

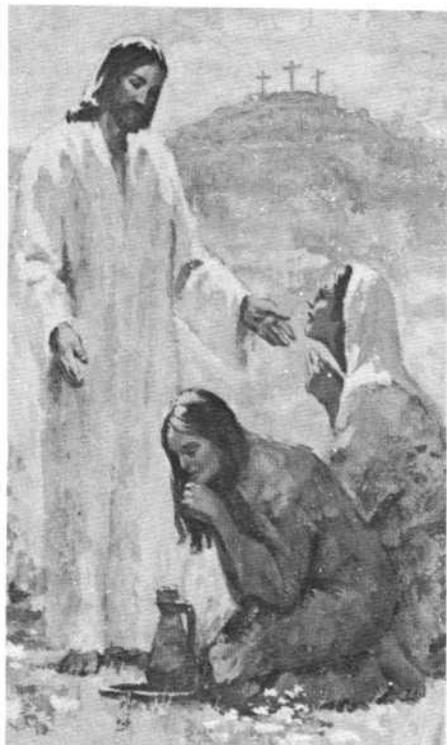


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1983

HAPPY EASTER!



Spring! How welcome it is after the cold winter. One of the great joys of spring is Easter when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. We hope the day will be one of joy and happiness for all of you.

Overshadowing the joy of the season for us at the Father Seelos Center is our feeling of great loss with the death of Nathalie Baehr, one of our very ardent workers for the cause. In addition to her own work she made it possible for others to work by furnishing them transportation. In fact she will always be remembered by those whom she drove to church, when otherwise it would have been impossible for them to attend Mass. Nat we miss you. Pray for us.

Congratulations to Bishop Ott on his appointment as the third Bishop of Baton Rouge. He was very close to us. We enjoyed his annual visit to us for the anniversary Mass in honor of Father Seelos. We wish him the best and will keep him in our prayers.

Josie M. Becker

My God, I believe you are truly present within 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 that others may know and imitate His holy life. Through his prayers please give me this favor I ask

THE NEW COMMANDMENT

(Monthly Conference of Father Grangell, C.S.S.R.)

Virtue for April: CHARITY, BROTHERLY LOVE

Patron: St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist

Text: This is my Commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. (St. John 15/12)

Did you ever think of Father Seelos as a martyr? Well he was. For the love of God he laid down his life to administer the Sacraments to those dying of yellow fever, a contagious disease. He was not a strong, robust, healthy individual, but as a zealous, holy priest, he went among the dying and prepared them to meet their God at the dawn of eternity. He did it all cheerfully, and when he lay dying, a victim of the dread disease, he asked the priests and brothers around his bed to sing. They did, and with a smile he passed from this world to heaven. Our Lord said: Greater love than this no man hath that a man lay down his life for his friend. (John 15/13) Everybody was Father Seelos' friend.

During the month of April check on how you practice CHARITY, BROTHERLY LOVE. Christ called Charity His commandment. At the Last Supper He called it: A NEW COMMANDMENT. (John 13/34) Why a 'New Commandment'? Because the old law was retaliation, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life. He taught: Love those who hate you, pray for those who persecute you! Forgive everything! It's hard to live with some people, to work with others. You must put up with their peculiarities, eccentricities, annoying hobbies. If you do it for the love of God and cheerfully, you are a martyr.

A big question: ARE YOU AS KIND, HELPFUL, AGREEABLE AT HOME AS AWAY FROM HOME?

Take Father Seelos as a model. His biographer calls him: THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, which means the happy saint. You can't imagine Father Seelos as moody, depressed, glum, taciturn. You can't live with that kind of a person. He knew how to laugh, he wore a perpetual smile. He was kind and helpful, always approachable. He did not criticize. He was not jealous or envious. He had no time, no ears, for scandal mongers. Everybody was perfect in his estimation. He was patient in sickness, never talked about his pains and aches and pills. He prayed for the sick and for sinners. He was generous with his words of encouragement, praise and congratulations. He made people happy. He was grateful and appreciative and knew how to say THANKS. He accepted offenses in silence as Christ did. He was good to the poor, the sick, the old. He loved children. He saw God in everybody. Everybody called him a saint.

IS THIS YOUR LIFE! It could be, it must be, if you love God sincerely.

DEAR BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR US

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Bellaire, Texas

"My husband suffered with a very bad case of ulcerative colitis. Recently I feared cancer. However, after much prayer to Father Seelos, we were told it was not cancerous. Special thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

From New Orleans, La.

"The doctors informed us that my brother-in-law had lung cancer. He was hospitalized. We all prayed to Father Seelos and are happy to say it was discovered that he had a damaged nerve from a recent stroke. He did not have to have surgery."

From Greenwell Springs, La.

"My sister was having a problem with a child and also was unhappy with her job, which caused trouble between her and her husband. I prayed to Father Seelos and everything has worked out fine. Her child has straightened out and she has changed jobs. She and her husband are doing fine. I have been praying for my father who has a very bad heart. He just went through a series of tests and the doctor said that with proper diet and rest he can live a long time."

From Pompano Beach, Fla.

"My wife had to have some very serious tests for possible cancer. The tests were all negative so far and I am thanking Father Seelos for his prayers."

From Jefferson, La.

"Just want to let you know that Father Seelos came to my rescue again. I lost a diamond pendant and could not find it. I looked everywhere for it and prayed to Father Seelos. After I went to work and came home at lunch time, I started again to search for it. After ten minutes I found it in the carpet on the side of my bed. I knew Father Seelos would come through as he has done so often."

From Clarks, La.

"I got a call that my younger sister was in the hospital and immediately went to her. She was hurting very bad. I put a picture under her pillow and memento in her hand. I started to pray with all my heart for her and a week later she went home feeling good. I hope she returns to good health through Father Seelos' prayers."

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SPECIAL NOTES

Welcome to all the new members to the GUILD of Father Seelos. Be sure we have your name spelled correctly, also correct home and street address and zip code. If you did not receive last month's FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, write to the Center immediately. Thanks!

As a member of the Guild you pray daily for the canonization of Father Seelos, using the short prayer on the picture card. You should know the life of Father Seelos. It is given very briefly on the opposite side of the same picture. It would be a good thing if you carried Father Seelos' picture in your pocket or purse always. Write to the Center for pictures. The theme-prayer of the Guild is MY GOD I LOVE YOU (MGILY) You will see JMJA (Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Alphonsus) often. St. Alphonsus was the founder of the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers 250 years ago. Father Seelos was a Redemptorist.

The thousands of people who are interested in the cause of Father Seelos, live all over the U.S.A. They pray for anything, everything, even for miracles. Put your petitions on the tomb of Father Seelos or send them to the Center through the mail. By all means, if you receive a favor, it might be a miracle, be sure to send the information to me.

Every Sunday at 3:30 P.M. we have a healing service in St. Mary's Assumption Church, followed by Holy Mass at 4 P.M. Bring your sick to this service.

You and your family are in my every daily Holy Mass. Pray for me.
Father Grangell

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.