



Seelos *and* Sanctity

REV. JAMES HENNESSY, C.S.S.R.
VICE-POSTULATOR

REV. WILLIAM GRANGELL, C.S.S.R.
EDITOR

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JOSIE M. BECKER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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FATHER SEELOS HAD TRUE LOVE OF GOD

BY FATHER GRANGELL

Last month we saw Father Seelos as a great lover of Jesus Christ. He kept in touch with his God continuously with the little Prayer: 'My God, I love You.' It was always on his lips. He said many vocal prayers - visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Way of the Cross, the Rosary, an ardent preparation and thanksgiving for Holy Mass, spent hours in meditation. We call this 'love of affection' or **affective** love. There is nothing sentimental about it. It is not a matter of emotions and feelings. It's all in the heart and soul and mind and will.

For this to be true, sincere, genuine love of God it must be **effective**, too. That means one must love his neighbor as himself, for the love of God. Study Father Seelos' life. He would leave the quiet of the Chapel, leave the Blessed Sacrament, to be of assistance to anybody.

His zeal was consuming. He would do anything to help save a soul. He gave his life for souls. He died young, taking care of the sick and the dying.

Read St. Paul 1 Cor. 13 - He gave us all the qualities of Charity LOVE and CHARITY are the same virtue. St. Alphonsus wrote a book on this 13th Chapter. He entitled it THE PRACTICE OF THE LOVE OF GOD. That was Father Seelos' life. Father Seelos' charity was sincere. He was always the same. Some people have two standards of charity - they are different at work and at the party and with strangers than at home. It's veneer, sham.

Father Seelos' charity was supernatural. He saw Christ in everybody. We must see Christ in the poor and the old and the sick and the less talented. Otherwise life is impossible, burdens unbearable.

Father Seelos' charity was disinterested. He didn't give to get. He didn't want people praising him. Modern philanthropy is not Christian Charity.

St. Paul says Charity beareth all things. It is patient. We can't change people. We can't get our own way always. Why get angry? Some are glum and morose and sad because they are selfish. The little ditty goes: It's easy enough to be happy when the world goes on like a song; but the man worth while is the man with a smile when everything goes quite wrong. Keep smiling - why not? PEOPLE LOVE YOUR SMILE, NOT YOUR FROWN.

There are many faults against Charity. Some are in speech - gossip, criticizing, detractions (revealing the hidden faults of another), calumny (lying about one), quarrelling. Some faults are in the heart and will - jealousy and envy, rash judgments, suspicions, misinterpretations, condemning on circumstantial evidence.

Enmity and hatred are murder in one's heart.

You can't imagine Father Seelos guilty of any of these faults, can you? Well his sanctity should be yours. Before Lent comes to an end, check on your Fraternal Charity, your brotherly love. If you ask yourself: Do I really love God? The answer to this question is the answer to the other question: DO I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR?

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM FATHER GRANGELL

On Sunday, April 27, I am celebrating my Golden Anniversary of Priesthood. I invite you personally and individually and all your family to come to the 5:30 P.M. Mass in St. Alphonsus Church and celebrate with me.

Come to the Reception at Liguori Auditorium after the Mass.

Congratulations, Father Grangell!!!

Sunday, April 27, will be a special day in heaven and on earth. On this day a great Priest of God gives public Eucharistic Thanks for 50 glorious years of doing God's work on earth.

Father William Grangell has worked hard these 50 years as a Redemptorist Missionary and parish priest. He spent several years in Rome representing our Redemptorist Province. One of Father's big interests throughout his life has been that of encouraging priestly and religious vocations. Only God knows how many religious vocations he inspired by his cheerfulness and sacrificing disposition.

It can be truly said of Father Grangell what the famous Priest-Poet of the Confederacy wrote of another:

*"To the highest heights of love divine
My lowly feet have trod;
I want no fame, no other claim
Than this: A PRIEST OF GOD!"*

These words could be Father's own. For he is all Priest to all men.

These 50 years of apostolic ministry surely grace the annals of heaven in letters of purest gold. His constant sermon is "LOVE OF GOD."

We gladly join his relatives and countless friends in congratulating Father and wishing him every happiness. May God and Mary cherish him and grant him many more years of fruitful service.

*James G. Hennessy, C.S.S.R.
Vice Postulator*



...obtaining two favors for me. I received the job I wanted and my son made good grades in his exams.

...successful surgery for my sister-in-law and for the return to work of a brother who had been ill for several years.

...receiving money at a time when I was in dire need. My prayers were answered immediately.

...helping me with a drinking problem. I haven't touched alcohol in over five years.

Thanks to Father Seelos For (Cont.)

- ...finding a diamond ring which has been lost for some time.
- ...the safe return of a friend of mine from Viet Nam.
- ...giving me courage to have a cyst removed from the corner of my eye.
- ...my son passing his summer college exams.

NOTES FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE POSTULATOR

...Father Grangell will be happy to visit your relatives and friends in hospitals in the New Orleans area. Should you wish someone visited, kindly call 895-6176.

...We continue to remember the intentions recommended to Father Seelos intercession at the 5:30 P.M. Mass on Wednesday. You are also afforded an opportunity at this time to venerate the mission crucifix of Father Seelos.

...If you know of someone who is not receiving SEELOS AND SANCTITY and would like to receive it, kindly send the name and address, including the ZIPCODE to the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.

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A PRAYER TO FATHER SEELOS

For your own intentions, and all the petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos, let us pause and say -

O, MY GOD, I TRULY BELIEVE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH ME, I ADORE YOUR LIMITLESS PERFECTIONS. I THANK YOU FOR THE GRACES AND GIFTS YOU GAVE TO FATHER SEELOS, IF IT IS YOUR HOLY WILL, PLEASE LET HIM BE DECLARED A SAINT OF THE CHURCH SO THAT OTHERS MAY KNOW AND IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE. THROUGH HIS PRAYERS PLEASE GIVE ME THIS FAVOR . .

N.B. These reports of "Thanksgiving" are from the statements of our correspondents. Official judgement of the favors granted can be given only by the proper church authorities.