



SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME VIII, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER, 1969

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY MASS - - OCTOBER 5th

Plan to attend the 10 A.M. Mass at St. Alphonsus Church, Sunday, October 5. This Mass is being offered in commemoration of the 102nd anniversary of the death of Father Seelos. Special preacher for the Mass will be Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. of Brooklyn, N.Y. He is the author of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the authentic life account of Father Francis X. Seelos, C.S.S.R.

We still hope to have copies of the book that you may purchase after Mass for \$4.95 each. Father Curley has kindly consented to autograph copies and will be happy to meet you.

All other Seelos literature will be available in front of the church before and after the Mass.

Come to the Half-Day of Recollection October 1st in St. Alphonsus Church from 1 P.M. to Holy Mass at 5:30. This is for men and women and teenagers. It is in honor of Father Seelos. From now on we will have a half-day of recollection on the first Wednesday of each month.

Each Friday Father Grangell or a substitute continues to visit hospitals in the New Orleans area to bless the sick with the mission cross used by Father Seelos. If you want a patient to receive this blessing, phone 895-6176. Miss Addie Buhler will make the arrangements. Please call by Thursday night if at all possible.

Don't forget the 5:30 Mass each Wednesday evening in St. Alphonsus Church. All the intentions recommended to Father Seelos' intercession are remembered at this Mass. And you are given a special opportunity to venerate the mission cross he used.

THE MONTHLY VIRTUE SILENCE AND RECOLLECTION

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The months of the year are coming to an end. Just two are left after October and then we begin the Redemptorists' monthly virtues all over again! Take out your Seelos and Sanctity and see what we have had so far. I want you to practice the Love of God as Father Seelos did. It's the Alphonsonian, Redemptoristic way.

October is "Silence and Recollection." The overall Scripture text is: "And having dismissed the crowd, Jesus went up into the mountain alone to pray."

Father Seelos Redemptorist Rule called for much Silence. The reason for that is - - the more silent you are, the more prayerful you are - - you are with God.

Just to give you one rule of Silence that Father Seelos kept: It is called the "Little Silence." It is three hours of Silence and prayer in the immediate afternoon in honor of the three hours Our Most Holy Redeemer was a silent sufferer on the Cross.

Father Seelos was an active parish priest. If he were called to the parlor to give an instruction, or advice - or had to go on a sick call at this time of the Little Silence - he would leave his room or the Chapel and meet the suffering Christ in some soul.

Father Seelos' Rule told him: "The life of the members of the Congregation should be one of continual recollection. To attain this, 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 frequent ejaculatory prayers."

The people of New Orleans have great reverence for the Crucifix that Father Seelos used when preaching missions and retreats. That Crucifix was on his desk all day long! You can imagine how he made it come to life and talked to Our Most Holy Redeemer. He was on Calvary always. When he received his holy habit at the beginning of his religious life, he received a small crucifix which he was to wear always close to his heart. When he received it, he prayed: "May I die for the love of Thy Love, who has been so graciously pleased to die for the love of my love." This prayer became the breath of his soul. He had a small Crucifix at his desk and as he came and went, he whispered the little prayer. That helped him to be recollected, to live in the perpetual presence of God.

He had many pictures in his room, especially of our Blessed Mother and of St. Alphonsus, his spiritual Father, and the Saints. These were reminders for him all day long to be recollected.

He was in and out of the Monastery Chapel, visiting with the Blessed Sacrament, sometimes just long enough to say: "My God, I love You!"

The big rosary at his side kept him in touch with our Blessed Mother always.

THE MONTHLY VIRTUE (Continued)

Yearly he made a ten day retreat and monthly a day's retreat, always checking on his love of God.

He was in the midst of the people as a parish priest. He saw in each one of them a soul infinitely loved by God and redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ. His big ambition was to make all love God. People were attracted to him because he was so priestly in his conduct and speech, in the way he said Holy Mass and heard Confessions and preached the word of God. He was cheerful and happy ever.

So perfectly descriptive of Father Seelos is the title of the new book of his life: "THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC." He was a happy holy man of God.

Everybody should practice the virtues of Silence and Recollection. There is a time to speak and a time to be silent. Read carefully the Life of Our Lord as told in the four Gospels. The first 30 years of His life were spent in Silence and Recollection. The last three years were spent among the people. Then immediately before His public life, He made a long retreat of 40 days and all through the three years' ministry, He spent hours and whole nights in silent prayer.

Re-read the above paragraphs and convince yourself that you can imitate Father Seelos in the simple, ordinary ways to be recollected and to live in the continuous presence of God.

WHO'S WHO

We thought it useful to supply you with the following information concerning the regular "staff" presently connected with advancing the cause of Father Seelos for canonization.

Father William Grangell is the Redemptorist priest appointed as the official representative of the Church locally to head up all activities. He is the delegate of the Postulator in Rome and therefore has the title of Vice-Postulator. As such he is also Editor of SEELOS AND SANCTITY.

Father Raymond Gaydos, C.S.S.R. assists Father Grangell in co-ordinating all activities connected with the Father Seelos Center and our wonderful, dedicated volunteer workers.

Mrs. James (Agnes) Bourg is the full-time secretary and assistant director of the Center. She handles inquiries, mail, the telephone and about 1,000 other duties which daily come up.

Miss Josephine (Josie) Becker holds down a full-time job at one of New Orleans' largest banks and then doubles as financial secretary of the Center and the Associate Editor of this paper. This means she sees that it gets written, printed, addressed and mailed each month. She is ably and tirelessly assisted by Miss Pauline Abadie, a doctor's receptionist.

Miss Addie Buhler, herself a shut-in and private teacher at her home, is the tireless and devoted organizer of the schedule for the priest to visit the

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WHO'S WHO (Continued)

sick in hospitals of the New Orleans area each Friday for the blessing with the mission crucifix used by Father Seelos during his life-time. A good part of her work is contacting volunteer workers who crochet special Father Seelos "relics" for the sick. Her phone is 895-6176.

All correspondence to members of the staff should be addressed to them at: Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. All telephone inquiries should be made there also by calling (504) 525-2495.

In later issues we will feature other volunteers.

SPECIAL LETTER

Three years ago I had the privilege of distributing Father Seelos' literature in Hawaii. While there I suddenly became very ill and was hospitalized, which after five days, many tests, I was discharged by two confused physicians. Three very alarming diagnoses were given. After three weeks of perfect health I returned for a checkup. Another X-ray was imperative according to the physician. While standing before the X-ray I prayed to Father Seelos, talking to him in all earnestness and begging that the picture be clear. I said "Please Father Seelos, it must be clear, Please!"

A call two weeks later from the doctor said the picture was clear and neither of the doctors knew the cause of my illness. One day in the hospital I told my confused doctor that I had a much higher physician than he taking care of me. In all earnestness he said "I wish you would talk to him about me."

You may use this if you wish, however, in sending it I feel that I am saying "Thank you, dear Father Seelos!"

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R, Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Mrs. James Bourg, and Rev. Raymond Gaydos, C.S.S.R, Executive Assistants.