

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER GAYDOS LEAVES

We are sorry to tell you that Father Raymond Gaydos will no longer be Executive Assistant at the Father Seelos Center. Effective January 10 Father Gaydos assumed his new duties as Pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Houma, Louisiana. We will miss him very much as he was such a tremendous help to us at the Center, and we wish him God's blessings in his new undertaking.

WELCOME FATHER ELWORTHY!

We wish to welcome Father Joseph Elworthy as new Executive Assistant at the Father Seelos Center. We are glad to have him work with us. His vast experience promises that every effort will be made to promote the cause of our dear Father Seelos. He spent many years in Brazil; later he originated and edited the Redemptorist Missions magazine. He served three terms as pastor in Wichita and San Antonio and was elected as Consultor to Father Abadie, Redemptorist Vice-Provincial.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Our secretary, Mrs. James Bourg, wishes to thank all who prayed for her husband's recovery - he is recuperating very nicely. Say a prayer he stays on his diet and continues to improve.

A JEWISH MAN BOOSTS BLESSED NEUMANN

One of our good friends in Philadelphia has written us that on Sunday, January 11, a Pontifical Mass was celebrated at the Shrine of Blessed John N. Neumann, C.SS.R. to commemorate Bishop John N. Neumann's Feast Day. John Cardinal Krol was celebrant of the Mass and Very Rev. Francis Novak, C.SS.R., Pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan preached the sermon. The celebration was attended by some high government officials.

Bishop Neumann and Father Seelos both served in Philadelphia and our good friend has told us also that there is a beautiful picture window dedicated to Father Seelos in the Upper Church at St. Peters in Philadelphia.

FATHER SEELOS AND THE VIRTUE OF HOPE

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Father Seelos made the Way of the Cross every day of his religious life. As he went from station to station, meditating on the sufferings of Christ in carrying His Cross, he would put his 12 Rule Virtues in the 12 first Stations. He would pause just a little longer at the station that represented the virtue of the current month. The Virtue of Hope is the virtue for the second month of the year so the 2nd Station was the virtue of Hope for him. Father Seelos would meditate on how Christ accepted the Cross. He came into the world to die on the Cross. He waited 33 years for it. It was a very heavy cross to carry. Our Most Holy Redeemer was not in a physical condition to carry it, because of the terrible scourging that tore the flesh of His Body to ribbons and left Him in perpetual pain and because of the cruel Crown of Thorns, which almost blinded Him. But it was His Father's will that He carry it and that He die on it. So our Lord accepted the Cross with the prayer: "Thy will be done!"

Father Seelos was a mature man when God called him to the Redemptorist Priesthood. That was his vocation. He realized he was not worthy to embrace such a life, but he realized his vocation was the Will of God, so he accepted the Cross with all its sufferings. To be a Religious Priest is not an easy life. This vocation calls for multiple sacrifices and privations. It calls for much prayer and penance. Father Seelos realized he could not live this holy life until death by his own personal efforts, so he hoped and trusted in God's help. He prayed. A Man of God is a Man of Prayer, and his continuous prayer is: God Help Me. The simple little Act of Hope was always on Father Seelos' lips and in his heart: Oh, my God, relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope for Thy grace (help), for the pardon of my sins (all the mistakes I make), and for life everlasting, through Jesus Christ Thy Son.

A man of Hope never presumes on the goodness and mercy of God. He does not say, I don't have to pray, I can take care of myself in every emergency! A man of Hope never despairs, nothing depresses or frustrates him. He goes in prayer to God for help.

If Father Seelos ever had a temptation against his vocation, he had recourse to prayer at once. It's easy to give up when the going gets hard! It's hard to stay on the Cross when the world shouts: Come down. Christ stayed on His Cross when the cry went up: Come down! It's human to come down, it's divine to stay with God.

Father Seelos trusted in the Blessed Virgin Mother of God to help him. The big rosary at his side kept him in continuous touch with Mary: Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Father Seelos met with his Redemptorist Confreres for Community night prayers night after night, and put his heart and soul into the "Hail Holy Queen, our life our sweetness and our hope," as the leader in the prayer would announce: "For the grace of Perseverance!"

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans

Reverend Father:

Less than two years ago my wife and I were chagrined to learn that our youngest daughter (then 3 years old) had a tumor on her spine. The reflexes in one leg were gone and she was unable to stand or walk. An operation revealed that the growth was malignant and too enmeshed within the spinal cord to be removed and even after X-ray treatments, the doctors could offer little hope for her recovery.

She began to lose weight and was in constant pain, making it necessary to administer pain-killing drugs. Her bent neck and emaciated figure did little to bolster our sagging spirits. Yet we accepted this as God's will and resigned ourselves to await the end.

During this time my wife was praying constantly and imploring the intercession of Father Seelos.

After a period of 9 months the pain decreased gradually and soon disappeared. The neck which was bent straightened and she regained the lost weight. Soon she began to walk. Today she walks with a limp, but she is walking - happy and rosy cheeked.

The doctors can offer no sound medical explanation for this seemingly miraculous improvement, but we attribute it all to the intercession of Father Seelos and the imnipotence of Almighty God.

May God bless all of you in your work and continue to favor you in your quest to promote the canonization of Father Seelos.

J. W. C.

St. Martinville, La.

Dear Father Grangell:

Last month I wrote to you about A. O., Jr. who had been in a boat accident. At that time he had remained blind. On August 16, during the morning while his cousin was wheeling him in the hospital hall, he started pointing out the different water fountains (four in all) plus a huge clown on the entrance door of the children's waiting room.

About an hour after I pinned the Father Seelos relic on him he seemed to be able to tell us when we had a light on or off, plus able to tell us he could see a red light on the wall in his room. The boy had never been in this hospital in his life, so he knew nothing of this red light on the wall nor the water fountains. It was then his mother and I realized our prayers were being answered. It took several days before his sight got better. The doctors haven't said anything yet but he may have to wear glasses.

The doctors, nurses, nuns, priests - everybody says this was a miracle. He also started therapy for his right arm and leg.

SPECIAL NOTES

Don't forget to order your copy of the CHEERFUL ASCETIC from the Seelos Center. The price is \$4.95 and we are prepared to send your orders immediately.

Father Grangell visits all the Hospitals in the New Orleans area on Friday nights and blesses the sick with Father Seelos' Crucifix. Please call 895-6176 and tell us who your sick are. If you wish Father Grangell to go to the Hospital on another day and he cannot make it, some other Father or Brother will go.

Every Wednesday is Father Seelos Day at St. Alphonsus Church (The 5:30 P.M. Mass is in his honor.) We pray for his canonization and for favors from God through him.

Place your petitions at his grave!

Bring your sick to the Holy Mass. After Mass all are blessed with Father Seelos Crucifix.

On the first Wednesday of every month, we have a Conference at 5 P.M. on the monthly Virtue, followed by Holy Mass at 5:30.

Keep praying for vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life.

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You, good lovers of Father Seelos, who wish to imitate his sanctity, must practice the Virtue of Hope. Check it during the month of February. Make the Way of the Cross daily if possible, and when at the 2nd Station, ask the Good God to help you to persevere in your vocation, to carry your cross faithfully and stay with it until death. You must pray much if you hope and trust in God. With St. Paul say: "BY THE GRACE OF GOD I CAN DO ALL THINGS." YOU MUST KEEP THE BLESSED MOTHER OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE AS YOUR HOPE, YOUR SALVATION.

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