy Mass at the same altar, preached from the same pulpit, ate at the same table, signed themselves C.S.S.R. (Congregationis Sanctissimi Redemptoris — of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer). They became saints by following the asceticism of the TWELVE MONTHLY VIRTUES as you are doing today.

Spend the last days of Lent in a prayerful way — daily Holy Mass and Holy Communion, the Rosary, the Way of the Cross and a few acts of self-denial.

You may visit St. Mary's Church and pray at the tomb of Father Seelos at any hour of the day. Enter the Church from the rectory, 2030 Constance St. There is much literature and pictures and mementoes of Father Seelos in St. Mary's. Take as much as you want for your friends and your sick and to put in all your letters. Spread devotion to Father Seelos.

Thanks for your gifts to the Center. You are helping us to pay our bills for printing and postage and purchasing. God love you.

Keep Holy Water in your home. It will keep the devil away and protect you from harm. Bless yourself and your house with it.

Send us the names of your sick and we will send the blessings of Father Seelos' Crucifix to them. Call 895-6176, Miss Addie Buhler.

**HAPPY EASTER TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US AT THE FATHER SEELOS CENTER.**

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Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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