

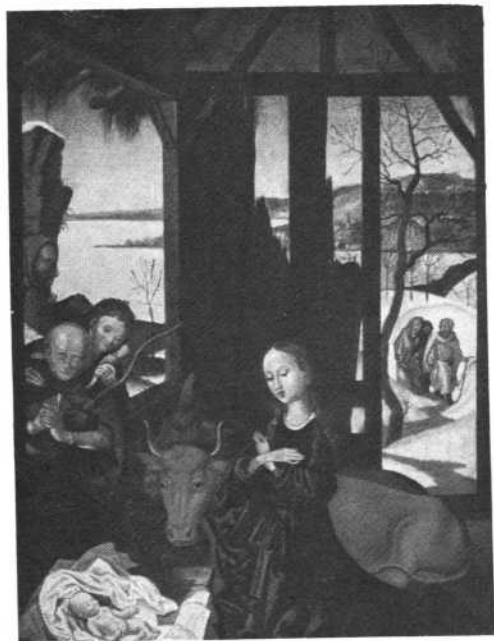


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1984

FROLICH WEINACHE – MERRY CHRISTMAS AUF DEUTSCH



Frolich Weinache, Merry Christmas, however you say it it means the same. We hope all of you will have a merry Christmas.

The picture on this issue is a German postcard, one which could have been sent by or to Father Seelos. It is a little different from the ones we see in our country, but is nonetheless very beautiful and expressive.

While awaiting the arrival of "Santa Claus" we suggest that you offer prayers that the gifts he gives you will be gifts of love and friendship; peace in our families and in our country. May He bless our recently elected leaders and guide them on the way to a lasting peace.

During December we also celebrate the great feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, our Mother. Mary is a great intercessor for us with her Son. Father Seelos called on her very often. Why not imitate him in his great love for her.

God bless and keep you in His care.

Josie M. Becker

SELF-DENIAL AND LOVE OF THE CROSS

Virtue: Self-denial and love of the cross

Patron: St. Matthias, Apostle

Text: If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. (Matt. 16/24)

In our times, the words self-denial and love of the cross, have a strange and unappealing ring to them. They do not fit into the practical schemes of today. Certainly they run counter to a popular slogan often heard, "You only go around once, so grab all the gusto you can get." At first glance, they go against the philosophy of personalism which emphasized the importance of the individual.

Good as this philosophy may be and as important as it is, in emphasizing human dignity, personalism can lead to an exaggerated aggressiveness on the part of individuals and even lead to total selfishness and complete disregard of others.

Jesus had something else in mind when as God, He became man, born of Mary, the virgin of Nazareth. St. Paul describes the Son of God taking on our human nature as an emptying of Himself, the taking on the form of a servant. He embraced our humanity in all its strengths and weaknesses, saving sin of course. He accepted even death, the ultimate in human suffering, death on a cross.

Father Seelos saw the need of self-denial in one's spiritual life, combined with faith. We deceive ourselves, he once said, if we consider ourselves ill-used by those around us. The good God allows us to suffer how much and for as long as this is good for us. Father Seelos called mistreatment from those around us a kind of innocent suffering, a true imitation of the crucified innocent Christ.

Father Seelos accepted the humiliation of being removed from office. He was not downcast when his superior sent him to New Orleans where yellow fever epidemics were rampant and carried off many in death. On the train south he was asked by two nuns how long he would be in New Orleans. "Only a year," he replied, "and then I will die."

In a year he did die. His death agony was long and painful, but with Christ his model on the cross, he accepted leaving this world with joy.

Whatever grandiose dreams he may have had as a youth in the Bavarian Alps – as we all have – they certainly took second place to his resolve to leave his beautiful homeland to come to America. Beckoning him on that distant shore were the countless German immigrants who were so often lost and forlorn as far as their faith was concerned.

May Father Seelos' giving of himself inspire us to like deeds of unselfishness and love.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Metairie, La.

"Several months ago I was taken to the hospital with a heart attack. While in the hospital I fell and broke my arm. I prayed to Father Seelos and thanks to his intercession, I am now doing fine."

From St. Johns, Michigan

"I asked Father Seelos to intercede for me that I would find a job. I found a very good babysitting job."

From Plaquemine, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession in my grandson regaining the circulation in his hip joint after being in a cab accident which had damaged his hip and cut off circulation. After two years on crutches the doctor says he can start walking now. Thanks."

From Metairie, La.

"I was having pains in my chest and didn't know if it was coming from my heart or lungs. I prayed to Father Seelos and every night applied the cloth memento to my chest. After two days in the hospital and many tests, they found nothing wrong with my heart or lungs. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

From Gretna, La.

"My grandson was in need of a job so we prayed asking Father Seelos' intercession. He had an interview for a job and through Father Seelos prayers our petition was granted."

From Lafayette, La.

"I have written several times to let you know of favors which I have received. Two favors I have earnestly and faithfully asked were granted to me. My poetry manuscript was accepted but the publishing house wants a fee for the works to be published. As this fee was high, I prayed and soon after was contacted and arrangements made for me to pay in affordable monthly installments with no problems."

From San Antonio, Texas

"My grandson threw a ball which hit me in the eyeball and broke a blood vessel. I was advised to stay in bed for four days to prevent another blood vessel from breaking. I put the cloth memento of Father Seelos on my eye and now I can see just as I did before. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R. and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

During September Bishop L. Abel Caillouet, of the New Orleans Archdiocese, died. He was a very holy man and a devotee of Father Seelos. As long as he was able he joined us for the annual memorial mass honoring Father Seelos. He was a very holy man and we feel his death was a loss to our Archdiocese. Please remember him in your prayers.

We also ask a remembrance in your prayers for Agnes Young Bourg, who was the first full time secretary at the Father Seelos Center. She also died in September. She was with us for approximately ten years.

Father Grangell remains much the same in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

We are in the process of putting in a new address system at the Center. The machine which we have been using is giving us a lot of trouble and we are no longer able to get parts to keep it in repair or plates for new names or changes in address. We hope it won't be too long before the new system goes into effect. In the meantime, please keep us informed of your changes of address or any new names to which you wish us to send our monthly message. Also if you are receiving more than one copy of the paper please inform us as postage is constantly going up. Thanks.

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

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

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