

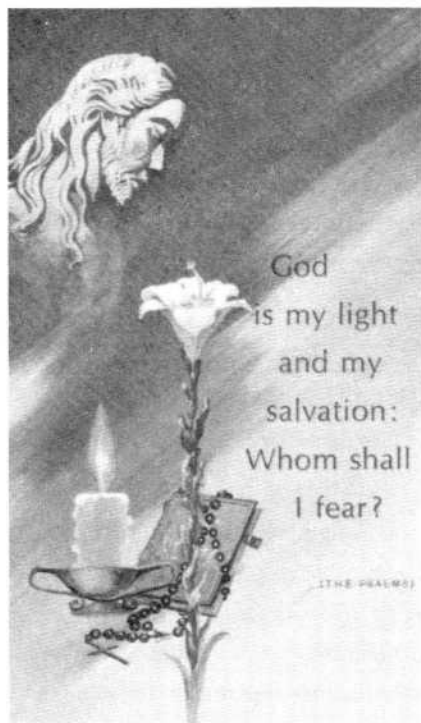


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1982

ALL SAINTS — ALL SOULS



As November starts we honor all of God's saints, who by their good lives have merited heaven. It may be your mother or father, child, your neighbor, the grocery man, the street cleaner, etc. We are all entitled to heaven, but we must earn it. Father Grangell's Conferences are good guides for us to leading lives which give us the right to heaven.

Some of our families or friends may still have a few more steps to reach heaven. For them we celebrate All Souls Day and we ask your prayers that they will soon enjoy being with Jesus and Mary forever and ever.

Josie M. Becker

Excerpt from the *Cheerful Ascetic*, which struck me as a good thought for November.

Father Seelos never considered himself a holy man. None of the saints do because they realize better than everybody else how imperfect any human piety is compared to the dazzling splendor of the all-holy God. Nevertheless, Francis Seelos had gained a

high reputation of sanctity wherever he labored, and that fame of holiness increased as the years rolled along after he was laid in the grave.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OUR READERS! Don't forget to go to church and thank God for the blessings he has bestowed on you and your families during the past year.

FATHER SEELOS' EVERY BREATH WAS A PRAYER

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for the month of November: PRAYER

Patron Saint: St. Jude, the Apostle

Text: They must always pray and not lose heart. (St. Luke 18/1)

This is a repeat Conference of November 1976. The reason we repeat it is that we do not want you to forget how Father Seelos makes it easy to pray ceaselessly day and night.

He said a short night prayer before retiring every night. It shows us how close he was to God: "Oh Lord my God, I thank You for having preserved me during this day and I ask you to preserve me during this night. I take this repose in order to please You and I wish to love and please You each moment that I breathe, as the Angels and Saints love and please You in heaven. Mary, my Mother, bless me and protect me under your mantle. My Guardian Angel and all my patron saints, intercede for me." How beautiful, how simple, how all comprehensive it is. Like all good prayers, Father Seelos begins with thanks for favors received before he asks for favors to come. He gives God something, everything — his life. We live by breathing. He gives God his every breath as an act of love, as perfect as the Angels and Saints love and please God in eternity.

We begin life breathing, we never cease to breathe until we die. We pay no attention to our breathing. We think and say and do a thousand things a day — never give a thought to our breathing. Isn't that a fact? Let's offer God our every breath as a prayer. Since we breathe ceaselessly, we will pray ceaselessly, we will live the above Scripture text! Read it (Luke 18/1)

Recollect yourself for a few seconds! Now talk to God: "My God, I offer You my every breath of life as an act of love of You and sorrow for having ever offended You. I wish never to cease loving You, never to cease praying. If I should become unconscious in sickness, or from a heart attack, or an accident, or an operation, or live to be mentally incapable to pray, I offer all my breathing at that time as a continuation of my present acts of love and sorrow for my sins. And, good God, at the moment of death, when I gasp my last breath, which will be my last act of love of You in this world, I hope to awake in eternity hearing You say, CALLING ME BY NAME: I LOVE YOU!

