

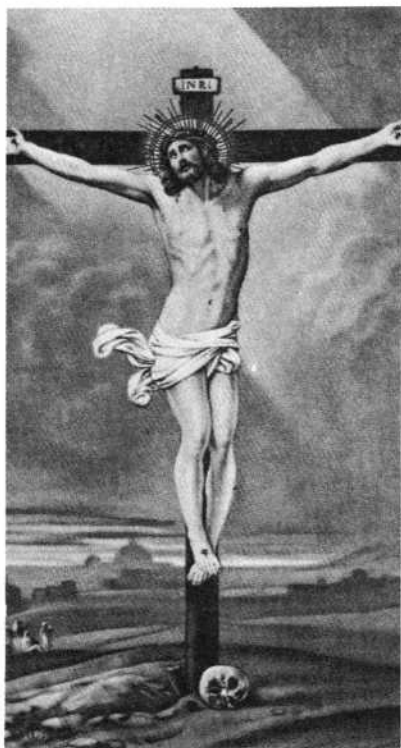


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1982

IN THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT



Most of the Lenten season of 1982 is the month of March. By now we should have all set the pattern for a prayerful season of Lent. Keep up all the good practices of prayer and good works which you began when Lent started just a few days ago. Let the picture of the Crucifixion of Christ be before you as you pray and meditate in these days.

Excerpt from THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC

"He (Francis Xavier Seelos) was an obliging youngster with an habitually amiable disposition. He had a generous and pious nature, without a single streak of malice. One of Francis' fellow pupils at the Fussen school testified that nobody was more diligent and better behaved than Francis, who was a favorite with everyone. During these early school years Xavier, as he was generally called, became an altar boy and tried to serve as many Masses as possible. He constructed a little altar at home, and his favorite recreation was to conduct church services, with his playmates acting as the congregation around the altar. While there was a definite tendency toward religious practices, indicating the dawning of a religious vocation, it does not appear to have been clear and explicit. One of the happiest events of those early years

was the occasion of his receiving the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Ignatius Albert von Riege of Augsburg on September 3, 1828; he made his First Communion a year and a half later in 1830."

We would like to remind you that the book THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, is available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. The price is \$5.95. We can fill orders for the book immediately.

God bless all of you! Keep up your prayers for the cause of canonization of Father Seelos. Ask him to intercede with our heavenly Father for your spiritual and temporal needs.

Josie M. Becker

LOVE GOD! LOVE GOD! LOVE GOD!

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for March: LOVE OF GOD

Text: Love God with thy whole being (Mark 12/30)

Patron: St. James, the Greater

Bible scholars go into ecstasy when reading the fabulous 13th chapter of 1st Corinthian. St. Paul devotes the whole chapter to the LOVE OF GOD and ends the chapter with the words: Now, there remain faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. Paul uses the word CHARITY for LOVE OF GOD.

This was the teaching of Christ. When asked by a learned scribe which was the first and greatest law, what is man's first duty, his first obligation toward God, Christ answered: THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD, THY GOD, WITH THY WHOLE HEART, THY WHOLE SOUL, THY WHOLE MIND AND ALL THY STRENGTH. God wants everything – not a part, not an occasion – just everything, always.

Father Seelos meditated in a big way on the love of God in the third month of the year. He put the LOVE OF GOD in the third station of the Way of the Cross. As we saw, Father Seelos put the virtue of Faith in the First Station. He meditates on how his will must be the will of God. He kept the will of God very active in his life through the virtue of Faith. He heard God speaking to him all day long with the ears and the heart of Faith. In the second station of HOPE, he prayed and desired and resolved to be a saint. Now in the third station is LOVE OF GOD. There are three great virtues, FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE OF GOD. Of these three LOVE OF GOD IS THE GREATEST.

St. Alphonsus, a doctor of the church, the leading theologian of the 17th century, the founder of the Redemptorists, wrote one hundred eleven books, one was entitled SELVA meaning "The Forest". It is for priests. The whole book is on the Love of God. It is a long book of 469 pages.

In one place he says: Let us see the MEANS to be employed for belonging entirely to God. This is what we must do to practice PERFECT LOVE OF GOD:

1. We must have a great desire to love God. Whisper all day long MY GOD I LOVE YOU. Give me grace to love you perfectly.
2. The intention of pleasing God must motivate all our actions to go to Holy Mass and Holy Communion, to pray, to work – everything.
3. Be Ready to suffer anything, everything, mental and bodily, insults, false accusations, humiliations.
4. Perfect conformity to the will of God, resigned to God's will in all things. Keep smiling, spread sunshine constantly. You say this is hard. Indeed, it is, but it is all for God.
5. Love the Blessed Mother.

