



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME IX, NUMBER 8

AUGUST, 1970

"THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS HELD IN BENEDICTION"

Father Seelos died in New Orleans a little over one hundred years ago. He spent but one year of his life in this city, yet his memory is as fresh today as the day he died. Signs along the main thoroughfare, St. Charles Avenue, indicate the way to his tomb in St. Alphonsus' Church on Constance Street near Josephine. Across the street is the Redemptorist rectory where he died.

Over 27,000 people receive this bulletin which you are now reading. Most of them come from the New Orleans area, as might be expected, but it is surprising to see how many of the states of our own country and even distant foreign countries are represented. Mail comes in each day, to the Father Seelos Center, recounting the favors received through his intercession.

You can help his cause by telling your relatives and friends about this great and good man. Send their names and addresses to the

FATHER SEELOS CENTER
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans, La. 70130

FATHER ELWORTHY

COPIES OF "CHEERFUL ASCETIC" ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SEELOS CENTER. THE PRICE IS \$4.95 PER COPY INCLUDING POSTAGE. WE HAVE SUFFICIENT COPIES ON HAND TO FILL ALL ORDERS. WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE LIFE OF FATHER SEELOS IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY ENDEAVOR TO IMITATE HIS VIRTUES WHICH WERE MANY.

HOW HUMBLE AM I ?

BY FATHER GRANGELL



This is the big question in the Redemptorist system of asceticism in the month of August - the month of HUMILITY.

One day a man asked Father Seelos if he ever felt like that brother of the Prodigal Son in the story our Lord tells in Luke 15/11-32 - always satisfied, no matter what happens, always doing your duty, never a bit of praise, imposed on and then wanting to explode in indignation when you see the sinner preferred to you.

The holy priest told his inquirer that he thought the brother of the Prodigal Son was an example of a man who had a chance to practice the virtue of humility, to be really holy, but wrecked his chance by complaining. He should have swallowed his indignation and not grieved his father by his complaining. Father Seelos suggested that if we were humble, we are happy to see others praised and get the preferences no matter what service they give or refuse to give. He said in every religious Community the Superior must have some one on whom he can depend. His subject must be willing, no rebellion in his heart, no complaining or criticizing, always cheerful, active, not looking for praise, making the impression that everything is coming his way. The humble man must be a spiritual 'yes-man,' working from the exclusive supernatural motive of love of God always. He is generous in his praise of others. He never looks for sympathy when his work piles up and seems to be impossible. He doesn't talk about it. He accepts praise with a grateful smile and continues to smile when found fault with, when falsely accused and unjustly condemned. There is no jealousy, anger, revenge, in his heart. The recent biographer of Father Seelos called him "The Cheerful Ascetic." He could have called him 'another Christ.' OUR Lord said: 'Learn of Me because I am meek and humble of heart.' Matt 11/29. Father Seelos learned.

How does all this apply to the layman!! You hear many say 'I am a martyr,' 'my life is hard,' 'I live with impossible people,' 'I am nobody nobody wants me.' 'I try to be good and holy and observant in my duties to God and Church and I get a cross in return. The sinner, the irreligious man gets all the breaks. Where is the justice of God?' - You are indeed the brother of the Prodigal son! Read the story in St. Luke and get orientated spiritually, humbly. Don't forget the text 'If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.' Mark 8/34.

The Mother of God, the First Lady of all History, the Greatest Woman who ever lived, called herself - 'the Handmaid of the Lord!' HER LIFE WAS HUMBLE SERVICE.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Picayune, Miss.

"...I would like to report that I have received two very marvelous favors through the intercession of Father Seelos. One, my grandson was afflicted for two months with some sort of malady and five doctors could find no reason or remedy. We placed Father Seelos' relic on his mattress and in a few weeks he was restored to health. He has been very weak, had temperature and felt dreadful. Thanks to Father Seelos, he is himself once more and playing basketball again....Two, I was asked to beg Father Seelos intercession for someone whose office was about to close for lack of work. We placed the relic of Father Seelos in the office and all joined in the prayer to him. I begged him to intercede through our Blessed Mother, who never fails. Thanks to God and Father Seelos' prayer, work beyond our expectation has been received in that office...."

Mrs. G. M. B.

Westminster, Ga.

"...I am not a Catholic but a friend gave me a prayer to Father Seelos. I said the prayer and feel that through his intercession my husband received a career position which seemed impossible."

C. F.

Meraux, La.

"...My granddaughter contracted a very serious illness which started as a simple rash and even though she had the best of medical care her doctors did not know what was really the remedy for it, as it is still a mystery as to exactly what type of rash it was or what caused it or its cure. Specialists in all fields of child care were called in. Skin specialists were consulted to no avail. Various remedies were tried to no avail. I asked my daughter to pray with me to Father Seelos and also to pin a relic on the baby's clothes. I began to attend daily Mass and receive communion....On the second day of my daily Mass the baby began to improve and the rash left completely before the week was over.... However, after two weeks the rash returned and again we asked Father Seelos' intercession. The rash disappeared and has not since returned...."

Mrs. S. B.

New Orleans, La.

"...I prayed for six months to Father Seelos to help me in a marital problem. My husband squandered our business and made a financial burden on me and my two sons....Thanks to Father Seelos - - - the business was put into the hands of a receiver and when the case came to trial we won it."

C. A. G.

"...My daughter had to have an operation and I prayed to Father Seelos, promising I would write to tell you if the operation would be successful. Well she is home doing well and everything is alright....I am also praying for my son to overcome a bad habit. Please pray for me."

N. N.

New Orleans, La.

"...Several months ago my grandmother developed fever and a cough and two days later was put in the hospital. By the next day she had developed pneumonia and the next day her condition worsened. We were told she had double pneumonia. She could not move her legs because of hardening of the arteries. The doctor said that if she lived she would never walk again. When I found out,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

(SPECIAL LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

I felt that I had to do something fast. On Thursday morning, I began to pray to Father Seelos and St. Jude. I made a nine hour novena. When my mother came home from the hospital that night, she said she was amazed at my grandmother's improvement. The pneumonia was gone and she could move her legs! Everyone could not understand her rapid recovery....I promised Father Seelos that I would send this letter to be published if he would help me."

SPECIAL NOTES

We have just revised our mailing list and new address plates have been made. We would appreciate it very much if you would advise us of any errors in the spelling of your name, in your address and in the Zipcode number. The time has been too short for us to go over the list and check it, since we have to depend heavily on volunteer help for tasks such as this.

Those who live in the New Orleans area are privileged to have the opportunity to attend the Father Seelos Mass every Wednesday afternoon at 5:30 P.M. At this Mass we pray for all the intentions placed at the tomb of Father Seelos and those recommended to his intercession. Bring your sick with you. After Mass we venerate the Mission Crucifix which was used by Father Seelos during his lifetime and the sick are blessed with it.

Every Friday night Father Grangell or a substitute visits the sick in local hospitals and blesses them with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos. If you have a relative or friend whom you would like blessed you may call 895-6176 and the name of the person you wish visited will be placed on Father Grangell's list.

Father Grangell is very enthusiastic and his hope and prayer is that some day through these blessings God will see fit to perform, through the intercession of Father Seelos, the miracles we need to further the cause of Father Seelos.

You may obtain any literature which you wish for your own use and also for distribution by writing the Father Seelos Center. We ask that you write the Center rather than address your request to an individual as this delays the process of our mailing same to you.

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

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. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.