

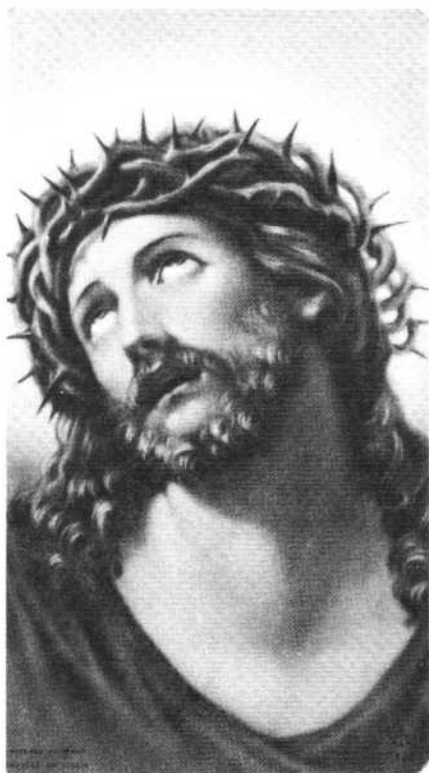


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1983

O SACRED HEAD SURROUNDED



March is a full month of Lent, a time to continue our meditation of the passion and death of Christ, before we again celebrate his glorious resurrection. Do not waste this time given to us to pray and recollect. Our needs are great and so are the needs of our friends and the entire world.

In our last bulletin I told you of the illness of several of our volunteers and members of their families. At this time I can tell you that the husband of one of our workers has been called to his eternal reward after a lengthy illness. Please remember him in your prayers.

One of our volunteers is still hospitalized and another is suffering with very painful arthritis. They also need your prayers.

And for our saints of the month – I like to mention my patron, St. Joseph, first. He is foremost in my mind. Happy name day to all the Josephs and Josephines!

And also March brings St. Patrick's feast day, which is celebrated in St. Alphonsus Church here in New Orleans. Top of the morning to all of you good Irishmen!

Josie M. Becker

O my God, I truly BELIEVE You are present with me. I ADORE Your limitless Perfections. I THANK You for the graces and gifts You gave to Father Seelos. If it is Your holy will, please let him be DECLARED A SAINT of the Church so that others may know and imitate his holy life. Through his prayers please give me THIS FAVOR. . . .

LOVE OF GOD! THE GREATEST OF ALL VIRTUES

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

The Virtue for March: LOVE OF GOD

Patron Saint: St. James, the Greater

Text: Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with thy whole heart, with thy whole soul, with thy whole mind and with all thy strength. (Mark 12, 20)

– Last year, 1982, the Redemptorists celebrated the 250th Anniversary of their founding by St. Alphonsus Liguori. This great saint is known in the universal church as the "Doctor of Prayer", the saint that loved God perfectly. Many of his ascetical works are translated into every spoken language of the world. I have in mind two very short works of the saint that are familiar to pious people everywhere.

One of these booklets is THE WAY OF THE CROSS. Each station ends in the same words, the same petition: "Grant that I may love Thee always, then do with me as Thou wilt." What more can a holy person ask for!! Whisper it often daily.

The other short book is VISITS TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND THE BLESSED MOTHER." It is a prayer book for every day of the month. A prayer is repeated daily and should be the breath of one's life. "All that I ask and desire is Thy Holy Love, final perseverance and the perfect accomplishment of thy Holy Will." Dear reader, if you mean this, you are close to sainthood.

Father Seelos was a zealous priest. He wanted the whole world to love God. He prayed for everybody in the world. Today there are four billion people living in the world. He prayed: "My God I offer to Thee the every breath of everybody as acts of love, of spiritual communion for them, as the daily Holy Masses of every priest in the world."

Dear good God – I ask Thee to give me the grace to save my soul and to be a great saint in heaven. Dear God, please accept my prayers for everybody living now, who will live to the end of the world.

Dear Blessed Mother, I consecrate my soul to Thy Immaculate Heart and the soul of everybody living in the world, who will live to the end of time, Amen. Readers! Let MY GOD I LOVE YOU be the breath of your life.

Father Seelos had the spirit of St. Alphonsus within him. He desired to convert the world to God. That is ZEAL, the foundation of real sanctity.

My dear readers, you must be on fire with love of God, you must want everybody in the world to be on fire with love of God. Make up your own prayers of desire. Here is an example. MY GOD, THERE ARE FOUR BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD! I OFFER THE BREATHING OF THESE FOUR BILLION SOULS AS SO MANY ACTS OF LOVE, EACH BREATH OF EVERY PERSON IS AN ACT OF LOVE, EVEN AS THEY SLEEP.

My Blessed Mother, there is no such thing as loving God without loving you! I consecrate myself and everybody in the world to thy Immaculate Heart! Dear Mother of God, pray for me and for everybody now and at the hour of our death. Father Seelos, a TRUE REDEMPTORIST, pray for me to be a PERFECT LOVER OF JESUS CHRIST.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Donaldsonville, La.

"This is in thanksgiving for a favor I received. I lost an article and prayed to Father Seelos and St. Anthony. The article was found. Many thanks."

From Metairie, La.

"I always enjoy reading your bulletin. Thanks and praise God and thanks to Father Seelos for the almost complete recovery from cancer for my mother. God has been good to us. Father Seelos interceded for us."

Vacherie, La.

"My husband had heart surgery and recovered completely. He was blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos. My husband's recovery seemed to me miraculous as he is 84 years old. I think he made medical history. Thanks to Father Seelos to whom I prayed so hard."

From Fairview Heights, Ill.

"I say the prayer of Father Seelos daily. I had a heart problem and now I feel much better. My son-in-law was in a hospital with depression and anxiety for five weeks. I gave him a prayer card and he has improved and is able to work again."

From La Place, La.

"My son suffered injuries to his neck and arms. The doctor was in doubt as to whether he needed surgery to relieve his pain and numbness. Thanks to the prayers of Father Seelos he is doing much better and did not need surgery."

From Pierre Part, La.

"A.M. is on the road to recovery. She had two operations, one in June and the other in October. The tumor has dissolved. They had only removed a little tissue and that came back okay. She still has to take medicine for six months to be sure. Otherwise she is really better. I am offering thanks to Father Seelos for her recovery and continued health."

From Covington, La.

"Sometime ago I wrote requesting prayers that I would find a pin that was very dear to me sentimentally. The pin has been recovered and is in my possession. Thanks to Father Seelos."

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SPECIAL NOTES

St. Alphonsus wrote a short book entitled THE TRUE REDEMPTORIST for his followers. Remember Father Seelos was a Redemptorist. He read this little book often. It was his life. St. Alphonsus ends the booklet with this prayer: "Perfect Thy work oh Lord and for Thy glory make us all Thine own; so that all the members of this Congregation, even to the day of judgment, may continue to please Thee perfectly, and to gain for Thee a countless number of souls. Amen." Let us make this prayer of St. Alphonsus the official prayer of the Guild of Father Seelos, changing just one word 'guild' for 'congregation'. Now, go out and win souls for God. Begin with your family, then your neighbor.

The virtue for March is LOVE OF GOD the third station of the Way of the Cross: Jesus falls the first time. Let us ask for the grace to fall in love with Him - to fall deeper and deeper day by day in love with God.

Please use the gold envelope and support the Center for the cause of canonization of Father Seelos. Spread devotion to him. Tell everybody about him.

Come to the Healing Service every Sunday in St. Mary's Church at 3:30 and be blessed by the priest and venerate the crucifix of Father Seelos. Sunday Mass is at 4 o'clock.

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

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