There are three billion people in the world. The big majority have never heard of God. Millions have heard of God but are careless, indifferent about religion. Some live in your house. Godless people!!! My good God, I offer up to you the every thought, word and deed of these three billion people as so many acts of love of You and sorrow for having offended You.

Mary, great Mother of God, love God for those who never say MY GOD I LOVE YOU.

In the third station of the Way of the Cross we see Jesus fall, pulled and beaten to His feet. (Pause) This was His human body. We fall into sin because of the weakness of our bodies, the power of passion. Dear God, give me the grace to fall deeper and deeper in love with, You, never into sin.

The Patron Saint of the month – St. James Major! He was a favorite apostle of Christ. We read so often in the Gospel about Peter, James and John. We saw the Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor. He was taken into the rocks and trees of the garden, close to our Lord in His agony. Ask him to help you to love God.

SPECIAL LETTERS

We have selected the following letters for this month.

From a gentleman in Mathews, La.:

"This is just to let you know that after nine days of tests in the hospital and praying hard, my request was granted. No serious problems were found, even after a liver biopsy. I put my Father Seelos memento as near as I could to my liver."

And from Houston, Texas:

"I prayed to Father Seelos for a successful operation on my brother-in-law and also for a special intention. My prayers were answered."

We received the following from a lady in New York!

"I prayed for months that when I'd get to Germany I would find a good job, a job just right for me. After trying for years to get a Civil Service job but to no avail, I took the test here and within one day I got a great job. Thanks to Father Seelos."

A lady from Plaquemine, La. writes:

"I've been suffering for twenty-four years with a collapsed disk. The pain went away Good Friday 1981, but I need prayers for other ailments. This was a special request."

From Arabi, La.:

"For sometime I had a problem with my husband over money. I was hurt and angry and could not do much about it. On a Monday night I prayed and asked Father Seelos to help me. The next day, Tuesday, my husband made a complete change. My prayers were answered."

A devotee of Father Seelos from Metairie, La. writes:

"I prayed often to Father Seelos for favors and they were granted to me. For safe trips, etc, and for my little niece. Doctors said she had scarlet fever, but tests were negative. My prayers were answered."

The following from Woodsboro, Texas:

"In thanksgiving through the intercession of Father Seelos for a successful surgery for kidney stones and a good report a year later."

And all the way from Zwingle, Iowa:

"My prayers were answered, thanks for all special favors. One that dear ones don't have to live in a barn and now live in a basement; that farm payment debt isn't such a big worry anymore and my being able to cope with life now since my husband's death; that my grandson's eye is healing and he will be able to see."

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SPECIAL NOTES

Healing service in honor of Father Seelos is held every Sunday at 3 P.M. in St. Mary's Church. A 4 P.M. Mass follows immediately after the service.

Although the healing service is distinct and separate from the Mass, there is a relationship between them.

During the healing service an opportunity is given to approach the altar to place illnesses, sins, scare, memories, hurts into the chalice. During holy mass the precious Blood is placed in this chalice, thereby redeeming the wounds and hurts and making them part of the body of Christ. At the Communion the precious Blood is drunk from the chalice thereby bringing into the body of the sick the redeeming and healing Blood of Christ.

We need the help of Father Seelos and Father Seelos needs us to need him.

We are most appreciative of your support of the Father Seelos Center. God reward you for this beautiful work. You belong to a great Guild, working for the canonization of a saint. Please continue using the Gold envelope which you receive monthly with FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY.

Keep us informed of all changes of addresses, your own and of any other you know. As you know we have to pay the Post Office 25¢ for every piece of mail returned to the Center. It runs as high as \$30.00. We can't afford this.

Organize pilgrimages to the tomb of Father Seelos. Let us know when you are coming. We want to meet you.

There is a group of good pious people who come with babies and all the members of their families, from time to time on Sundays, from Nisbett, Mississippi and Memphis, Tennessee. It's a long trip for one day.

All of March is Lent. Do something! The Conference for March is LOVE OF GOD, LOVE OF GOD, LOVE GOD. Make the breath of your life: MY GOD I LOVE YOU! MGILY!

March is the month of St. Joseph and St. Patrick.

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

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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