



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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JULY 1982

SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY



In this month of July we celebrate the independence of our nation. July 4 to many has become another holiday, a day for picnics, barbecues, etc. Before we start these celebrations, why not begin the day by attending Holy Mass and asking God's blessing on our nation and its leaders. Ask Him to give us PEACE.

The picture we feature this month is that of a tugboat named Seelos. The owner has devotion to Father Seelos and thought he could in no better way show it than to name his boat for Father Seelos.

Josie M. Becker

Excerpt from the CHEERFUL ASCETIC:

During this time (the time he was preparing to go to America) he wrote a series of farewell letters to his relatives, especially to the members of his immediate family. On December 14, he wrote to his first cousin, Joseph Benedict Seelos.

Dearest Cousin: You have heard with very great surprise that Providence has called me to a foreign country. I follow this vocation willingly and most happily. I am persuaded that you will approve this choice. If I relied on my own powers alone, all hope and all spirit for such a resolution would be wanting. But when I consider the help of God, when I think of the promises He has made, His power and His goodness, then my whole inner being is animated anew and I feel strong enough to work in the Vineyard of God. The field is far from home but it's close to Him who calls me. In all humility let us employ the help of God and beg for his graces that all may go well.

MY WHOLE LIFE IS ONE ACT OF LOVE OF GOD (Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for July: OBEDIENCE

Patron Saint: St. Philip, the Apostle

Text: You are my friends if you do the things I command you. (St. John 15/14)

I think everybody knows The Little Flower of Jesus, born in France of wealthy parents in 1873, became a Carmelite nun at 15, died at 24. She wrote her autobiography in obedience to her superior and called herself in the book "The Little Flower of Jesus." Her breath of life was MY GOD I LOVE YOU. She wrote "In order that my life may be ONE ACT OF PERFECT LOVE, I offer myself as a victim of holocaust to Thy merciful love." "O Jesus imploring Thee to consume me unceasingly, and to allow the floods of infinite tenderness gathered up in Thee to overflow into my soul so that I may become a very martyr of Thy love—I desire at every beat of my heart to renew this oblation, an infinite number of times, and 'til the shadows retire, and everlastingly, I can tell Thee my love face to face." You must memorize this act of oblation and use it constantly. She wished her whole life to be one act of PERFECT LOVE OF GOD, and to tell Jesus, her spouse, face to face, for all eternity: MY GOD I LOVE YOU (MGILY). Imagine that picture! Imagine yourself telling Jesus in all eternity MY GOD I LOVE YOU, and He repeating: I love YOU!

She made the solemn vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience, at the end of her novitiate. Why? Because riches, sex and power, if not controlled will lead anyone away from God. St. John in his second epistle in the Bible, 2/16, calls them the concupiscence of the eyes, the concupiscence of the flesh and the price of life. Concupiscence means excessive desire. So the Religious gets all these desires of money, sex, power out of her (his) life to belong entirely to God.

Father Seelos was not a contemplative religious, as was the Little Flower, but he lived the life of God and today we call him a Saint.

He practiced the asceticism of the 12 monthly virtues. In the 12 first stations of the Way of the Cross, he put the first four virtues of FAITH, HOPE, LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOR as a protection against the three next temptations of money, sex, power, (Poverty, Chastity, Obedience). Everybody endures the three concupiscences, as so many temptations to sin.

We are now in the month of Obedience, the 7th Station. Obedience is a sign of holiness—doing the will of God in everything. Disobedience means sin, doing one's own will against the will of God. God speaks to us through the Church. Think of the many Catholics in your neighborhood and in your family who say the OUR FATHER daily—THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS DONE IN HEAVEN and miss Sunday Mass!

BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR US!

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Houma, La.

"Two months ago I promised over my grandmother's death bed that I would return to the Catholic Church. I had been promising this since I had prospered in my business and forgot where this prosperity came from. I began to have business, personal and monetary problems. I turned to alcohol for help. I almost lost my family and my business. It is two months now since I promised. I now go to church every Sunday, no alcohol. I am thanking Father Seelos for this magnificent change in my life."

Bush, La.

"I had moved to a rural area that had a Baptist and Methodist majority. After saying novena prayers asking Father Seelos to help, Catholics who lived in our area and the priest asked to start a mission church. After the survey was done it was agreed to have a mission church in our area. Since then we have been busy building a Catholic Church. The parishioners are doing the work and soon we will have our own church. Always a friend of Father Seelos for helping us to obtain our own church."

From Thibodaux, La.

"My daughter-in-law had a tumor in her breast and the doctor thought he would have to remove the breast. I prayed to Father Seelos again as I had so many times before and my prayers were answered. The surgery was successful and it was not necessary to remove the breast. Thank you, Father Seelos."

From Norco, La.

I had promised Father Seelos I would publish my favor if my operation was successful. I am getting along fine. Thanks to Father Seelos."

From Metairie, La.

"My daughter's boy friend had lung surgery and we prayed very hard that he would not have cancer or tuberculosis. Thanks to the prayers of Father Seelos he didn't have either and is doing fine. Surgery went beautifully."

From Baton Rouge, La.

"I recently had two major operations. One turned out not to be cancer and the other, a knee operation was successful. I can now walk without crutches or walker and the excruciating pain is gone. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers through a very difficult time."

From Metairie, La.

"I am recovering from a heart attack. I contracted a very bad cold and feared it would affect my heart, especially the coughing. I went to the doctor but he said the cough would leave me in a day or so and it had not affected my heart. I had been praying to Father Seelos."

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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

SPECIAL NOTES

HEALING SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 3:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS

Sometimes in our effort to help others we go about it in the wrong way. This is particularly noticeable in cases of nerves.

Some at the beginning are only a little nervous. But they are ashamed of their emotionalism and try to cover up, adopting a false attitude to those around them. This makes their nervous state worse.

This is quickly seen in the case of the stammerer. The more self-conscious the stammerer becomes of his stuttering the more tied becomes his tongue. It's a vicious circle. It does not help to reproach him. Reassuring non verbals are in place.

If you put Father Seelos in your "Last Will" word it like this "I will to the Father Seelos Canonization Fund."

Pray for vocations to the priesthood. If any teen-ager or college man is interested in the Redemptorists, please write to the Center for information.

When you enter a Catholic Church, kneel for a few seconds before the Tabernacle and say MY GOD, I ADORE YOU, REALLY, TRULY PRESENT IN THE TABERNACLE AND IN ALL THE TABERNACLES OF THE WORLD. GIVE ME THE GRACE TO LOVE YOU PERFECTLY AND GIVE ME THESE FAVORS (mention them)! If you do not touch the floor with your knee (unless you are old or sick or cripple) your genuflection is a mockery.

If you receive a favor, which you think is miraculous, write it or print it or type it and sign your name and address on it. Send it to us by mail or drop it on the tomb of Father Seelos and we will send it to Rome.

Tell everybody about Father Seelos and how he answers prayers. Pray to him for a MIRACLE, if you need a big blessing for yourself or for another.

July is the month of the FOURTH. Thank God that you are an American. Trust in God! Love your Sunday Mass! Pray that we have Peace and divine protection.

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

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Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.