



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

We begin this month the holy season of Lent. Here's a thought from THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC for your meditation.

"In his earliest years he (Father Seelos) was intellectually and emotionally tied to his mother because of poor health. Fortunately she was an excellent tutor in every way. From the very start she taught him the absolute necessity of maintaining a patient and cheerful attitude throughout life. His brothers and sisters would come to his bedside, read stories to him, and tell him about all the adventures of the outside world. Because of his happy disposition, he was a favorite with the family and especially with his mother, who was his constant companion. Of all the virtues which Mrs. Seelos instilled into his mind, the one that stood out was a love of prayer. To foster it, she put before him a vision of heaven's glories and inspired him with a deep love for the Virgin Mary. Moreover, she quickly taught him self-control, for when he wanted something, she often substituted something else, so that he might learn to resign himself to going without."

Happy Valentine to all!!

To those in our area - have a happy Mardi Gras!!

God bless you!

Josie M. Becker

HEALING SERVICE IN HONOR OF FATHER SEELOS

St. Paul in the first epistle to the Thessalonians writes: "Test everything: hold fast what is good." For a healing service to be authentic it must lead to a healing.

Under no circumstances can a healing service look like a lottery where there is only one winner or two, and three at the most. It must set out to accomplish what it claims, and that is to lead or bring about healing in everyone's life.

With this purpose in mind the service follows this sequence.

First there is a hymn acknowledging the power and goodness of God. This is sung to create a wave of confidence in God's wish to heal.

There is a passage read from the Book of Wisdom. A few moments of reflection are given to reflect on this great gift and our need for it.

There follows a presentation on some phase of healing. This is key. To address oneself to the disease and not the patient is to leave the problem unsolved. Some fail to see the relationship between their attitude towards life, their life style and their illness. They expect a miracle drug to heal them. How can a miracle drug heal an attitude that is causing the very illness? It may blot out the distress, the illness, the disease, for the moment but since it was the attitude and life style that authored it, the illness must return.

The next step in the healing service is reflect on ourselves. Is there some hurt, resentment, anxiety, strain, anger within me. I lift it out and place it in the chalice on the altar.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows for five or ten minutes. Petitions, assisted by the prayers of Father Seelos are addressed to the Father through His Son, Jesus.

The service closes with the personal healing blessing. Through the prayers of Father Seelos may Almighty God heal you in mind, heart, spirit and body. The recipient responds.

Amen.

I WANT TO BE A SAINT (Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for the month of February: HOPE

Patron Saint: St. Andrew, Apostle.

Text: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him. (Psalm 90/14)

If you still have your copy of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY of November 1981, I ask you to read again how Father Seelos made the Way of the Cross, putting the twelve monthly virtues in the twelve first stations. Read the second station and see how he meditated on the virtue of HOPE, the virtue of February. He must have stood a long time as he thought of how Christ accepted His Cross and how he, Father Seelos, should accept his. His cross was his vocation to the Redemptorist Priesthood, a beautiful life of sincere holiness. St. Alphonsus the great theologian, taught that everybody must desire to be a saint. As Father Seelos made the stations daily, he told the good God over and over again, he hoped to be a GREAT SAINT.

The ordinary desk dictionary defines HOPE, 'to desire with expectation of obtaining--'and DESIRE, 'to wish or long for'.

St. Alphonsus says we are all to be saints and not to be diffident on account of past sins. St. Bernard says "God does not attend to what man does, but what he wishes to be". Father Seelos would answer this: 'I wish to be, I desire to be, I hope to be the greatest saint whoever lived, the greatest lover of God of the centuries.' St. Augustine, a great doctor of the church, teaches we must continually ask God for the grace to love Him, and do so earnestly. Use the MGILY prayer.

St. Alphonsus gives us four solid foundation stones on which to build our ambition our desire to be great saints: (1) Desire it, long for it. (2) Do everything to please God, (every insignificant thing, like picking up a pin, everything.) (3) Willingness to suffer any pain, bodily or mental. (4) Conformity with the Will of God, never complain, my will is God's will.

