



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

St. Francis Xavier was the patron saint of Father Seelos. The young Francis Xavier was one of the early disciples of St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. Shortly after joining this burgeoning order, St. Francis went off to the mysterious East to preach the gospel of Christ to the Indians and the Japanese. He had a great desire to evangelize the people of China. Still young, his ambition not quite realized, he died on Sancian Island, in sight of one of the main ports of China.

Like his patron, Father Seelos left home early for foreign parts to bring the ministry of his priesthood to the many European immigrants to the United States. He died, relatively young, in the city of New Orleans as a direct result of ministering to the sick and dying of yellow fever.

*Father Elworthy*

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### MASS - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

We hope you will make every effort to attend the anniversary Mass in honor of Father Seelos. It will be at 10 A.M. in St. Alphonsus Church. The Mass will be concelebrated and a short sermon on the life of Father Seelos will be delivered by Father Grangell.

Come early and place your petitions before the tomb of Father Seelos. You will also have an opportunity to obtain any literature you wish and the book on the life of Father Seelos, *THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC*, will be on sale.

We are anxious to continue to make this annual Mass an outstanding ceremony, especially in attendance. We all have so much to pray for and Father Seelos has been a wonderful intercessor for so many.

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WE WILL HAVE A PERPETUAL NOVENA ON WEDNESDAYS IN HONOR OF FATHER SEELOS IN ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH AT 5:00 P.M. - FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS AT 5:30 P.M. AND THE BLESSING WITH FATHER SEELOS CRUCIFIX.

## FATHER SEELOS WAS A RECOLLECTED MAN

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Father Seelos had a copy of the primitive Redemptorist Rule, which he treasured as a rich possession, which he read often to be impregnated, saturated, with the spirit of his beloved Congregation. The Rule is written along the lines of 12 designated monthly virtues. It is a very short and simple and livable Rule. There are 12 chapters of two sections each. The first section shows how Christ is the model in practicing the respective virtues. The second section is how the Redemptorist must live in imitation of Him.

The virtue for October is Recollection and Silence. St. Alphonsus points out in the Rule how our Most Holy Redeemer spent 30 of His 33 years in this world in silence. Then, how He began His public life with a long retreat of 40 days, how He often in these three years of activity went off alone to pray, and how very often He was silent on occasions, especially when accused of something and in the presence of certain people. So, St. Alphonsus wants his Redemptorists in imitation of Christ to give more time to recollection and silence than to noisy activity so as to be more effective in their missionary work.

Father Seelos used to say that silence was the easiest of all the virtues and is sinned against the most. The Bible has so many beautiful things to say about the tongue and many bad things, too.

Father Seelos looked forward to his annual retreat of ten days and to his monthly day of retreat, to be alone with Christ in the desert.

He read bits of the Gospel daily. He heard Christ speak, revealing Himself to him. He read bits of St. Paul's epistles daily to grow in love for God and the Church, after the heart of this great missionary.

He had all kinds of reminders in his room to keep him recollected. He used a favorite devotion of St. Alphonsus, "The Clock of the Passion." It goes like this: Whenever you look at the clock, you ask yourself: Where was Our Most Holy Redeemer at this particular hour during His judgment, His tortures, His carrying the Cross, on the world's first Holy Thursday night and Good Friday. Our Lord was comparatively silent in His sufferings. Father Seelos, like all holy people, suffered in silence.

He spoke to defend the absent, he was silent when the conversation became condemnatory.

He forgot about silence when he was called to some priestly, parochial or missionary work, no matter at what hour it happened to be. He was an action priest and at the same time a recollected religious.

In imitation of Father Seelos, I would suggest that you try to make an annual retreat; also, a day of recollection every month all by yourself. Don't neglect any duty or any person to do this.

Whenever you are alone, don't be silent - talk to God continuously.

Love to hear God speak - read your New Testament. Maybe you could plan to live the "Clock of the Passion of Our Lord."

