



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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ALL SAINTS



St. Gerard Majella

St. John Neumann

St. Alphonsus De Liguori St. Clement Mary Hofbauer

We Catholics believe in the communion of saints. We believe that there is an indestructible bond between the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and all of us still here on earth. The indestructible bond is God's life within us, or as we know it, sanctifying grace. The saints and the souls in purgatory are confirmed in God's love; we on earth must continue to work out our salvation.

This life is not the end of our living. We believe it is just the beginning. Whatever philosophers may say about life after death, we believe in the promise of Jesus Christ: "I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life, and whoever is alive and believes in me, will never die." (John 11/26).

The fact that we honor the good men and women who have gone before us, that we remember their feast days, that we even ask them for their intercession with God, is an indication of our belief in life after death. God is the God of the living, not of the dead.

One priest who was preaching in our St. Mary's Church with the Blessed Mother and many saints gathered in the court of heaven before the throne of the Most Holy Trinity, called it "The Catholic Hall of Fame". The blessed Mother and the saints are our heroes. They fought the good fight here on earth, they kept the faith, and now they enjoy the crown of victory. Their victory is a reminder to us that if the saints could do it, why, with God's help, cannot we?

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Prayer is the human response to God's revelation, "I am the Lord your God". Throughout the Bible, the written account of God speaking to us, we see the patriarchs, the prophets and other holy men and women, responding to Him according to the circumstances, they praised the Lord, they asked Him for forgiveness of their sins, they thanked Him for His gifts, they presented to Him their daily needs.

Prayer, according to St. Augustine, is a petition. St. John Damascene says by prayer we ask of God those things which are expedient for His glory and for our salvation. It is a raising up of our mind and heart to God.

Prayer is an indication of life in the soul. What breath is to the body, prayer is to the soul. The one who prays is alive, the one who does not pray is spiritually dead. St. Alphonsus dared to put it this way. "If you pray, you will save your soul; if you do not, you will lose it."

We are urged to pray without ceasing. St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians, "never cease praying." (Thes. 5/17); to the Colossians, "pray perseveringly." (Col. 4/2)

St. John (1 Jn 5/14) tells us of the confidence he has in praying to God. Jesus tells us to expect an answer to our prayers, 'Ask, and you will receive. Seek and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks, receives, the one who seeks, finds. The one who knocks, enters". (Mt 7/7-8)

Jesus, God-man, prayed. He spent 40 days and nights in the desert. He often went to the mountains alone to pray, or to some deserted place. He prayed with His apostles. Often in the midst of a crowd, He would raise His eyes to heaven and commune with His Father. He prayed at the Last Supper. He prayed in the garden of Gethsemani, "Not My will but yours be done" (Lk. 22/42).

Father Seelos was raised in the bosom of a devout Catholic family, and almost by osmosis he developed a habit of prayer that never deserted him. Not only in the chapel or church but in his room, on the streets, on the train, wherever he happened to be, he kept on saying his prayers.

Sometimes we are forgetful. Sometimes we have distractions. These are all very human reactions. When we are discouraged, we should take heart from the saints who set us an example in their trials. When we forget, we merely begin again. The Lord understands our human weakness. When we have distractions, we recall God's presence, beg His pardon, and focus our attention again on our conversation with Him. Lots of practice will result in habitual prayer.

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R

SPECIAL LETTERS

Baton Rouge, La.

I prayed so long for a job for my granddaughter and promised publication. My granddaughter now has a wonderful job. Thanks for his intercession.

Franklin, La.

I have been unemployed since 1984. As I am single and live with my mother, I need employment. I filled out a test for the civil service after I saw the ad in the newspaper. On June 26, 1985, I was called to go for an interview. On July 22, 1985, I began work for the police department in the department of records. It just seems like a dream. I know it was through the intercession of Father Seelos on my behalf that I got the job. Thank you Father Seelos.

Baton Rouge, La.

My grandson was told it would be a miracle if he graduated from high school. After many prayers and hours of studying, he was able to graduate. I had prayed to Father Seelos to intercede for him and promised to have this published. Many thanks to Father Seelos.

Patchogue, N. Y.

My brother had surgery of the prostate on May 28th. We prayed the Father Seelos prayer and placed the relic on him during, before and after surgery and thanks to Father Seelos' intercession everything was fine. He recovered very quickly.

Davenport, Iowa

A few days before the 50th anniversary of my priesthood I found that my right eye was impaired and that I could not read the small print. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for me. With all my heart I must thank him. The doctor said you will not go blind but get yourself a strong magnifying glass which will help you to read.

Mail received during the Month of July, 1985

Thanksgivings 218

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Petitions 324

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Other 658

SPECIAL NOTES

1. For a goodly number of years, Father Carl Hoegerl of the Baltimore province of the Redemptorists was the novice master in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. After his term of office he was called to Redemptorist headquarters in Rome to work on a specific project for the entire congregation. He also volunteered to help Father Nicola Ferrante, the postulator-general of the Redemptorists, with some of the work connected with the cause of Father Seelos. With his presence there we feel that work on the cause will go forward. We ask your prayers for his continued good health.
 2. In November we remember especially the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Going to Mass, praying the Rosary, making the Way of the Cross, are some of the devotions we can practice in behalf of those who "have died and gone before us marked with the sign of faith."
 3. November 28 – THANKSGIVING DAY.
We all feel inadequate when it comes to saying thanks to a benefactor. How much more when we try to express our gratitude to God. Jesus, God's Son and our Brother, says thanks for all of us in the holy sacrifice of the Mass – infinite thanks. What a great way to begin a great holiday—to go to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. "It is always right and just, always and everywhere, to give thanks to the Almighty Father through Jesus Christ His Son."
 4. Father Grangell has been sick for over a year now. He was thought to be in very serious condition at the beginning of this year, but somehow he has managed to overcome that condition and enjoys today a relative calm.
 5. November 11 – It used to be called Armistice Day, the day World War I ended. Let us pray for peace throughout the world.
 6. For blessings of your sick with the missionary crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler. 895-6176
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