



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER FERREOL GIRARDEY

The name of this good priest, one-time student of Father Seelos, appears for the second month in a row in this bulletin. Really, for a very simple reason: last month what was seemingly a picture of Father Girardey turned out to be one of Father John B. DeDycker, once Father Seelos' provincial superior.

Father Girardey lived to be nearly 92 years old. His life came to an end in 1930 in St. Louis, 67 years after the death of Father Seelos. I hazard a guess that he was the last Redemptorist to know Father Seelos alive.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

I WISH I WERE A MILLIONAIRE

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for May: Poverty. (The poorest and most unhappy people in the world are those who have no Faith, no Love of God in their lives.)

Patron: St. Thomas, the Apostle

Text: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5/3)

A poor parishioner of Father Seelos said to him one day: "I wish I were a millionaire, better still, a billionaire. I would start bank accounts all over the world, for all the poor children in the world, so that they could begin adult age with dignity and much happiness. I would like to surprise them." Father Seelos congratulated his friend on his spirit of charity. He told him, however, he could do something more wonderful, by far greater, not a wish, but a reality. He said to him: Do you realize how much spiritual poverty there is in the world! So many people are living without God — no faith, no prayer — just living! Some are money-wise millionaires, but paupers in love and service of God. They will die in God's own good time — maybe tomorrow — leaving all their wealth behind them, and stand before God at the Judgment empty-handed, not an iota of personal merit for eternity — complete failures! Maybe it was not their fault that they never heard of God (?) — their ignorance will save them. You, my friend, must make every effort to save souls, all souls. You must build as many banks in heaven as there are people living today and who will live in the world til the end of time, and you must fill these banks with merits for these countless numbers. Our Lord wants this: He tells us about laying up treasures in heaven. You must read St. Matthew 6/19-21. You want everybody surprised when he begins his life in eternity! A priceless fortune awaiting him.

Do it this way: Include everybody in all your prayers. Here's an example: "My God, I offer to You all the Holy Masses that are being said NOW and will be said continuously to the end of the world, to give You infinite Adoration, Thanksgiving, Atonement, and Petition, for myself and for everybody living NOW and for all who will live till the end of time, through Christ and with Christ and in Christ." And don't forget the Morning Offering: "My God, I offer You my and everybody's thoughts, words, and actions of today and every day as so many acts of love of You, and acts of sorrow for having offended You."

At the end Father Seelos said: "if you help souls this way, you are a millionaire, not in wish, but in great eternally meritorious reality."

God loves the soul of holy desires.

READ THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE MARCH CONFERENCE.

CONSECRATE YOURSELF AND EVERYBODY, DAILY, TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY.

WE HAVE A BIRTHDAY

I am sure some of you, but not too many, have been receiving our little paper for 15 years now. In 1962 while working on sending literature about Father Seelos to people whose names we received from various sources, Father said, "Let's write a newsletter." Since that time, May 1962, we have not missed a month paying our visit to you. We started with 200 copies, the minimum we could send third class. Now we reach about 30,000 people with our paper in all parts of the world.

In the early days we worked in what is referred to as the "Tower Room" that is in the tower of St. Mary's Church. It was small and we were quite crowded there. However, that was our beginning. Of those who started with us at that time Pauline Abadie, Mary Ducey Perkins and myself continue with the work. For my part I have worked in practically every phase of the work, but as we grew I had to give up one job after the other, since I work and my work for Father Seelos is on a volunteer basis. Others started and for one or other good reason have had to give up their volunteer work with us, but Father Seelos has always sent us a replacement. We really struggled in those early days. We had no running water and the trek down and back up the lengthy stairs was a little too much for us. One evening we were working very hard and one of the ladies whispered to another, "I wish Father Seelos would send us a drink of water." The words had hardly left her lips when Father said he was going down to get cool drinks for us. We were sure he heard what was said, but he said he didn't.

We moved to our present quarters in 1963 and our operation has grown and grown. We have a sizeable number of volunteers working with us now. There is still room for more growth and hopefully the day will not be too far off when Father Seelos will be declared a saint along with the other great Redemptorists—St. Alphonsus, St. Clement, St. Gerard and the latest, St. John Neumann.

Josie Becker

SPECIAL NOTES

This is the month of our Blessed Mother. She is Queen of the May! If you quit making the Perpetual Help Novena, start over again. If you quit saying the daily Rosary, start over again. Some people become very enthusiastic in doing pious, devout things and then lose interest. Look back over the years of your life and recall the fervor you used to have. Why did you quit? Some quit going to Sunday Mass! Tragic!

We are looking forward to June 19, the day Blessed John Neumann, C.S.S.R., will be canonized a Saint by the Holy Father.

We will have a Pontifical Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church where Father Seelos, a personal friend and confrere of the Saint, and where Brother Wenceslas, C.S.S.R., the blood brother of the Saint, are buried. Details in the June Father Seelos and Sanctity.

Plan to come in great numbers as you come every year to the Anniversary Mass of Father Seelos.

There is plenty of parking space in the two large school yards on St. Andrew St., between Magazine and Constance Streets.

To have your sick blessed with the Crucifix of Father Seelos, call Miss Addie Buhler for arrangements. If you live at a distance, know this, that we bless you with the crucifix many times daily. After the 4:30 Mass on Wednesdays and after the 4 o'clock Mass on Sundays, the people come to the altar and bless themselves with the crucifix. You must come.

Thanks for helping us support the Center. GOD BLESS YOU.

God love and bless our doctors. One said recently: GOD WORKS THE MIRACLES, WE JUST HELP.

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