



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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THE FOURTH OF JULY



This is the day of national independence. Many families begin this day of celebration with Mass and Holy Communion before the picnic. Although he was born in Germany, Father Seelos appreciated the freedom that we enjoy in our homeland.

The Statue of Liberty, which seems to welcome all to our shores, is undergoing a facelift and we hope it won't be long before this great landmark is back in its place.

Let us pray that all peoples will soon enjoy the liberty that we Americans take so for granted. God has blessed our country. Let us not forget to thank Him always for these blessings.

Let us thank Him for giving us Father Seelos to intercede for us with Him for the favors we need. Let us be equally vocal in thanking him for these favors which are granted to us.

Meanwhile have a happy fourth. Enjoy yourself whether it be at a picnic, barbecue, or just a meal with the family at home. If you go on the highway, drive safely.

Josie M. Becker

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Virtue: OBIEDENCE

Patron: St. Philip, Apostle

Text: You are My Friends if you do what I what I command you." (John 14/15)

One look at the sky on a cloudless night tells us something of the order that is in the universe. The moon and the stars and planets all move in predictable orbits. Here on earth season follows season, winter comes before spring, summer comes regularly before autumn. Corn seed produces corn, an acorn grows into an oak. Wouldn't we be surprised if they didn't?

When it comes to the human beings that inhabit the earth, things are not so predictable. Even in the physical order, we can act contrary to nature's demands. It is most especially in the moral order, however, that we can act against the natural law and even the explicit commandments of God. In other words, of all God's creation, we alone have the faculty to choose, choose between two goods, two evils, between good and evil. By God's creation, we are free, to do good or to do evil. Only we can refuse to do the will of God.

Our divine Savior came on earth expressly to do God's will. The author of the letter to the Hebrews says, "On coming into the world Jesus said: 'Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings you neither desired nor delighted in'". Then he says: "I have come to do your will." (Heb. 10/5--10) This was the rule of His life in distressing circumstances as well as good. On the night before He died, as He was agonizing in the garden of Gethsemani, He cried out: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. Still, let it be as you would have it, not as I." (Mt. 26/29)

As a religious, Father Seelos vowed obedience to God, His Church, and his religious superiors. His will would be subject to theirs for all his life. I dare say as a general rule he found little difficulty in keeping his vow. On two occasions at least, obedience was a trial. Once when he was removed abruptly from the office of superior, he acquiesced quietly and without fuss. When he was sent to New Orleans, he arrived there during a cholera epidemic. It took courage, resolution and above all obedience to accept this change.

Obedience does not come naturally to us, especially in this land of freedom and in this age of avowed independence. Even in the moral order, St. Paul attests to the spiritual malaise that grips the human spirit, that we do what we should not do and do not do what we should. (Rom. 7/19)

God's will for us is manifest through His Commandments, through the teaching authority of His Church, of which we are part. Before our conscience can safely move us to action, we must refer to God's law, the teaching of the Church and when necessary consult with authorities in the field.

St. Alphonsus said that to do God's will is to love Him and this is what sanctity is all about.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Metairie, La.

"In January, 1983 I underwent surgery for removal of my left kidney. The doctors were amazed that I recuperated with no complications but tests showed that I would have to have work done on my right renal artery as it showed blockage. Since November I prayed night and day and placed a cloth memento on my kidney area, asking that the artery open. In August I was admitted to the hospital for shingles and the doctors became concerned because the tests and scan showed my right kidney had lost function. So in September surgery was performed on the renal artery and the doctors were again amazed that the renal artery opened and was working well. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

From Houston, Texas

"I have been sick for the past two years and went to four doctors, but was feeling worse and worse every day. I was praying the Father Seelos prayer, but not as I should, so I began to pray all the time asking Father Seelos to help. I went to the doctor and after examination he did not give me any medicine. I went to another doctor and he did not give me any medicine. Two weeks ago I stopped taking all medicine, just prayed for help. About one week ago I began to feel better and as of now I am still feeling better. I know Father Seelos interceded for me."

From New Orleans, La.

"I was in need of help and I saw mail my sister had received from the Father Seelos Center. I read it and it said to ask for a favor, even a miracle and I prayed asking Father Seelos to pray for me and I received my favor. I thank God and Father Seelos."

From Houston, Texas

"I prayed to Father Seelos when I was taken off my thyroid pill for one month to take scans for my thyroid count. After I was off several weeks my back muscles and nerves went into spasms which was almost unbearable. All relief I could have was the use of a heating pad which really wasn't much. I prayed hard and one morning the pain was gone and I never had that pain again. I praise the Lord and thank Father Seelos for his intercession."

During the month of March we received 301 letters of petition and 205 letters of thanksgiving.

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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

On the third Sunday of July in Redemptorists churches throughout the world, the feast of the Most Holy Redeemer is celebrated. Join with the Redemptorists in this commemoration of their titular feast.

July 26 is the feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim, the parents of the Blessed Mother Mary, and the grandparents of Jesus.

Slowly plans for the Father Seelos Museum are developing. It will occupy space immediately behind the sacristy of St. Mary's Church. It will house memorabilia of Father Seelos and also the offices of the Center. Keep the project in your prayers.

Two Masses are celebrated in St. Mary's Church each week for the intentions of those who recommend themselves to the intercession of Father Seelos. One of the Masses is said on Sunday afternoon at 4 P.M. From 3:30 to 4 P.M. there is exposition and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament— an opportunity for private prayer and medication. We invite everyone to attend and pray for the canonization of Father Seelos.

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