

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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ST. MARY'S—HISTORIC LANDMARK



St. Mary's Church, like St. Alphonsus' across the street, is a national historic landmark in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. Father Seelos was acting pastor of St. Mary's in 1867 when he was called by God to his reward.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

ALL SANCTITY IN TWO WORDS: LOVE OF GOD, WILL OF GOD

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for July: Obedience — the Will of God

Patron Saint: St. Philip, the Apostle

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

(St. John 15/14)

Father Seelos used to say he loved his religious vocation so much because he was privileged to live in the same house with the Blessed Sacrament. He could visit his Eucharistic God as often as he desired and stay with Him as long as he could. Sometimes his visits were just: My God I love You. At other times they were from the little "Visit Book" of St. Alphonsus. The prayer he carried away from the Visit Book which he made his own was: All that I ask and desire is Thy Holy Love, final perseverance and the perfect accomplishment of Thy Holy Will! Notice — it's Love of God, Will of God. One of his daily visits to the Chapel was to make the Way of the Cross. He used the repetitious prayer of St. Alphonsus at each station, which was the breath of his life: Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me as Thou wilt! Notice — it's Love of God, Will of God.

When the Blessed Virgin Mary was told by the Angel that she was chosen to be the Mother of God, she proved she loved God by her willingness to do His Will. Her acceptance: "Be it done unto me according to Thy Word!"

Our Lord taught us to say in the "Our Father" — Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven, Matt. 6/10. If everybody always did the Will of God, earth would be heaven. The Will of God for all men is the Ten Commandments.

Just think for a moment! There would be no stealing, no murders, no suicides, no hatred, no adultery, no abuse of sex, not even a bad thought or desire, no sins of the tongue, no evil of any kind, if the Ten Commandments were kept by all men all over the earth. Think of that.

Another thought! There would be no sickness, no physical suffering, no death, if Adam had not been disobedient to the one and only commandment God had given to him. He ate of the forbidden fruit and we, his children, are suffering for his disobedience.

Another thought! See your crucifix! The Infinite Son of God is paying the penalty for finite man's disobedience. Hear Him pray: Father, forgive them for they know not what they do! Man will never know what sin, what disobedience really is.

A last thought! We must obey the Church. The greatest sin of disobedience by a Catholic is to miss Holy Mass deliberately on Sunday — the greatest, because of the bad example given to others, causing others to commit mortal sin and maybe losing their Faith.

BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR ME THAT MY WHOLE LIFE BE: LOVE OF GOD, WILL OF GOD.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Baton Rouge, La.

"Our Granddaughter had a suspicious lump on her shoulder. We prayed to Father Seelos for a favorable report from the doctor. Through his intercession the lump was diagnosed as benign."

A. L.

New Orleans, La.

"Many thanks to Father Seelos for a successful operation and speedy recovery."

J. O.

Napoleonville, La.

"I suffered a small stroke and made a miraculous recovery through the intercession of Father Seelos."

E. M.

Eunice, La.

"My father's right arm and right leg were paralyzed as the result of a stroke. The doctor said there was little hope for a complete recovery. I put a Father Seelos cloth memento on him and I said the prayer. He is now home and is able to move his arm and his leg."

R. G.

Dallas, Texas

"I passed a very difficult State Board exam through the intercession of Father Seelos."

O. M.

Lafayette, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for the happy and peaceful death of my aunt."

C. A.

Metairie, La.

"Many thanks for a tremendously powerful favor — the reconciliation between my mother and I, through the intercession of Father Seelos."

A. M.

New Orleans, La.

"We prayed to Father Seelos for my 85 year old mother-in-law who had a blood clot on her brain. She is now recovering in the hospital."

R. R.

SPECIAL NOTES

July is the month of the Precious Blood. Go to Holy Mass daily if possible and offer the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ to His Heavenly Father through the consecrated chalice of the altar. Pray for the conversion of sinners.

Pray for God's blessing of America on July 4. It's on Tuesday! Ask Our Mother of Perpetual Help to protect our great country.

If your family takes a Sunday afternoon ride, drop in St. Mary's Church and make the Father Seelos Novena at 3:35, wait for Holy Mass at 4 and venerate the crucifix of Father Seelos after Mass. In your charity pray for those lovers of Father Seelos who live too far away to make the novena. Pray for their intentions and for *miracles* for their sick.

Don't forget Miss Buhler's telephone number: 895-6176.

A priest from Massachusetts writes: "I am sending a personal check for a five year subscription to your wonderful folder: FATHER SEELOS & SANCTITY. Congratulations. (G.J.C.) Thanks, Father!"

IMPORTANT!

If you move, please give us your old address with the new address. Always the zip number. If you receive two or maybe three copies of FATHER SEELOS & SANCTITY let us know about it. The reason for this confusion is that we have Mrs. Doe, J. Doe, Myrtle Doe all at the same address. All are the same person. Sometimes a lady will use her husband's first name and sometimes her own Christian name. Sometimes she uses just a letter—J. Doe. Thanks for helping us to keep our files correct.

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