



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 7

JULY, 1977

BROTHER LOUIS KENNING, C.S.S.R.



Together with Father Peter Czackert, C.S.S.R., Brother Louis Kenning came to New Orleans in 1847 to begin the permanent work of the Redemptorists in that city. Brother Louis kept a diary for many years of the activities of St. Alphonsus parish, and this diary has become one of the main sources for the parish historians. Of Father Seelos, Brother Louis wrote: "Everyone of us and everyone who knew him regarded him as a saint, and rightly so for he was one." Again he wrote to the Superior General, "If he (Seelos) is not a saint, then all of us here in America will lose hope of becoming holy."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

"I WANT TO BE A SAINT"

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for July: Obedience

Patron: St. Philip, the apostle

Text: You are my friends if you do the things I command you.

(St. John 15/14)

A young man told Father Seelos he wanted to be a saint and asked him what he had to do! Father Seelos congratulated him on his ambition and told him he had already taken the first step — he wanted it, he desired it. He must persevere in this desire. The next steps were to work in a particular way on two virtues: The Love of God and Obedience. Two prayers must be the breath of his soul — My God I Love You; Your will be done.

I. HOW A SAINT LOVES GOD!

He trains himself to keep in touch with God, using the above prayers constantly. He doesn't multiply prayers. In fact, he will skip some prayers to perform acts of charity for his neighbor — leaving God for God.

All our prayers come under the heads of: 1. Adoration (love). 2. Thanksgiving. 3. Atonement. 4. Petition. There are no other kinds of prayer. These are our four creature obligations to God. We offer them to God in an infinite way through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, at every sacrifice of the Mass.

The saints loved the mass, they understood it. They edified everybody by the way they assisted at mass. They were not singular, eccentric, peculiar, different. They were just plain, simple, ordinary, pious, happy, agreeable people, who put first things first in their lives.

Saints were tempted against Faith, to give up all their pious devotions, even the Holy Mass, but despite their feelings and inclinations, coldness of spirit and indifference, they went to their daily Mass and Holy Communion. They never stopped praying.

Some holy people can't go to daily mass on account of poor health, work, distance from the church, hours of work. They offer the Holy Mass and Holy Communion spiritually.

Real saints love their neighbors and help all in body and soul. Remember the Banks of the May conference?

Saints are people of strong will, determination, perseverance and cheerfulness.

II. HOW A SAINT OBEYS

He sees the Will of God in everything — the least details of the Ten Commandments, the laws of the Church, the voice of the Holy Father, the pains and aches and frustrations of life. Holy people never complain nor criticize lawful authority.

Saintly souls obey their confessors blindly if inclined to be scrupulous. in performing penances and in their prayer life.

YOU CAN DO ALL THESE THINGS IF YOU WANT TO BE A SAINT. TELL THE BLESSED MOTHER: MARY, I WANT TO BE A SAINT. HELP ME.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"In October 1976 my 86 year old mother had a stroke from which we were unable to revive her. We were told by the doctor that she had a very little chance of recovery, however, he ordered her taken to the hospital. After her arrival she seemed to respond for a while then had a second stroke. During all this time I had a cloth memento of Father Seelos pinned on her clothing and asked his prayers. She is now home again and doing nicely. I thank God for answering my prayers through the intercession of Father Seelos."

F. G.

St. Martinville, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for a favor granted to the niece of a friend who had a tumor of the brain and could not talk or walk. I gave her a cloth memento of Father Seelos to pin on her and now she is back home doing better."

H. R.

New Orleans, La.

"My prayers to Father Seelos were answered, when my daughter won her case in court."

Y. B.

New Orleans, La.

"In January 1976 I had a gall bladder condition but the doctor would not operate due to a bad case of emphysema. After giving up smoking for seven months, a successful operation was performed. I am also grateful for another favor. My son and daughter went through complete tests at Ochsner Hospital and their reports were good."

M. J. N.

Pilot Knob, Mo.

"I suffered with severe pain in my ankle and could not get relief. After applying the cloth memento of Father Seelos, the pain subsided after three hours. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

S. M. C.

Ponchatoula, La.

"I was rushed to the hospital with a heart attack and had to remain there for three weeks. One week after returning home I suffered severe pains again and placed the cloth memento of Father Seelos on my heart and prayed. Within a short while I was relieved. Thanks to Father Seelos for his help."

C. T.

SPECIAL NOTES

Try to go to Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion on July 4. Ask the good God to continue blessing America and to inspire all to live according to our national motto: IN GOD WE TRUST.

July is a good month for organized tours. Come to beautiful St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans. Let us know when you will be coming and a priest will describe the High Altar for you. It's a bit of heaven. You can say some prayers at the tomb of Father Seelos and kneel and meditate at the tomb of Brother Wenceslaus, C.S.S.R., the blood brother of St. John Neumann.

At the tomb of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia, the people are now saying "Father Seelos will be the next American canonized saint." That is certainly your wish and prayer. Spread devotion to Father Seelos by scattering his pictures and mementoes far and near.

We have the Father Seelos Novena every Wednesday at 4:10 P.M. in St. Alphonsus Church. It is not a popular hour because of traffic and preparing for dinner. Why not come to St. Mary's on Sundays at 3:30 p.m. and make the novena *privately*, then wait for the 4 P.M. Sunday Mass and after the Mass venerate the crucifix of Father Seelos. The novena prayers are in the church.

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

Thanks for informing us of favors received through Father Seelos. One of these days, we will hear of a first class miracle. It might come through your prayers. Continue to pray to Father Seelos. Pray for miracles.

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.

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.