



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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BLESSED JOHN NEUMANN AND FATHER SEELOS

Recently I was in Philadelphia where I had the opportunity to visit the tomb of Blessed Bishop John Neumann, C.S.S.R. The day I was there I was able to say Mass at his tomb. My thoughts ran something like this.

Bishop Neumann and Father Seelos had much in common. They had lived together for some years in the Redemptorist rectory at Pittsburgh. Bishop Neumann was pastor and Father Seelos was one of the assistants. They both had come from central Europe and had become Redemptorists in America. Neither of them lived to see fifty years. Their lives were short, and long after their deaths they are still very well remembered.

They accomplished so much for people in the proverbial short time. What was their secret? They both led lives of intense prayer, personal and community. This life of prayer did not keep them from contact with people and utter dedication to their service.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. is available at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130 - Price \$4.95.

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos call 895-6176 or 525-2495.

Send your petitions to us in order that they may be included in the Mass offered every Wednesday evening at 5:30 in honor of Father Seelos.

THE VIRTUE FOR MAY - - POVERTY

BY FATHER GRANGELL



The Patron: St. Thomas, the Apostle

The test for daily meditation: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mt. 5/5)

One day a man asked Father Seelos if he could see his room in the Monastery. The holy priest smiled and told his friend he would see very little. Ascetical writers call the rooms of religious 'cells.' Religious are happy, voluntary prisoners of Jesus Christ. They give up all but the necessary things of life - comforts, superfluities, conveniences. Father Seelos' friend asked if Father didn't have a big comfortable chair in which he could relax as he read at night. The saint assured him he had none. He was asked about his meals, he answered they were frugal but sufficient. Clothes? He had no wardrobe, no clothes packed away in trunks and chests of drawers. In fact, he had no chest of drawers, just a few boards that served as a closet with a piece of material in front of it.

Father Seelos always appeared as a neatly dressed priest in his clericals or in his black Redemptorist habit with its spotless white collar. He wore his habit the greater part of the day and he used to say he was as proud of it as any general in the army is proud of his uniform.

Father Seelos lived by permissions. He asked his superior, in all humility and with the simplicity of a child, for everything he needed.

He never complained. He was never disappointed when something was missing. That would have been a failing against poverty.

He was asked why Poverty at all!! He answered that question by recalling what he promised God on the day of his religious profession: 'Burning with the desire of consecrating myself entirely to Thy holy love, I bind myself to serve Thee henceforth with all my strength by imitating the life of Thy Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.' That's it.

He imitated St. Alphonsus in his three great devotions of Crib, Cross, Tabernacle. He saw the poverty of Christ at Bethlehem, in Egypt, in Nazareth. He saw the poverty of the suffering, dying Christ on Calvary. He saw how the King of heaven is satisfied to live in the tabernacles of the altar - - some are gold and bejeweled as in cathedrals, some simple painted wood - some with curtains of silk and satin - some with cheap tinselled linen. Christ never complained. Father Seelos was poor because Christ was poor. Father Seelos took the vow of poverty to be Christ-like. He wished to be perfect.

Father Seelos made the vow of Poverty to practice the virtue of Poverty. The virtue of poverty is detachment from all material things that have a money value. The vow restricts the use and administration of such things according to religious rule.

Father Seelos loved to work with the poor. He saw Christ in them.

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And you, my reader, do not be attached to the material money things of life. They will steal your heart away from the love of God. Read the Book of Job, the story of a rich man who was not attached to his worldly possessions. Be poor in spirit and yours is the kingdom of heaven.

Love the Blessed Mother, the Queen of Heaven, who was so poor with the King of Heaven, on earth.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I had a very bad attack of bursitis in my right shoulder joints. I went to a specialist for over a year for treatment. I could not use my right arm, could not even dress myself without help...I heard about Father Seelos and began praying to him. My shoulder was cured and it is now over a year and the pains have not returned."

YSM

Bourg, La.

"My daughter was in line for lunch at school when five girls and two boys jumped her. She was in shock for two days. She had a head concussion, kicked in the kidneys and had an open knee. She was left almost nude on the school grounds. The doctor said she was in bad condition and not to let her return to school right away. She is very nervous. He said with the head injury she may suffer a lot longer and may be nervous for a while. I started to pray to Father Seelos, as I pray to him every day and have had many prayers answered. My daughter wanted to go to school only one week later. So I just know that without the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos it would not have been possible. My daughter carried a cloth memento of Father Seelos in her purse which she carries to school and anywhere she goes."

C.J.C.

New Orleans, La.

"This is being sent in accordance with a promise to Father Seelos for favor received through his intercession, to be published in Father Seelos & Sanctity. After fifteen years a fused hip started to give me pain and I was greatly concerned that it might be something seriously wrong. I prayed to Father Seelos for a favorable report from the doctor and am glad to state after he made X-rays it was discovered that the pin was coming loose, which he said he could remove under a local anesthetic. I have since undergone the removal and am able to walk very well. The doctor said there should be no ill effects otherwise.... Father Seelos also heard my prayers in behalf of my aged Mother, who was suffering from hemorrhages. After entering the hospital and taking X-ray treatments she has responded very well, for which I am indeed grateful."

A.W.

Metairie, La.

"...This time last year our second daughter was gravely ill. It was then that a friend of mine told my sister about you. My sister then told me of your wonderful miracles and I began to pray to you, Father Seelos....It seemed that our daughter had a milk allergy and at the same time she had developed intestinal flu. She became gravely ill and was hospitalized. She was released in about four days

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only to be hospitalized again three days later in the state of shock. It was then that we realized how gravely ill she was. We came so very very close to losing her, Father Seelos, but it was your intercession with God for us that spared our lovely daughter's life. We had a great doctor, but it was your guiding hand that helped him to do what had to be done....Today our daughter is healthy and fat. You could not believe to see her that she had been so ill. Thank you, Father Seelos, for your help on behalf of my entire family."

Mrs. W. M.

SPECIAL NOTES

Mr. and Mrs. W. McC. started a bank of pennies for Father Seelos. In God's own good time they and their children had saved 1,700 pennies. Now, our Restoration Fund is \$17.00 richer as the result of the McC. sacrifices. All Father Seelos' lovers join the Seelos Center in saying "Thanks" to these good people. Let us all save our pennies for the St. Mary's Restoration fund.

Surely there are some 8th Grade boys and High School students who read Father Seelos and Sanctity, who would like to be priests like Father Seelos! Write to Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130, and we will give you all the information you need to go to a Redemptorist Seminary.

St. Mary's Assumption Church, Father Seelos' Church, is open to visitors on Sundays from 3 to 5 P.M. It looks like paradise lost! but - - - think PARADISE REGAINED!! HELP TO RESTORE IT!!

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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.