



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1985

THY WILL, NOT MINE, BE DONE



Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt.

MATTH. XXVI, 39

we pray sincerely and offer our sufferings, disappointments, etc. to the Lord, somehow things will have a way of working out.

With the feast of St. Joseph occurring in this month of March, we wish our director, Father Joseph Elworthy, a happy feast day and ask St. Joseph and Father Seelos to intercede for many blessings for him.

How often do we grumble and complain when things in our every day life do not turn out the way we would like. We grumble about our major health problems and even about our minor aches and pains.

We should work at it and often say to the Lord – thy will, not mine, be done.

During this, the first full month of Lent, why not make this a prime object of our prayers. Acceptance of God's will should be one of the primary aims of our life. It isn't always easy to accept what the Lord sends us, but if

Josie M. Becker

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Virtue: Love of God

Patron: St. James, the Greater, Apostle

Text: You shall love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind

and with all your strength (Mark 12/30)

Love for God, or charity, is the first and greatest commandment. Faith casts its light on the goal of our lives, eternal happiness with God; hope spurs us on to attain that goal, but it is love alone that unites us to God our Father.

St. Alphonsus said that sanctity, or perfection, does not consist in great numbers of prayers, or fastings, or other penances. It consists, he says solely in loving God above all things, or in other words, doing His will. We are all called to be saints, and we will enter heaven only as saints.

In practice loving God means making the choice between Him and whatever opposes His will. This will require sacrifice – a giving up of our own in order follow His. Jesus told us it was better to enter heaven with one eye or one arm than go down into hell with two eyes and two arms.

God first loved us. He brought us into this world. He loved us even when we were sinners. He loved us so much He sent His only-begotten Son to redeem us. He forgives us our sins – His mercy is without limits. All God asks of us in return is to love Him.

Piety, the firm and sincere affection that prompts one to give God the love due Him, was a distinguishing mark of Father Seelos. Father Curley writes in *THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC* that Father Seelos confided to one nun. "I never knew what it is to love anyone but God." Another nun testified, "He told me simply and confidentially how he felt himself drawn to God."

Seelos aimed to dedicate his life to God and the things of God. His dedication was not such that froze affection in the beholden. His was no joyless, bitter holiness. His love for God did not insulate him from other people.

We practice love for God when we raise our minds and hearts in prayer, when we say no to a temptation, when we assist at Mass and when we receive Holy Communion, and when we practice love for our neighbor.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Kenner, La.

"This is to thank Father Seelos for the many favors that have been granted me through his intercession. When I am at my lowest point he is always there to pull me up. May he soon be a saint."

From Long Beach, Cal.

"I was given the prayer and cloth memento of Father Seelos several months ago by a doctor of mine. I have said the prayer daily and asked for help with a throat problem. I have received help. Upon a recent occasion when I was having a lot of difficulty I prayed asking Father Seelos to intercede for me for relief within the next few minutes. I was granted relief. I am writing to tell you of these answers to my prayers."

From New Orleans, La.

"I have a breast problem. I prayed and burned a candle asking Father Seelos to intercede for me that on my examination in July the doctor would tell me that I would not have to have an operation. My favor was granted, I will not need an operation now, but I will have to be checked twice a year. I have fibrotitis mastitis."

From Houma, La.

"I wish to report a favor received through the intercession of Father Seelos recently. My doctor felt sure that I must have an obstruction in the esophagus. After careful X-ray testing it proved to be a difficulty easily treated by medication and diet. Thanks to Father Seelos. His power with God is limitless."

From Harvey, La.

"I would like to publish thanks to Father Seelos in the bulletin for a very special favor granted to me. My little girl was very sick with high fever and problem that arose from this. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for us and she is doing fine."

Dear Friends of Father Seelos:

Please continue to pray for me for my health. I have been ill for nearly two years and asking for the great favor of a cure of my illness.

Josie

During November we received 165 letters of thanksgiving and 277 petitions to place at the tomb of Father Seelos.

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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

March 17 is the feast of St. Patrick. Thank God for the faith.

March 15 is the feast of St. Clement Hofbauer, the first non-Italian to become a Redemptorist, and who is considered as a second founder. St. John Neumann and Father Seelos both came to the Redemptorists because of St. Clement's work in Central Europe.

March 19 is the feast of St. Joseph, the worker, patron of families, protector of the church.

March 25 is the feast of the Annunciation. God became man and Mary became God's Mother and ours.

As we go to press our new addressing system is practically finished and by the time you receive this letter, it should be fully operational. Again we ask that if everything is not correct as to your address on this letter, that you kindly notify us. Should you be receiving more than one copy of the newsletter, we also ask that you notify us so that we can make the necessary changes on our records. Your usual cooperation in this regard will be greatly appreciated by us. Thanks a lot.

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

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