



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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OUR GOD-MADE-MAN

In this month we witness again the historic moments of the life, death, and resurrection of our Divine Savior: His triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem, His institution of the Holy Eucharist, the center of our faith and worship, His arrest and trial, His bearing the cross to Calvary, and His death thereon while His Mother stood faithfully beneath Him, His burial—and then like a dazzling sunburst, His rising from the dead.

May the risen Lord fill your hearts with peace—and courage to carry on His mission—to the world.

We owe many thanks to Sister Raphael for permission to use the picture of Jesus which she painted. It is taken from a book "His Pain—Like Mine" by Mother Angelica, of the Eternal Word Television Network, Birmingham, Alabama.

LOVE OF GOD

St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorist Congregation dedicated to the preaching apostolate, was also a great moral theologian and director of souls. Perhaps one of his greatest writings was a rather short one called "The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ." In it he tells what perfection consists in and how we can put love for Jesus into the routine of our daily life.

He writes "The whole sanctity and perfection of a soul consist in loving Jesus Christ, and God, our sovereign God and our Redeemer: Whoever loves Me, says Jesus Christ Himself, shall be loved by My eternal Father: 'My Father loves you, because you have loved Me' (John 16/27). Some, says St. Francis de Sales, think perfection means, an austere life, others prayer, others frequenting the Sacraments, others works. But they deceive themselves. Perfection means loving God with our whole heart."

Jesus was once asked by a lawyer, in an attempt to trip Him up, "Teacher, which command of the law is the greatest?" Jesus replied,

"You shall love the Lord your God
with your whole heart,
with your whole soul,
and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and first commandment" (Matt. 22/38)

At first blush these words of Jesus seem to impose on us an impossible task. How can we, mere creatures, love our God the Creator?

First, we must come to know Him. We learn of Him through the marvels of His creation, the sun, the moon, the stars, and the earth. Then from our faith we learn even more of the hidden mysteries of God. He speaks to us through His revelation.

No one has seen God. Yet He so loved the world that He sent His only Son to earth to become a human creature like us in all things save sin, and then to give His life on the cross for our redemption. He became visible in human flesh so that we might more easily get to know Him. No one knows the Father, Jesus tells us, except through Him, His Son (Matt. 11/27). He and the Father are one.

How can we practice the love of God? We can tell Him we love Him. Remember the acronym Father Grangell recommended to all his readers and hearers, MGILY, My God, I love you.

There are many things that happen to us in life that we must put up with, whether we like it or not. St. Paul told us in 1 Corinthians, 13/13: "There is no limit to love's forbearance." For love's sake we can put up with many things. Instead of complaining, we can endure the heat and the cold, the rain, and dark, dismal days. Instead of complaining, we can put up with the pains of stiffened joints, arthritis, rheumatism as an act of love for God. If times are bad and money is scarce, we can think of Jesus who for love of us also suffered these limitations. In a word we can prayerfully accept as a part of our human condition the things that happen to us, things we really cannot change.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Metairie, La.

This letter was promised if my prayers to Father Seelos were heard and I feel that they were. My mother was diagnosed as having colon cancer and had to have surgery very suddenly. We were all afraid that it was too far gone and spread through her body. After praying to Father Seelos, I promised that I would publicly thank him. My prayers were answered as the cancer was contained in one area and no other organs were involved. Even the lymph biopsies were negative. She needs no further treatment and the doctor says she can forget she had cancer. I know that her and my devotion to Father Seelos was the reason for this great favor.

Chicago, Ill.

I promised to write and have this letter published. After praying for Father Seelos' intercession, employment was obtained. My son was hired by a well-known firm and has an interesting job. Will continue my prayers for Father Seelos' canonization if it be the Lord's will. Many thanks for answer to my prayers.

New Orleans, La.

I am writing you about my husband. He was brought to the hospital almost dead. The doctor said only a miracle would save him. The priest came and blessed him with the Father Seelos crucifix and now he is doing just fine. I think he has a good chance of getting completely well. Many thanks to Father Seelos.

New Orleans, La.

Several years ago my mother was to have a craniotomy for an aneurysm. The doctors prepared us for the worst and told us she would almost certainly be paralyzed. A friend gave me information on Fr. Seelos and I prayed several times daily to him. I placed a cloth memento on her hospital gown. I promised to write and tell of this if she lived. She has been back at work for years. She does not have any paralysis. We owe her life to Fr. Seelos. She has had no health problems since. Thanks.

Mail received during November, 1985

Petitions 356, Thanks 169, Other 479, Total 1004

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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 Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. We are pleased to announce that the documentary for television on the life of Father Seelos has been completed, and we are making it available on videocassette for anyone who wishes a copy. Keep in mind it would make a nice gift for a relative or friend. It will be good for showing at parish meetings, small assemblies, catechetical instructions.

We can send you a videocassette of this documentary for \$45.00 (includes dubbing, handling and shipping.) The tape is unconditionally guaranteed. It runs approximately 50 minutes. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery. When ordering, please specify whether you want the VHS or Beta format. Please make checks or money orders payable to:

FATHER SEELOS CENTER
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130

2. For blessings of your sick with the missionary crucifix of Father Seelos please call Miss Addie Buhler. 895-6176

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