



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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"The Cheerful Ascetic"

The author of the definitive biography of Father Seelos is Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., of the Baltimore province of the American Redemptorists. When the author sought a title for his book, Father Curley, reflecting on all the material he had amassed about the subject, gave it the title of "The Cheerful Ascetic." This is the life of a man who practiced austerity of life with a smile. Curley put it in one line: "The most consistent trait of his character was his pronounced bent for cheerfulness." (p. 265).

"The Cheerful Ascetic" may be purchased from the Father Seelos Center for \$4.95.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



Pauline Abadie



Regina Beck



Josie Becker



Clare Hein

WHAT WILL I TAKE IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SOUL?

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for May: Poverty — I am attached to God alone

Patron: St. Thomas, Apostle

Text: "What doth it profit a man, if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?" Our Lord asks this question in Matt. 16/20.

Try to understand the meaning of the virtue of POVERTY. You can be a true follower of Jesus Christ, a saint, and still have lots of money. Some kings and queens of history are canonized saints. They had an abundance of it. The virtue of poverty is something *interior*. It belongs to the will and the affections. Christ taught: "Blessed are the *poor in spirit*" (Matt. 5/3). The virtuous man is not attached to the material things of this world. He has them, he uses them, he needs them but he does not prefer them to God and Religion. Read the two texts at the head of this conference. Get out your Bible and read — Matt. 6/24-33; Matt. 16/26, Luke 16/13, 16/19-31, Matt 19/22-24. You must read these texts.

The vow of poverty is different. It is something *exterior*. It is made by people in Religious Orders. Their Rule tells them what *material things* they can have and not have. Father Seelos made the vow of Poverty and lived a life of privation for the love of God.

Here are a few ways of being "poor in spirit". Be satisfied, never complain when something is missing, when you are denied something. Remember the Chinese proverb: "I complained that I had no shoes, till I met a man who had no feet." Never waste, don't be extravagant, going beyond your means. Don't be envious of those who have more than you have. Share with the poor. You can't help all the beggars on the street and in the mail. Help the poor through the church. Teach the children to support the church from their piggy banks. They will do this reluctantly. They are attached to their growing wealth. Don't look down on the poor, the less fortunate. Thank God in private prayer for what you have. If you are in business, drop in church frequently, ask God to prosper you. Let the poor people see the rich people at Holy Mass and Holy Communion.

Help Christ in the needy and you will meet a rewarding Christ at the dawn of eternity for having helped Him. (Matt. 25/34-40).

DEAR BLESSED MOTHER, YOU SHARED OUR LORD'S POVERTY FROM THE STABLE TO THE CROSS, PRAY FOR US.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Wichita, Kansas

"My son and two boys tried to lift a big steam engine iron wheel. The wheel fell on him and on trying to brace himself by putting his arm behind his back, stretched or severed a nerve. He was brought to the hospital with other injuries in addition to that. His arm was completely useless and the doctors gave him no hope for the use of it. We heard about Father Seelos through my aunt and uncle. My son wore a cloth memento and said the prayer daily. After about one week we could see some sign of improvement. He now has recovered complete use of his arm. We cannot thank Father Seelos enough for this favor granted us."

J. V.

Thibodaux, La.

"Through the intercession of Father Seelos my husband was granted a happy and peaceful death."

L. D.

Quincy, Mass.

"I wear a hearing aid in my left ear. I feared that I would need an operation. I prayed and applied the Seelos cloth memento to my ear. Shortly after my doctor informed me that I would not need an operation. I thank and praise Father Seelos for my favor granted."

F. S.

San Lorenz, California

"My grandson was born with one leg shorter than the other. We immediately prayed to Father Seelos to save this poor baby's leg. Now, one year later, my grandson is well and his legs are normal. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession for this and other favors granted to us."

L. R.

Marrero, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for success in finding a job. Also thanks for other favors granted through his intercession."

L. S.

Chalmette, La.

"Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession. Tests and x-rays were diagnosed negative."

R. O.

New Orleans, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for a very special favor granted. My husband, 76 years of age, had a very serious operation. He is now home doing fine."

J. M.

SPECIAL NOTES

GOOD, VERY GOOD NEWS

Beginning on Sunday, May 7, we will begin a perpetual Father Seelos Novena in St. Mary's Church at 3:40 p.m. followed by Sunday Mass at 4 o'clock, followed by the veneration of the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos. Bring your sick. Put your petitions on Father Seelos' tomb. We will have this novena every Sunday. The good people themselves conduct the entire service. Broadcast this good news by phone and among your neighbors. Park your car in the school yards on St. Andrew and Constance Streets. You will find the Novena Prayers in the center aisle of the church. Take home a copy of the novena with you. MEMORIZE IT.

Thanks for all the new names and addresses and zip code numbers for the Father Seelos Guild and FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY.

Teenage boys write to Father Grangell about becoming a priest.

Carry some pictures of Father Seelos with you and when you meet someone who is sick or has any kind of trouble, give him one and tell him to say the prayer on the reverse,

Many thanks for your gifts to the Father Seelos Center. Be it known that every penny sent to the Center is used scrupulously to promote the cause of Canonization of Father Seelos. Our bills are heavy, especially printing and mailing and office needs. We do not have a car. God bless you for your continuous cooperation.

Don't forget Miss Buhler's number for the Father Seelos Crucifix blessings for the sick — 895-6176.

Pray for big MIRACLES, and tell us about them.

MAY BELONGS TO MARY! SAY YOUR ROSARY DAILY.

MGILY

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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.