



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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APRIL, 1985

ALLELUIA!



What a beautiful day! Christ is risen!
He is our Redeemer! Happy day for us!

We, at the Center, wish all of you a
happy Easter. May the risen Lord
shower his blessings on you.

Our work goes on at the Center try-
ing to further the cause of Father
Seelos. We receive many encourag-
ing letters from the friends of Father
Seelos. We hope soon that we will
find a miracle in the thanksgiving
we receive. We have to work a little
harder and a little longer to attain
this goal, but we are sure, God will-
ing, we will do so. At least we have
many people praying and pray we

must if we are ever to see Father Seelos canonized. Continue your prayers and devotion to Father Seelos and spread the devotion to as many people as you can.

Let us continue to pray for each other for our special needs and let us remember all of the petitions placed at the tomb of Father Seelos.

Josie M. Becker

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCITY

Virtue: LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR

Patron: St. John, Apostle

Text: This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.
(John 15/12)

If love were a coin or a medal, on one side would be the virtue of love for God, and on the other, love for our neighbor. This is not to say that there are two loves to be considered, nor that to love our neighbor is something separate from love for God. It is to say that the two commandments are really only one. We love God in Himself and we love God in our neighbor.

The text of the virtue for this month indicates clearly how Christian it is to love our neighbor. Jesus says this in MY commandment. He calls love for neighbor the sign of His disciples. "This is how all will know you for my disciples: by your love for one another." (John 13/35)

In His parable of the judgment at the end of time, Jesus identified Himself with the hungry and the thirsty, the naked and the sick and the prisoners, when He told those on His right hand: "As long as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for Me." (Matthew 25/40)

In His short life, Jesus proved His concern, His interest in and His love for us, His brothers and sisters. He taught us in the Our Father to pray for our forgiveness from God our Father in the same measure that we forgive those who sin against us. He gave us the example of forgiveness of others when He prayed for those men who nailed Him roughly to the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23/24)

Moreover, Jesus had said, as though He had His own death in mind: "There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15/13). One commentator has remarked that when Jesus died for us all, we were more His enemies by sin than His friends.

In his life Father Seelos demonstrated his love for others when he left his beautiful homeland to come to the new world, alive with opportunities but hardly an easy and comfortable place to live. Seelos was moved by the spiritual needs of his fellow Germans.

When he was attacked by his own fellow-religious and endured the humiliation of being removed from an office of responsibility, he did not attack his accusers, yet forgave them for whatever wrong they may have done.

Father Seelos was not loath to work for the stricken in a yellow-fever epidemic until he himself caught the disease and died. Somehow or other he tells that coming to New Orleans at that particular time of history was, so to speak, a death warrant, but somehow he decided that it would be, too, a passport to life without end in the Lord.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Arabi, La.

"I promised a written public thanks for the intercession of Father Seelos on behalf of my son's custody hearing of his little daughter. With Almighty God's help and Father Seelos intercession everything turned out well."

From New Orleans, La.

"In March 1984 our son a police officer, was seriously injured in an automobile accident. The results were a cerebral laceration contusion, blood clot, not to mention an open wound. Leon laid in a coma for 14 days without improvement. My aunt called the Father Seelos Center for the blessing with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Within 24 hours after Leon had received the blessing, the blood clot, the size of a grape, was completely gone and all the internal bleeding stopped. The physician was totally surprised by the turn of events. Our son was on a quick road to recovery after the blessing. Our son then contracted hepatitis, so we decided to attend the Father Seelos blessing for ten weeks straight. Now after a full recovery, he has returned to work. Thanks to the intercession of Father Seelos "

From Broaddock, Pa.

"Several months ago my mother became very sick. Although I had read about Father Seelos (my mother gets the newsletter) I hadn't given him much thought, but I said in my mind, please help my mother to recover and I'll write and mention it to the Center. She did recover and I had forgotten about my promise until a few weeks ago. She is up and around and doing very well and I thank Father Seelos for his prayers."

From Lake Charles, La.

"I prayed that my son would be able to stay away from drugs and my favor was granted. Also, my mother was ill and they didn't know what was wrong with her. I prayed asking Father Seelos that the doctors would find out what was wrong and they did. It was a brain tumor and the doctor removed it. She is now all right. These favors were granted through the intercession of Father Seelos."

During the month of December we received 235 letters of thanksgiving and 305 petitions to place at the tomb of Father Seelos.

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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

The first week of April offers us the opportunity to meditate deeply on the sufferings of Jesus on His way to Calvary, His three-hours agony on the cross, His death and burial. The sad climax of the crucifixion ends in the glory of Easter morning and we can be there with our sympathy and love.

On our calendar, April 28 is Vocation Sunday. Every day should be vocation day. At least we can all pray that of the many who are being called by God to a life of dedication to the church, a great number will accept the invitation of God.

LEARN from yesterday – LIVE for today – HOPE for tomorrow

We are all, or seem to be, creatures of habit. I was a bit red-faced when it was called to my attention that in the January newsletter I had referred to an incident in the life of Father Seelos as being 19--. We all know that he lived in the 1800s and this was strictly an error on my part. To make it worse I found I did the same thing in February. Please excuse me. I will try to be more careful in the future. However, should I slip and do the same thing again, please remember that the date should be in the 1800s rather than the 1900s. Sorry about this, however, I did find out how much our bulletin is read and how all of you were on your toes.

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