



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We have all the necessary permissions to restore St. Mary's Assumption Church, a little bit of heaven with its most beautiful sanctuary, where Father Seelos said Mass and preached and heard confessions and where he was buried. We want to make this church the national shrine of our Blessed Mother of the South, a place of pilgrimage. Even as it is today, it is a tourist attraction because of its unusual architecture.

To restore and enhance the church with everything modern and to maintain it will cost \$200,000.00. This is a lot of money, but we have over 27,000 lovers of Father Seelos, who receive the FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY bulletin every month, and if each subscriber gave \$10.00, we would have enough to begin the work in a few days.

We will not begin the work until we have received the \$200,000.00. We have set up a non-profit legal corporation to handle your donation. These donations, you know, are tax-deductible.

If you write a check, please use this title: St. Mary's Assumption Restoration and Preservation Fund, Inc. Please mail your donation in care of: Rev. Reinhard Stump, C.S.S.R., Pastor and Treasurer, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130.

Be sure to put your name and address on your envelope so that we can thank you, or leave your gift at the rectory.

Father William Grangell, C.S.S.R.

A very good gift for your Doctor or Lawyer friend, or Priest or Nun, would be THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. Copies are available at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. The price is \$4.95 per copy.

BEGINNING AT THE BEGINNING PART I

BY FATHER GRANGELL



When one enters a Religious Order, he (she) spends a long time in the novitiate to see the reason for this particular Order being in the Church, its distinctive work and how one can become a Saint in it. I want you who love the "Cheerful Ascetic" to become an honorary member of the Redemptorists, a fellow religious with Father Seelos.

When Father Seelos entered the Order, he was invested in the Redemptorist habit - see his picture. A small Crucifix, which is worn unseen was given to him. Accepting it, he said: 'May I die for the love of Thy love who wast so graciously pleased to die for the love of My love.' He was given the 15 decade Rosary of the Blessed Mother, which he wore at his side always.

He lived a daily Community prayer-life. He rose every morning at the same time, joined the Community one half hour later in the Chapel for meditation. He is to be a perfect imitator of the Most Holy Redeemer, so his meditation book was the four Gospels, to hear Christ speak, to see Christ in action, to learn His virtues. His asceticism is to be the system of the 12 virtues, one for every day of the month. St. Alphonsus laid the foundation of his Order on these 12 monthly virtues. At noon, the young novice met again with the Community for what is called 'the particular examination of conscience' - to check on how he is practicing this particular month's virtue. In the evening there was another Community meditation for a half hour. The subject of this meditation was the suffering and death of our Most Holy Redeemer, except during the Christmas Cycle when it was on the infancy and childhood of the divine Child. Community night prayers ended the day. The night prayers were terminated with the 'Hail Holy Queen' for the grace to persevere in one's vocation. The prayers of St. Alphonsus were recited and memorized by the novices, to imbibe the spirit of the great founder, to be saturated, inundated with it. Prayers from the books of St. Alphonsus were: 'All that I ask and desire is Thy Holy Love' - 'Grant that I may love Thee always, and then do with me as Thou wilt.' To the Blessed Mother: 'Obtain for me a perfect love for Jesus Christ.' As the days pass into months, this fire of the love of God becomes a conflagration.

He was told that the work of the Redemptorists was to preach missions, at home and abroad - to put the big Crucifix (see his picture) in his cincture, and to preach the love and fear of God.

(BEGINNING OF THE BEGINNING - PART I - CONT.)

The work of the day was both mental and menial. He must be obedient to rule and superiors as the Most Holy Redeemer was to His heavenly Father and to creature superiors.

At the end of his novitiate, young Seelos made his vows. The preamble in the formula of profession was to be his whole future life. Kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament he said: 'Burning with the desire of consecrating my life entirely to Thy holy love, I bind myself to serve Thee henceforth with all my strength by imitating the life of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, which is the only way to please Thee, to labor for the salvation of most abandoned souls. (Read that over and over again, and make it your own.)

The order of the day in Father Seelos' whole life was the same as his novitiate. To be sure there were times when he could not be at prayers with the community. He had to leave God for God! He had to get off his knees and be on his feet visiting the sick, administering the Sacraments, always giving the work of the priesthood preference to the community prayer of the religious. But, for Father Seelos, work was prayer.

BEGINNING AT THE BEGINNING
PART II

How are we going to imitate Father Seelos and become honorary Redemptorist Religious?

1. Carry your rosary on your person always -- say it daily.
2. Carry a small crucifix with you always. (You have one at the end of your rosary.) Often say the prayer: 'May I die for the love, etc.'
3. For a few minutes on rising, read a chapter of the Gospels, meditate on the virtues of our Lord, especially the monthly virtue.
4. Go to daily Mass and Holy Communion and make the Way of the Cross.
5. Often say the Profession Prayer of Father Seelos: 'Burning with the desire, etc.' A moment at noon ask yourself: 'What is the monthly virtue? What am I doing about it?'
6. Before retiring at night, spend a few moments examining your conscience, make an act of perfect contrition and say the 'Hail Holy Queen' for perseverance in the love of God and His Church until death.
7. Live according to your vocation. Do all for the love of God and try to make a convert to the Faith.

BEGINNING AT THE BEGINNING PART III

The virtue for the month of January is: FAITH.

The scripture text for January ringing in your ear and singing in your heart is: I am the Light of the world. (John 8/12)

The patron saints for January are St. Peter and St. Paul, giants of the faith.

Christ did not practice the virtue of Faith. Being God He knew all things. He is the object of our Faith. When we read the gospels, we can see how He demanded Faith of His followers, and how he rewarded it. We, with our limited, finite, creature intellects, cannot understand the mysteries of faith. We believe all that God has taught us through the Church. Our prayer, all through January and all through our lives is: Thanks, good God for my FAITH. Please strengthen it and give me the great grace to live by FAITH!

Hail, Holy Queen of Heaven, Mother of God, your Faith was sublime, perfect. Help me to believe firmly and to act accordingly.

For hospital blessings with Father Seelos crucifix call 895-6176 or 525-2495.

Please say an extra prayer for all petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos.

January 11 is Father Seelos birthday.