



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1980

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL

*A Child
is Born...*



May the newborn infant of Bethlehem shower His choicest blessings on all of you. May you know the true joy of Christmas in a spiritual way. While worldly celebrations go on, do not forget that the origin of this beautiful day is spiritual and make your first gifts of the day spiritual. Remember your relatives and friends in your Masses, Holy Communion and prayers. After that is time to give and exchange the worldly gifts — these signs of love and friendship.

All of our volunteer crew at the Father Seelos Center wish you God's blessings in this holy season and ask that you also remember us in your prayers. We are all retired people, dedicating our time to see that this bulletin reaches you and we offer our work as a special prayer for you. Have a BLESSED AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Josie M. Becker

A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS PRAYER (*Monthly Conference of Father Grangell*)

The Virtue for December: Self-denial and Love of the Cross

Patron Saint: St. Matthias, Apostle

Text: If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself. (Matt. 16/24)

Father Seelos had great devotion for the Divine Infancy. He celebrated the birthday of our Lord in a big way. He made a novena of prayers and penance for Christmas. He spent the eight days after Christmas in an octave of prayer. He celebrated the 25th of every month as "Little Christmas". On that day his morning meditation was on the CRIB in connection with the monthly virtue. He never separated the Blessed Mother from her Divine Child. He preached ceaselessly LOVE GOD FOR THE WORK OF MAN'S SALVATION and love Jesus Christ for becoming our Savior.

Say this beautiful prayer daily – memorize it:

Little Infant Jesus of Good Health, God of love, born to suffer for me. In you alone do I find the courage and strength I need in the trials and troubles that weigh so heavily upon me. By the sorrows (dolors) of your most holy Mother, I implore You to lighten the burdens of my soul with Your holy consolation and relieve my bodily infirmities with Your merciful kindness, if it pleases the will of our Father in Heaven. Amen.

Notice the last words "if it pleases the will of God". If we do and say everything to please God we have SANCTITY, HOLINESS AND PERFECTION.

Notice also our two kinds of crosses, the burdens of our soul (mental worries) and our bodily infirmities (Physical troubles, sickness).

We are spared a cross that Jesus and Mary had to bear. We do not know our future. Thank God for this.

The fourth Joyful Mystery of the rosary becomes Mary's first dolor (sorrow). The old man Simeon told her the future of her son, Jesus. He is just a baby now.

Jesus as a young man often spoke of His future sufferings (Matt. 16/21). When He is in His last agony in the garden, it is so terrifying He asks His Father to let the Chalice pass from Him, but not His Will but His Father's be done. If we can pray like that, we are saints.

All our petitions at the tomb of Father Seelos are: Let this chalice – this sickness, this family trouble, my every pain and ache – pass from me. These crosses are too heavy for me. However, dear God, thy Will be done! I want to please you and be a saint.

Our Blessed Mother's greatest cross was when she lost her Son for three days. I think a good Catholic mother's greatest cross in life is when her child, her teenager, her married son or daughter joins another church or quits going to Holy Mass and the Sacraments.

Listen teenagers and oldsters, who have left the Catholic Church. Don't you dare give your Catholic mothers and fathers Christmas gifts. You have broken their hearts. Don't send them to an early grave.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Jennings, La.

"About a couple of months ago I had severe pains in my back. I asked for help from Father Seelos and I am much better now."

E.T.

Plaquemine, La.

"I had to enter the hospital to have surgery for something that could have been malignant. After prayers to Father Seelos my tests were negative."

S.B.

Waveland, Miss.

"My wife had heart trouble, which the doctors did not diagnose. They said it was in her mind. I asked Father Seelos' prayers. They did heart surgery and she was near death. She has now come through. We have been trying to get disability since 1969 and just got it this week. Thanks to Father Seelos."

B.M.

Slidell, La.

"The doctor suspected that my daughter had a serious eye disease. After my prayers to Father Seelos and treatment she was examined and it proved not to be so serious. Thanks."

W.C.

Plaquemine, La.

"I had been treated for a heart condition for about four years. On a visit to the doctor after prayers to Father Seelos, the test showed that I had no heart trouble. He examined me again and told me he could find nothing wrong with my heart. He said to go home and get rid of all my medicine. It has been five years since that visit and I know that it was through Father Seelos' intercession my health was restored."

J.R.

New Orleans, La.

"Many thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession. My husband and I have worked out our problems and are enjoying a happy faithful life together."

L.D.

Owensville, Mo.

"I became acquainted with Father Seelos by a friend sending in my name. Thank God. Many favors have been granted through his intercession."

F.W.

Springfield, Tenn.

"A hernia appeared large and frightening on my husband late one evening. After unsuccessfully trying to persuade him to seek emergency medical help I turned to Father Seelos for help. Soon the hernia went back in place and there has been no further problem."

C.W.

PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
FATHER SEELOS CENTER (USPS 488-660)
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130

SPECIAL NOTES

Merry Christmas to you and your family wherever they are. All shall be in my Christmas Day Masses and in my every Holy Mass of 1981. Pray for me. Thanks.

A man sent us this message: I am more prayerful since I began reading 'Father Seelos and Sanctity'. We are happy to know that. That's the purpose of the monthly conference.

Always carry a memento of Father Seelos. Bless the sick with it. If you need another, write the Center.

Have you read the Life of Father Seelos - the small pamphlet size or the big book THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC. They are interesting. Give them as Christmas gifts.

St. Teresa of Avila used to say: 'I don't care if everybody has a higher degree of glory in Heaven than I will have, but I don't want anybody in Heaven who loved God more than I did on earth.' That's a challenge! Take her up.

We are in the season of Advent. It's the month of self-denial and love of the cross. Make the Way of the Cross - see how Christ carried his cross. Say the Seven Dolor Rosary and see the crosses in the life of our Blessed Mother.

Thanks for your gifts toward the support of the Center, especially helping with our postage and printing bills. God reward you. You are in a holy business.

Pray for vocations to the religious life, priests, brothers, sisters.

Begin today, the day you receive this, to make a novena. Pray that the negligent, careless members of your family will go to Holy Mass and Holy Communion on Christmas Day. Just say 33 times (the number of years our Lord lived in the world) MY GOD I LOVE YOU.

Join the daily perpetual novena in honor of Father Seelos. Say the prayer on the picture card at least once a day. At the end of the prayer mention all the favors you personally desire and pray for the intentions of the 40,000 members of the Guild who are making this novena.

MGILY

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

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$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 Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.