



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## THE POOR SOULS

No one who saw the packed church at the anniversary Mass for Father Seelos on October 4 will claim that we are all too prone to forget the great men and women who "have preceded us with the sign of faith and now sleep the sleep of peace."

We do not forget those who are happy with God in heaven nor those who are still being purified after death. The document of Vatican II on the Church confirms this: "Very much aware of the bonds linking the whole Mystical Body of Christ, the pilgrim Church from the very first ages of the Christian religion has cultivated with great piety the memory of the dead. Because it is a 'holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' (2 Mach. 12:46) she has also offered prayers for them."

November is the month of the Poor Souls. Let us remember our own dear departed at Mass and in our prayers.

*Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.*

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Every Wednesday Father Grangell conducts a continuous novena devotion honoring Father Seelos. The services begin with the recitation of the rosary about 5 P.M. followed by Holy Mass at 5:30 P.M. After the Mass you may kiss and venerate the mission crucifix of Father Seelos.

The anniversary Mass on October 4 was an inspiration to all who attended. Seven priests concelebrated and Father Grangell gave a short homily on the life of Father Seelos.

## THE MAN OF PRAYER

BY FATHER GRANGELL



I don't know how to pray, nobody ever taught me how, and I guess it is too late now! That's what a man told Father Seelos. The good Father said to him: Did you ever say to anybody, 'I love you,' 'I thank you?' 'I am sorry I offended you.' 'Please do me a favor?' Well, just say that to God all day long, walking, sitting, working, at your pleasure, rising in the morning, retiring at night, always, --and you are praying.

All prayers come under these four heads - Love (adoration), Thanksgiving, Petition (asking for help), Atonement. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered continuously around the world to give God INFINITE LOVE (adoration), INFINITE THANKSGIVING, INFINITE PETITION, INFINITE ATONEMENT. At Mass we pray in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, hence our poor, finite prayers become infinite. Love the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Go daily! That's the number One prayer of the world. Father Seelos used to say he loved his Redemptorist Vocation because of the daily Community Program or Prayer, which is called the Regular Order of the Day. The word regular in this case means 'Religious.'

These exercises were always before the Blessed Sacrament. He loved the Blessed Sacrament. There is morning meditation at rising, particular examination of conscience and prayers for Benefactors at noon, the evening meditation on the infancy of Christ and the Passion in season, then community night prayers.

Though Father Seelos loved prayer, he would always give preference to his priestly work-taking care of souls. He used to say 'leaving God for God.'

He made the Way of the Cross daily. He put a Rule Virtue in the first 12 stations and in the last two, he put his Eucharistic life in the keeping of Mary. He was always a Redemptorist.

He loved the Blessed Mother and said her rosary daily.

His breath of life was: My God, I love You!

My dear reader, you can imitate Father Seelos in everything we have mentioned. Re-read and check and ask.

Keep the Rosary in your hand as you move, as you wait and ask Mary ceaselessly to pray for you.

Some people have nothing to do!!! How about Praying? I get tired praying! Then you don't know how to pray.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Winooski, Vt.

"Father Seelos is getting around Winooski. There are three reports that I have to make in his favor - not to mention the continued help to my husband to hold his job and plugging for him at every turn.

1st - my good neighbor was rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation. I sent a relic of Father Seelos to her by her daughter. The only one I had left - I was wearing it, so I excused it for being second hand. The next morning I received a fresh supply from you and sent her another with a prayer. Immediately her daughters reported that they had found her trouble and put off a gall bladder operation for a few days. In the hospital she received the Sacraments and recovered from her operation with amazing speed which the doctors considered miraculous. She was back with her family and at work again in a matter of a few days.

2nd - my son was riding with other youths on the 4th while his father and other brothers and I were on a trip out of town. I thought about him often during the day and asked Father Seelos to protect him wherever he might be. About the same time I prayed to Father Seelos their car skidded, the brakes failed, and the car turned upside down into a gully. The policeman termed it a miracle that all boys were able to crawl out of the wreck. At the same turn there had been a similar wreck and no survivors. John told me the story when he met me at the door. They had all been to Church to thank God. He was wearing the picture of Father Seelos and attributed their escape to him.

Now the third is still an incomplete story. With the help of Father Seelos and the Grace of God, I may soon be able to tell you that what I have been praying for - for the years of my son's life, who will be 18 this August 15, will come about. At this point I beg your prayers for this son. I had prayed for a child in a novena to St. Anthony of Padua and a Rosary novena to our Lady. My prayers were answered at the end of both novenas. On the birthday of St. Anthony and the feast of the Assumption, my son was born after six years of a childless marriage. Always I hoped he would have a vocation for which I prayed. He said he wanted to be a priest but when it was time for him to attend St. John's in New Orleans he was turned down. Really he was not emotionally or physically prepared. He had just the year before a case of rheumatic fever which left his heart off beat and somewhat weak.

For sheer despair, lest he fails with another outrage of temper he has retired to the cellar, writing now for over three weeks - not speaking at all lest he chances one of the frequent arguments he gets into. Says he is trying to overcome his pride - that we should not worry about him as he is at perfect peace and is in the best of health and spirits. He only asks our prayers and humbly thanks us by paper for any and all we leave for him. Strange enough to others we are not too worried about him. He reads very much and is a know-it-all, and I do believe that he is really thinking instead of talking for the first time in his life. I do not know if he discusses any of his difficulties with his confessor - but I do believe Father Seelos will bring him through to whatever is God's Will. When he was at the library I went into the cellar and found to my surprise the picture of Father Seelos. It was simply beautiful and he had begun to paint it. He has promised on the arrival of a larger picture that I received from you that he would paint one for me. But in the meantime, a Redemptorist Missionary had been in our parish. I mentioned to him of Father Seelos and of you in New Orleans. He took my address and promised to send me the life of Father Seelos. On hearing this, my son refused to start the picture until he received the complete life of Father Seelos which we never did. I know he intends to surprise me - so I have not

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(SPECIAL LETTERS - CONTINUED)

mentioned the picture to him. I feel he is extremely talented as an artist but has never accomplished anything of great significance. If he completes this picture, it will be his first accomplishment and it will have surely been the work of Father Seelos. So please pray he does complete this picture and does find himself as he has long ago lost himself among much dilly dallying and ridiculous philosophies.

Please put my petition for my son at the tomb of Father Seelos. Thank you for bearing with me this far and thank you for your prayers and the Redemptorist and God for giving us Father Seelos."

M. E. C.

**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.

Is your copy of this paper correctly addressed to you? Is your name correctly spelled? Is your address and Zip code correct? If not, clip your name off of the letter and mail it to us with the correction.

Do you have a neighbor or friend whom you would like to introduce to the devotion to Father Seelos? Send in the names and we will be happy to add them to our mailing list.

We endeavor to print as many as possible of the thanksgiving letters which we receive, however, in order to print all of them, it would require a paper much larger than this one. If you have received an outstanding favor through Father Seelos' intercession, write and tell us about it.

Why has Father Grangell shortened his article? It is long enough to give one a few thoughts on the monthly virtue, and short enough to give more space for letters of thanksgiving.

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