



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS' BIRTHPLACE



It has always been a source of admiration to me that Father Seelos was willing to leave the beautiful place of his birth for an unknown land, of promise it is true, but full of natural difficulties. That he was so willing to leave the natural beauty of his homeland for the supernatural motive of bringing Christ to the poor gives us hope that our prayers today will be answered: that Father Seelos will one day be beatified by the Church.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

WHAT IS HUMILITY? IN ONE WORD: TRUTH

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for the month of August: Humility

Patron: St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Text: Learn of Me, for I am meek and humble of heart. (Matt. 11/29).

The best way to practice the virtue of humility is to admit to ourselves who we are then to live that knowledge. The saints prayed: That I may know Thee! That I may know me!

When we go to Holy Mass, we confess publicly that we have sinned, broken God's law in our thoughts, words, in what we have done and in what we have failed to do — that's the complete gamut of possibilities of sin! We pause in silence! Our whole life of sin passes before our mental vision as a big panorama — maybe; one particular sin looms up before us, maybe; some habit or practice of sin years ago. We feel so humiliated, we beg for grace never to sin again. This scene at every Mass is very short, but it tells us who we are — sinners. How humble we should be.

Maybe we are practicing virtue today, living good Catholic lives. Thank God. Let's not be as the Pharisee in the temple (Lk. 18/9). We should never boast or brag or even talk about our good works, our personal piety, our great successes, all the nice things people say about us, all the injustices to ourselves and discrimination against us, etc. etc. Let's not stress the ego — the I, me, mine — too much. The humble man does not talk about himself to others, he talks to God about himself.

He begins the day on his knees for a few seconds. He says to God: Thanks for the new day. He offers it to God. He asks for help at every moment. By myself I can do nothing! All that I have, I have from you, my God. (1 Cor.) Thanks for my health, my good intellect, my education. Keep me cheerful and happy.

I wonder why the great artists of the centuries never painted a smiling Christ. Surely He smiled when He blessed the children; when He cured the sick and diseased and made them smile in gratitude; when He invited the good thief on the cross to enter Paradise with Him. Right? And with His Blessed Mother!

You can tell an humble person by his relaxed attitude. He is approachable, well met, agreeable. He does not look down on the less talented, he does not snap at the old, he is as gentle as a child. He has learned from Christ how to be meek and humble of heart. (Matt. 11/29).

Here's the saddest story of pride. Many teenagers flaunt defiantly their independence of God and Church! They do not agree with the Church; they have their own ideas about going to Mass on Sunday. Pity them! Pray for them that the gentle, tolerant God will not abandon them in their adult mature lives for their sins of pride in youth.

BLESSED MOTHER! FATHER SEELOS! PRAY FOR US.
M.G.I.L.Y.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"My brother-in-law's mother had surgery and the operation was a success, however, shortly after she began to have seizures one after another. The doctor said she would probably be paralyzed and have brain damage. Thanks to Father Seelos she recovered and is fine."

J. L. D.

Baton Rouge, La.

"My husband had been suffering with pains and bleeding of the rectum. This called for a colostomy. After being home about one week he developed unbearable pains for which he had an emergency operation. This time it was diagnosed as infected pockets in several areas and inflammation of the liver. I was told that it was a close call but my prayers had been answered. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

J. L. A.

New Orleans, La.

"In thanks for all favors granted during the past ten years through the intercession of Father Seelos. Please publish."

E. B.

New Orleans, La.

"I promised publication for a favor which was received through the intercession of Father Seelos after praying to him for a long time."

S. D.

Metairie, La.

"I had a spinal fusion 15 months ago and was in a body cast for 90 days and in a back brace for 6 months. I am just about back to a normal life. I now have freedom of movement in the back as I did before. I have been praying to Father Seelos for many years and wish to thank him for his intercession for me."

A. M. H.

Metairie, La.

"Thought I would have to have surgery. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers it was not necessary. A brother had a drinking problem and is now cured."

E. J. G.

St. Louis, Mo.

"My sister-in-law's cousin had a successful heart operation. I sincerely believe Father Seelos' prayers helped in this case."

H. H. J.

SPECIAL NOTES

We celebrate the feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists on August 1. We ask all to pray with us for many good vocations to the order. If you know some teenagers, High School and College students who would like to be Redemptorists as Father Seelos was, ask them to write to the Center for information about the Redemptorist Priesthood and Brotherhood.

Ask your friends and neighbors to join with us in praying for the canonization of Father Seelos. Tell them to write to us — name, address, zip. We will send them our literature.

When you receive a favor let us know about it. We want to publish it.

Our Wednesday and Sunday Novenas are said entirely by the people. Those on the right lead the prayers — those on the left answer. Take the prayers home with you if you desire.

We should write this in gold: Thanks to our many volunteer workers. God love, bless and reward them!

Thanks to everybody for your generosity to the Center, especially in these days of the new postal rates. Uncle Sam hit us hard. Our biggest expense is with the printers and the Post Office. Again thanks.

Our newly restored organ in St. Mary's Church will be dedicated at a Recital at 2:30 P.M. on Sunday, August 13. You are invited to come and spend some time in heavenly inspiration.

Don't forget Addie Buhler's number — 895-6176 — for blessings with the crucifix of Father Seelos.

Ask Father Seelos in the hurricane season to intercede for us that our lives and property will be spared.

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