Ask all the members of your family, your friends, your neighbors, to say this last prayer privately, devoutly and often.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Houston, Texas

"I prayed the Father Seelos prayer for my brother to have a good report as regards his heart. I prayed that he would not have to have open heart surgery. My prayers have been answered. Thanks to Father Seelos."

From Metairie, La.

"My daughter was hospitalized to correct a problem relative to an intestinal by-pass. She had two operations in 1981 and 1982 without success. The tests did not show what was wrong. Her food passed through her too quickly and she was very weak. She was put in intensive care and pneumonia set in. A friend gave me a card of Father Seelos and I prayed to God and asked Father Seelos to ask God to help her. After 21 pints of blood she started to come around. I am sure it was Father Seelos intercession to God that is helping my daughter get well again."

New Orleans, La.

"My sister was mugged and her arm broken. She had various other injuries. I prayed to Father Seelos and after surgery for removal of her wrist bone and the insertion of a plate, she is again able to use her arm. Thanks for Father Seelos intercession."

From Oak Brook, Ill.

"Sometime ago I wrote to ask your prayers in obtaining a job for the exceptional daughter of a friend. The waiting has been long and wearisome, but just this week she obtained the position and is very happy and doing well. Her mother would like to thank Father Seelos for his intercession."

From Vacherie, La.

"I first heard of Father Seelos in 1980 when I was sitting with my sick daughter in a hospital. A friend sent me a card with his picture and a cloth memento. I placed the cloth memento on my daughter and immediately she took a turn for the better. Now two years later my husband suffered a heart attack and again he answered our prayers. He is improving."

From Chalmette, La.

"One year ago I was operated on for breast cancer. I prayed to Father Seelos that if it was God's will please let them get it all out, which they did. I started to have severe back pains, so I had a bone scan. I again called on Father Seelos' intercession and the tests were fine. They showed the pains were from shingles."

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JUST ONE NOTE — from Father Grangell

Month of prayer! Understand the Holy Mass, the greatest of all prayer.

Recently a teenager told me he did not go to Mass because he got nothing out of it!! How ignorant a bad Catholic can be! We go to Mass to give.

Your whole life from the time of your youth is made of 4 things. 1. Love, which means praise, glory and honor. 2. Thanksgiving. 3. Atonement, sorrow for having offended One, making amends. 4. Petition, asking for help for body and soul. We owe these 4 things to God. We call LOVE FOR GOD adoration. This is the life of man all through the Old and New Testaments.

Christ, the Son of God, came into the world to satisfy our 4 obligations to God in an infinite way since He was One with the Father. He suffered much and died on a cross to save us. Before He died, He gathered His Apostles around Him at the Last Supper He had with them. He turned the table into an altar. He ordained the Apostles Priests and told them as Priests to offer sacrifice to His heavenly Father and to do the same thing in remembrance of Him and that was the First Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We go to Holy Mass to meet Christ, to see Him personally at the elevation of the Mass, to pray through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. At this sacrifice He gives us Peace, His Peace.

The teenager said he got nothing out of the Mass! He gets the Victim of the Sacrifice in Holy Communion — what more can any one receive than Holy Communion. He pays his debts to God of Adoration, Thanksgiving, Atonement and Petition.

Mass is the greatest thing in the world. When you come to Mass get as close as you can to the altar! Watch the Priest! Look forward to the Consecration when Christ comes to the altar to be our Priest — Victim of the Sacrifice — say to Him ceaselessly: MY GOD I LOVE YOU! Don't close your eyes — look at the Host. Offer to God infinite adoration, infinite Thanksgiving, for all you have, infinite atonement for your sins, infinite petition, ask for graces, help, everything!! Outside of Mass you pray as a FINITE CREATURE, you are limited in body and soul. In the Mass you pray in an infinite way, unlimited through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. Ask the Blessed Mother and all the Angels and Saints to pray for you to be a saint!!

AND REMEMBER, YOU GO TO MASS TO GIVE!

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

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