

Seelos and Sanctity

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

VOL. VII NO.10 OCTOBER, 1968

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00

FATHER SEELOS, A RECOLLECTED MAN OF GOD

by Father Grangell

The Redemptorist Rule gives to the followers of St. Alphonsus, to men who vowed perfect imitation of Jesus Christ, the virtue of Recollection for their consideration and practice in the month of October. Father Seelos' life was that virtue! The Rule says in three distinct constitutions: "The life of the members of the Congregation of Redemptorists should be one of continual recollection." Again, "Unless the Religious work with a lively faith in God's presence, their senses and natural inclinations will be the moving cause of all that they do." Again, "To attain this spirit of recollection, they should, first of all, be very zealous in the practice of the presence of God and should frequently rouse themselves to make short but fervent ejaculatory prayers."

Father Seelos was a happy, cheerful man, but always recollected. He lived in the presence of God. Just to mention a few little helps he used to keep in touch with God constantly. He tacked a small holy picture on his door and under it he wrote, "My God, I love You." So, opening and closing his door, he was reminded to make acts of love of God. On the inside of his door he had a holy water font and above it a small Crucifix. So, coming and going he would kiss the crucifix, saying: "May I die for the love of Thy love, Who wast so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love." His mission Crucifix, the one we use to bless the sick, was always on his desk. He carried a small Crucifix close to his heart daily. He was thus reminded very often to talk to his Most Holy Redeemer. He had the Blessed Mother's picture on his desk and on the wall of his room. His fingers were always on the beads of his rosary at his side. He was in touch with Mary all day long. His Rule told him to say a Hail Mary when he unfolded his napkin at table. Statues, holy pictures all over his religious house and in the Church were constant reminders to talk to God all day. He made Spiritual Reading daily. He made his two Community meditations, one at the dawn of the new day and the other just before supper. This second meditation was always on the sufferings and death of Our Most Holy Redeemer. He made a private meditation in his room in the early afternoon. He spent the three hours from 12 noon to 3 P.M. mentally at the foot of the Cross. He was most recollected at Holy Mass, hearing Confessions, making visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

He was a Parish Priest and a home missionary, going from city to city preaching the word of God, winning souls for God.

He saw God in every human being. He would do anything for anybody, at any time of the day or night. He would leave his meditation, leave his spiritual exercises — do anything to save a soul. His religious life and his parochial life never clashed.

If Father Seelos were living today and you went to him and said: "Father, my faith is getting weak! I don't love God the way I used to: I don't pray and make sacrifices as in my younger years! What is the reason?" He would say: You have substituted TV for spiritual reading! You give too much time to pleasure and relaxation. You must have reminders of God and His Blessed Mother and the Saints around your house. Try to live in the presence of God by the exercise of ejaculatory prayers. Use the little prayer: "My God, I love You," always. Read good books.

LET'S HAVE SOME OF SEELOS SANCTITY.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are happy to announce a new, definite life of Father Francis X. Seelos, C.S.S.R. The book will be ready for distribution around the first of the year. This new up-to-date and well-documented LIFE OF FATHER SEELOS is by the eminent Redemptorist writer, Father Michael J. Curley, C.S.S.R.

Further information on this new book will be announced later.

NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE-POSTULATOR

Seelos Doubloons are still available. You may call or write the office for these.

Green stamps are no longer needed. We have now obtained the addressing machine for which we were collecting them. A sincere thank you to all of you for your help.

More volunteers are needed each month to help in the preparation for mailing of this newsletter. You may call Mrs. Agnes Bourg at 525-2495 to offer your help.

By the way Mrs. Bourg has been with the Seelos Center for six years now. She has been a great help and we hope she will continue with us for the years to come. Her services as Office Secretary and Office Manager are invaluable.

Every Friday night Father Grangell visits the Hospitals in the New Orleans area to bless the sick. If you have someone you would like him to visit, please call 895-6176.

SEELOS' ANNIVERSARY MASS - OCTOBER 6, 1968

On Sunday, October 6, at 10 A.M. a concelebrated Mass honoring the 101st anniversary of the death of Father Seelos, will be offered in St. Alphonsus Church, near the tomb of Father Seelos.

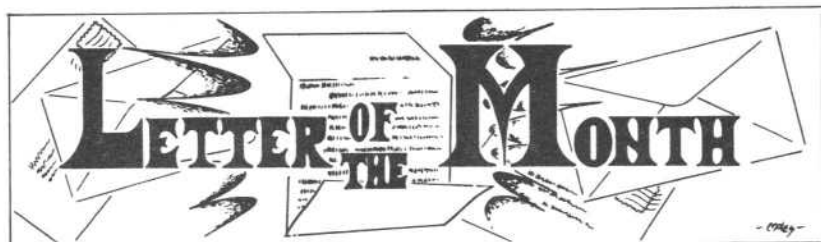
Very Reverend Alphonse Abadie, C.S.S.R., Vice-Provincial of the New Orleans Vice-Province of the Redemptorist Fathers, will be the main concelebrant of the Mass. The sermon will be preached by Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R.

Both Fathers Grangell and Hennessy will be on hand to meet you after the Mass.

We hope you will make a special effort to attend this Mass and to pray for all the intentions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos, as well as for all of your own special intentions.

NOTICE ON THE PICTURE CARD OF FATHER SEELOS HOW HIS FINGERS ARE ON THE BEADS OF HIS ROSARY. KEEP YOUR HANDS ON YOUR BEADS, ESPECIALLY IN OCTOBER, THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

In response to many requests we are resuming the publishing of excerpts from letters of thanks to Father Seelos which are received at the Seelos Center. The last few months we were unable to publish them for lack of space.



This letter should have been written seven years ago. When my oldest son was seven he was in an extremely critical condition, bleeding profusely from the tonsils. No doctor in the city would take out the infected tonsils because my son has what is called "The Von Willerbrand Disease" a very rare blood disease similar to that of hemophilia. No cure has been found as yet. My aunt, a nun, came to the hospital and brought me a cloth memento of Father Seelos. The bleeding stopped within a short period of time. You must understand that this bleeding had been going on for at least three weeks. Since that time I have had no terrible crisis to face with either one of my sons. You see, both of them have this disease. I attribute the saving of my son's life seven years ago to Father Seelos. You would never believe that either boy had a rare blood disease. They are so very healthy looking. Neither child has received a blood transfusion since that time. Before then they were always in and out of the hospital.

I had never heard of Father Seelos before my aunt brought me the relic and I was so beset by grief that the only thing I could say was "Please don't take my little boy" and I feel most sincerely that he heard me."

Thanks To Father Seelos For.....

...the recovery of my three year old daughter after removal of a kidney due to a malignant growth. She recovered within 30 days and is now back to normal.
...letting my teen age daughter see how foolish she was acting before she became involved in serious trouble. She is now a level headed and trustworthy girl.

...for my recovery from a gall bladder operation, which I feared very much. There were no complications and my recovery has been speedy.

...helping me find money which I had lost. As I am a widow on a small income any amount of money lost, no matter how small, would mean a great deal to me.

Published monthly at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.
