



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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MAY, 1979

MY GOD I LOVE YOU!



Sixty years of complete dedication to his priestly vocation! What more can we say about Father Grangell?

My God I Love You — his constant prayer, the guideline which set the pattern for his life and his love for God's people. This sums up the spirituality of Father Grangell.

Father Grangell, because of his love for people, enjoys the good things God has given us in this world. He looks forward to each Carnival Season in New Orleans and participates with great enthusiasm in the St. Patrick's Day and the St. Joseph's Day festivities of the Irish Channel.

We are sure there is much rejoicing in heaven on this happy occasion for him.

We at the Father Seelos Center and all of his many friends say —

CONGRATULATIONS FATHER GRANGELLI WE LOVE YOU!
May God grant you many more years with us.

Josie Becker

WHO POSSESSES GOD WANTS FOR NOTHING

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for May: Poverty

Patron: St. Thomas, Apostle — and always, Father Seelos

Text: Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matt. 5/3)

May is the month of Poverty — Stop, Skip it! I'm not interested in Poverty in any shape or form. I don't want to be poor. I want money, all I can get! So you say! OK! Fine! Don't get excited and quit the asceticism of the twelve monthly Virtues. Stay with me for a few minutes.

You, I, everybody can have all the wealth of the world and still practice the virtue of Poverty. The church has canonized Kings and Queens who had a superabundance of the world's money. If they did not practice the virtue of Poverty, they would never have been canonized. Notice how I have underlined virtue?

Some Religious people like Father Seelos, in monasteries and convents, make the vow of Poverty, a promise to God to possess nothing material. They make the vow of Poverty to practice the virtue of Poverty more perfectly.

Our Lord began His first sermon in the world: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matt. 5/3)! He is saying no matter how much money you have, if you are not attached to it, which means, if it does not detach you from God, His love and service, you are practicing the Virtue of Poverty.

Here's a perfect example of sinful attachment to money. One day Our Lord told a very good, rich young man, if he wished to be perfect, to be an Apostle, a Priest, he must sell all that he had and give it to the poor and then come follow Him. He refused, he would not part with his riches, he was attached to them, he preferred them to God. Maybe, he lost his soul.

Today, there is a shortage of vocations to the Priesthood, young men are living in a world that worships only material goods and the pursuit of pleasure. They will not give them up to become Priests. They are attached to them.

It was on this occasion of a lost vocation that Christ said some harsh things about riches. You must read St. Matthew 19/21-24.

The saddest character in history is Judas, who sold out Christ to His enemies for money — thirty pieces of silver. Today, many people sell their Catholic Faith, their God, for money — a job, to belong to a forbidden society, for social life, for worldly pleasure — you mention it! Not one of them is happy in preferring the Creature to the Creator. Judas committed suicide — and they?

You, a Catholic, are very rich in spiritual things:

1. In Holy Communion your humanity becomes one with the Divinity. You can say, in truth: My God and my ALL. You possess God.
2. In Holy Mass you pay your debts to God in an infinite way — the merits of Jesus Christ become yours.
3. In the Eucharistic Tabernacle you have Christ as your neighbor. You can visit with Him as often as you please and stay as long as you desire.
4. You have God's Mother as your Mother.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Last year we received 1,978 letters — better than five every day — telling us of favors received from Almighty God through prayers to Father Seelos. It is impossible to give all of them to you in "Father Seelos & Sanctity". Here are some of the spiritual favors received:

1. A good man prayed for the conversion to Catholicism of his wife. She is now taking instructions.
2. A son's marriage was saved.
3. "I have learned how to pray reading the monthly Conference and Notes"
4. "I have been going to Mass all my life but never appreciated it until I read the Conference in the 1977 November issue of "Father Seelos & Sanctity" on the Mass." (By request, copies of this Conference have been reprinted and distributed).
5. A man asked for a reprint of the Conference, November 1976, on "My every breath is a prayer"
6. "Peace in our home"
7. "I have a greater love for the Blessed Mother since reading Father Seelos & Sanctity. Every Conference concludes with a thought of her"
8. "MGILY is a part of my life" (My God I Love You).
9. "My faith is stronger; I practice fraternal charity better"
10. "I think God is calling me to be a Priest through the prayers of Father Seelos"
11. "Mortification means something to me"

There is no end to letters of thanksgiving for better health, successful operations, financial help, cures. Always say "THANKS" to the good God. When Christ cured ten lepers of a disease worse than cancer today, He was hurt because just one of them said "THANKS". He so appreciated the kindness of Veronica in the Sixth Station of the Way of the Cross, that he impressed the image of His Sacred Countenance on her towel.

Learn by heart the little prayer on the picture card of Father Seelos.

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SPECIAL NOTES

If you missed the invitation to my Diamond Jubilee Mass of Priesthood, in last month's "Father Seelos & Sanctity", I wish to repeat it in this number for your benefit.

Come to the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans, on Sunday May 6th, and thank God with me for my great vocation to the Priesthood. And for the grace to have persevered in it through Sixty very happy years.

There will be a reception in Liguori Auditorium, next to the church, immediately after Mass until 2:30 P.M.

I am looking forward to meeting you, the friends of Father Seelos — May 6th.

Father Grangell, C.Ss.R.

1. May is the month of our Blessed Mother, the Queen of the May. Say her Rosary and her Litany daily. Talk about her in the family, consecrate all to her Immaculate Heart.
2. Thanks for the names, addresses, zips of new members to the Guild of Father Seelos. Send many more — many.
3. If you use a little sticker with printed name and address on your envelope in the mail, if the sticker reads "John Doe" and the wife or the daughter uses the envelope, please write "Mrs. _____" or "Miss _____" before the name. Too, we take for granted that an initial name such as "J. Doe" is a man's. If you move, let us know your new address and your old one with it — we have several people with the same name. Inform us immediately of the death of a friend of Father Seelos. Thanks.
4. Thanks, too, for your financial help in paying our bills.

For blessings of your sick with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler. 895-6176.

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