

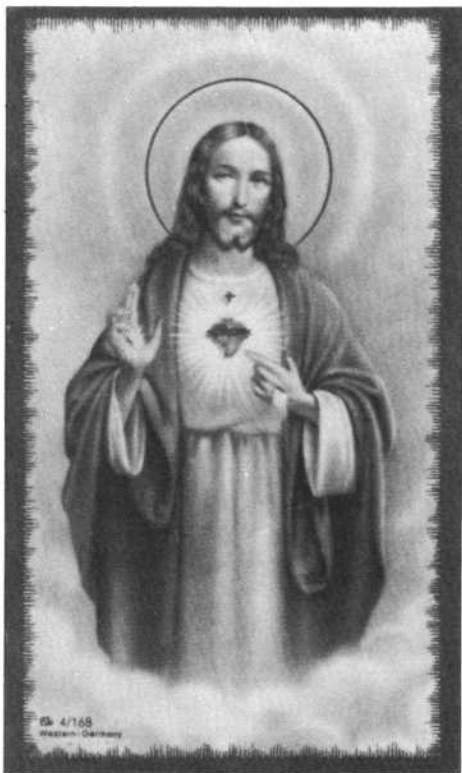


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 6

JUNE, 1985

MY SALVATION



With the month of June being dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I was thinking and looking for something to write about and came upon the following, which I think gives a lot of food for thought and meditation.

The Lord's unending love and mercy still continue,

Fresh as the morning, as sure as the sunrise.

The Lord is all I have and so in him I put my hope.

The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in him,

So it is best for us to wait in patience—to wait for him to save us—

And it is best to learn this patience in our youth.

The Lord is merciful and will not reject us forever.

He may bring us sorrow, but his love for us is sure and strong.

He takes no pleasure in causing us grief or pain.

(Lamentations 3:22-27; 31-33)

Happy Father's Day to all you dads out there. God bless you one and all.. God bless all our readers and devotees of Father Seelos and may your requests be granted you.

Josie M. Becker

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY – JUNE 1985

Virtue: Purity of Heart

Patron: St. James the less, Apostle

Text: Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God (Matt. 5/8)

Purity of body and mind is a virtue enjoined on us by our Catholic faith in accordance with the teaching of Jesus Christ. When the rich young man approached Jesus in the Gospel story, he asked what good He should do to possess eternal life. Jesus answered, ". . . if you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." "Which ones?" he asked. Jesus replied "You shall not kill." "You shall not commit adultery." "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "Honor your father and mother," and "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt. 19/16-20)

Thus Jesus repeated the commandments that God Himself revealed to Moses centuries before. The sixth Commandment forbids all sexual activity outside marriage. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus forbade not only impure actions but internal sins as well, sins of thought and desire. "You have heard the commandment: 'You shall not commit adultery.' What I say to you is: Anyone who looks lustfully at a woman has already committed adultery with her in his thoughts." (Mt 5/27-28)

Temptations against the virtue of purity are common everyday occurrences for many people. It is good to understand that a temptation is not sin; it is an invitation to sin. One can always decline the invitation. I think it was a saint who said that a thousand temptations do not make one sin. St. Alphonsus had comforting words for those who might tend to be scrupulous in handling these temptations. He said if one remembers having prayed during the temptation, one can be certain of not having committed a sin.

When he became a Redemptorist, Father Seelos took the vow of chastity, along with those of obedience and poverty. Not all people are called upon to make the vow of chastity, but all followers of Jesus are called upon to practice the virtue of purity in accordance with their state of life.

It is not any easy matter in these days to practice this virtue. Purity in the midst of the so-called sexual revolution is not made any easier. Purity does not have a good press. It is scorned in public, laughed at in private.

There is one consolation. History moves in cycles. So just as now the emphasis is on freedom of expression, slowly will good people realize how they have been put upon by a vocal minority and begin again to reassert the spiritual values that Jesus, the great teacher, brought to this world.

To keep ourselves free from the allurements to impurity that the world offers on all sides, we must, with God's grace, develop three habits. One is prayer, before, during and after the temptations. The second is flight from the occasion of sin whenever it is within our power and the third one is frequent use of the sacraments of reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From New Orleans, La.

"I have been praying to Father Seelos since 1964. Father Seelos has never let me down. I was told by my doctor that I had a growth on my eye and that it had to be burned off. I prayed the Father Seelos prayer asking his help. The growth is gone. I didn't have to have it burned off.

My sister's girlfriend was told she had a tumor on her bladder. We started to pray for her. She went to the hospital and the doctor told her he could find no tumor. He couldn't believe it. Many thanks to Father Seelos."

"I accidentally fell in the street during repair work on Canal Street and when I got home I realized the diamond had been knocked out of my wedding band. I began to pray to Father Seelos. We returned to the scene an hour later and there was the diamond gleaming in the sun, despite the heavy traffic. It was in the street at the edge of a puddle of rain water. I know it was a material thing, but God knows how much it meant to me."

From Lake Charles, La.

"I had a very severe pain in my leg. The doctor said surgery would be the only thing. I did not want surgery and turned to Father Seelos. The pain is almost gone."

From Church Point, La.

"My husband, son-in-law and their employer had a lawsuit against them for millions of dollars. If these people won the case we could probably have lost everything we owned. They have been appealing this case for about three years and in the last appeal they lost and we are free of responsibility. I had placed my petition in the basket in the church and feel that it was through the intercession that this favor was granted to us."

From Lafayette, La.

"A professional secretary friend was having enormous personal tragedy. I told her of Father Seelos' wonderful intercession and gave her the prayer card and cloth memento. Her life and situation has changed completely and she attributes all to Father Seelos' intercession. After 20 months of separation, following a 25 year marriage, my sister and her husband have been reunited and are miraculously happy."

During the month of February we received 198 letters of thanksgiving and 262 letters of petition..

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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

Liturgical feast days in June

June 3 is the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. Let us begin all our actions, our prayers - - in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

June 9 - feast of Corpus Christi. Jesus did not leave us orphans -- He is with us in the Blessed Sacrament: body, blood, soul and divinity under the form of bread and wine.

June 14 - The Sacred Heart of Jesus. "Behold the Heart which has loved you so much"; Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary Alcoque. He became man for love of us.

June 27 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The original of this world famous picture hangs in the Redemptorist Church of St. Alphonsus in Rome, just a block or so from St. Mary Major, the oldest Marian Shrine in Christendom.

June 29 - feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. The statues of these two great leaders of the Church stand just below the coronation scene on the main altar of St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans.

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