The Bible tells us that our Blessed Mother spoke on just four occasions. In all, there's a time to speak and a time to be silent. Keep speaking to Jesus and Mary.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"...I have been praying to Father Seelos for seven years and have been granted every favor I've asked for. I had a very bad heart and the doctors said they didn't think I would make it. But I prayed to Father Seelos and am well and on my feet again.....Two weeks ago my sister discovered a lump in her breast. When she went to the doctor she was told there was an 80% chance that it was malignant and they would have to remove the breast. I prayed to Father Seelos and when she was operated on last Friday they discovered that the lump was benign and it wasn't necessary to remove the breast....Please publish this in your booklet so that others may know of the special favors and also be encouraged to pray to Father Seelos when things seem hopeless."

F. R.

Atlanta, Ga.

"...My husband and I were recently told that our baby girl, who is now four months old, is not developing properly. The doctors think that she has some sort of brain damage, although after exhaustive testing they are still unable to determine the cause of this....Because some of my relatives are devoted to Father Seelos, we have begun praying to him that her condition will improve and that she will begin to develop normally....Five months ago my nephew was in critical condition shortly after his birth. He is now fully recovered, and in robust health; everyone, including his doctors, are convinced that his recovery is near miraculous. So we are convinced of Father Seelos' power with God, and are hoping that through praying to him our own baby will also be helped."

R. S. S.

New Orleans, La.

"...Please publish my petition which was granted so quickly. My son obtained a very good summer job and I have received other favors so quickly. Ask Father Seelos to continue to pray for my petitions."

M. D.

New Orleans, La.

"...I pray to Father Seelos every day and Father Seelos (I should say Saint Seelos) has answered my prayers and less than six months ago I feel he performed a miracle. A cousin of mine was very ill. The doctor said there was no hope for his recovery, that one lung was not of any use to him and the other had a large spot. He was anointed. I sent the family a Seelos prayer and cloth memento. As soon as his wife received same she said prayer and pinned the memento on his chest. That is when the change for the better began. The doctors and family were amazed. He is now home with his family. The x-rays now show nothing wrong with his lungs - no spots, etc. Just has slight emphysema attacks."

J. T. C.

New Orleans, La.

"...I am so thrilled - I haven't had a splint on my finger for a month now. As soon as I got up in the morning I had to place this little wooden splint on my finger. I should have had it on two fingers, but I just could not stand that. The little finger was so stiff it couldn't bend. Please continue to pray for me. Arthritis isn't nice to have. God bless you all - and Father Seelos."

J. G. C.

(SPECIAL LETTERS - CONTINUED)

"...A valuable article was stolen from a member of my family with a one in a million chance for its recovery. The police located the article within three weeks and arrested the criminal."

*C. J. D.*

"...I want to thank you for your prayers. I wrote you a few weeks ago asking that you pray that my husband would be reinstated in his work when the board met on June 13. He received a letter the following Tuesday telling him that he had been reinstated but would be on probation for six months. However, with our continued prayers to Father Seelos I am sure that everything will work out alright."

*Anonymous*

**SPECIAL NOTES**

All blessings with Father Seelos' crucifix are arranged through Miss Addie Buhler. Call her at 895-6176 if you have someone you wish blessed with the crucifix. Father Grangell calls at the local hospitals on Friday evenings. Other blessings will require special arrangements.

During this month of the Holy Rosary, we recite it daily at 5:15 P.M. in St. Alphonsus Church, following by Holy Mass at 5:30 P.M.

**MIRACLES!**

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**MIRACLES!**

When are we going to get the miracle that will be the canonization of Father Seelos ?? Only God Knows. It may be in a hospital when Father Seelos' crucifix is laid on a dying person! It may be during the weekly Wednesday Perpetual Novena in St. Alphonsus Church in honor of Father Seelos at 5 P.M. !!! It may be when you leave your written petition at the tomb of Father Seelos !! Who will be the fortunate person ?? Keep praying, going to daily Holy Mass and Holy Communion if possible. Please, write and tell us in detail of all favors received. Tell everybody about Father Seelos.

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