A perfect definition of the virtue of HOPE is the simple Act of Hope in the catechism. It tells us (1) Why we hope – the infinite goodness and promises of God. (2) For what do we hope: Pardon of our sins, God's graces, gifts, help, eternal life and all through the merits of Jesus Christ. Recite the Act of Hope often. Our Blessed Mother is our LIFE, our SWEETNESS and our HOPE. Love the "Hail Mary". "Pray for us sinners, NOW, and at the hour of our death."

St. Andrew, the Apostle, is the patron of February. He was a fisherman, the older brother of St. Peter. He saw Christ at the baptism of John the Baptist and told Peter: "We have found the Messiah." After the first Pentecost, he went to Scythia and Greece to preach the new Gospel. He made many converts to Christianity and died a martyr by crucifixion. He was on the cross, suffering for two days before death.

Everybody must desire to be a saint, a great saint--married men, women, the youth, young children, EVERYBODY.

SPECIAL LETTERS

We received the following from a lady in Metairie:

"I have been granted two favors through Father Seelos' intercession for my health. One was that I did not need surgery and the other was that tests showed I had nothing wrong with me, as it might have been."

We also have several letters from devotees of Father Seelos in New Orleans:

"I had promised Father Seelos I would publish my favor if my daughter's operation was successful. Thanks to Father Seelos she is getting along fine."

"My husband and myself have been praying to Father Seelos and have received favors. My husband had a blood condition, then eye trouble, then a heart attack."

"I promised Father Seelos I would have this favor published if my husband did not need major surgery. Through Father Seelos' intercession it was not necessary."

From Gretna, La.:

"I had been praying that my mother would get a job on the West bank. She had to travel twice a day to work in New Orleans. My prayers were answered. She is now working on the West side."

From Greenwell Springs, La.

"My daughter was influenced by her boy friend and we were greatly upset and worried. We prayed to Father Seelos to help and intercede for her. She and her boy friend have separated and she lives at home. She is very happy and has lots of friends."

We received the following from a friend in Silver Springs, Md.:

"My husband, who was an alcoholic, has not had a drink since September 1979. Our lives have completely changed. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

From Baton Rouge, La.:

"My brother-in-law had a stroke and for a while was not doing well, but now through the intercession of Father Seelos he is doing fine and like himself again."

From Iowa, La.:

"The prayers from you and Father Seelos have helped my husband fight cancer, and diabetes for over a year, and in October the doctors told me he wouldn't come out of the hospital. He did come out and is back at work. All praise to God and Father Seelos."

Another letter from Metairie, La.:

"Two months ago my son fell off a twelve foot ladder and injured his leg. He tore a ligament and broke a small part of the bone. He had blood in the knee cap area. The doctor was sure he needed surgery. We began to pray to Father Seelos to heal the leg without surgery and our prayers have been answered."

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SPECIAL NOTES

Lent begins on February 24, Ash Wednesday. Be sure to do a bit of penance – you choose your own. Always remember there are three billion people in the world. Each has an immortal soul. Our Lord suffered and died to save each one of these souls. He is our Savior. Say a prayer for each of them. Suffer an act of mortification for each. Pray for them. Pray for priestly vocations to bring the faith to all of them. Keep the crucifix close to you during Lent.

In Lent pray that every member of your family will go to Holy Mass on Easter and receive Holy Communion.

Last month 101 pieces of mail were returned to the Center, "Moved – left no address" "died", Each piece cost the Center 25¢ for this return service. We can't afford this.

Thanks and God bless you for using the monthly gold envelope. God love and reward you.

If you receive a favor from the good God though Father Seelos, let us know what it was, not just 'favor received'. We want to publish all favors. There are hundreds of them. May Father Seelos be good to you.

Celebrate the feast of our Blessed Mother in February – the Presentation (2nd), Lady of Lourdes (11th).

Pray for priestly vocations.

Organize a pilgrimage to the tomb of Father Seelos. Let us know three days before you are coming – we will meet you.

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

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