



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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STUDIES FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

After spending a full year in the novitiate, Father Seelos made his religious profession of the three vows of Chastity, poverty and obedience on May 16, 1944. His next step was to pursue his studies for the priesthood.

At that time the Redemptorists were only in America some twelve years. Their number was small, and was stretched to the utmost in trying to keep up with the pastoral care of the steady wave of Catholic immigrants from Europe.

Father Alexander, the superior of the Redemptorists at that time, had recruited missionaries from any and all parts of Europe. Many of them, like Seelos, were still studying theology, but all at various levels. It would be another ten years before the Redemptorists could really organize an efficient seminary at Cumberland, Maryland.

Father Seelos made his studies privately at St. James in Baltimore. Whether he had someone older to tutor him, as it were, in theology, we do not know. Of course, we know he was very intelligent. From his later life it was easy to see that he was well versed in the priestly disciplines. Tutor or no, he made sufficient progress in his studies under the experienced eye of an old seminary professor himself, Father Alexander, and was deemed worthy of ordination. This period of his life lasted but eight months.

J. Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. are available at the Father Seelos Center at \$4.95 per copy. This book is interesting reading and will enable you to know more about our beloved Father Seelos.

THE VIRTUE FOR AUGUST: HUMILITY & MEEKNESS OF HEART

BY FATHER GRANGELL



Patron: St. Bartholomew, Apostle.

Father Seelos used to say if one wishes to be humble, if he really means: "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine," (the test for August, Matt 6/29) he must know himself. He must learn to sit quietly before the Blessed Sacrament and think about himself. After a few minutes of sincere, honest thinking, he will admit that the only thing he can call his own is his sins. Everything else comes from God. Right? Why ever be proud?

Next, he studies the life of Christ. He familiarizes himself with the Gospels. Christ was all holy, sinless; yet, he suffered much abuse, ridicule, contempt, jealousy, false accusations, and unjust condemnation. He was suspected, denied, betrayed, called names. He performed so many acts of charity and got no thanks. The people He helped turned against Him and crucified Him.

If you read your Gospels carefully, you will see that He accepted all these humiliations in silence and offered all to His Heavenly Father in satisfaction for our sins. He was humble and meek and gentle of heart and suffered for us.

Father Seelos used to meditate on these things daily, put Himself in the place of Christ and say, if Christ could humiliate Himself and suffer all these things for me, I can do the same for Him. He didn't deserve that kind of treatment. I do.

We want to think we are humble, but we do not want to be humiliated. We complain of the bad treatment we receive. We say we should be treated differently. Remember, humiliations are the proof of our humility.

Once in a while we meet with a little honor and praise and congratulations. How do we accept them! Father Seelos loathed all honors, difinities, praise, preferments. He knew who he was, his deficiencies, his limitations. However, in his humility he accepted them. He was like the Blessed Mother. When the Angel told her that she was chosen to be the Mother of God, the First Lady of the world, the Greatest Woman of History, she accepted by telling the Angel who she was - a servant girl in the household of God, an unknown maiden in an unknown town of the universe. God wanted her for that honor! "Be it done to me according to Thy word!"

So with us, both in humiliations and in praise, let us see God's Holy Will in all - we are humble.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Metairie, La.

"...After waiting four months we finally moved into our own home. I prayed we would be approved by the V.A., which we were. Then I prayed we would save the closing costs, which we did. Thanks for the intercession of Father Seelos.... The most important answer to our prayers was our little girl's improvement in her health. She doesn't need an operation at this time."

L. E.

Metairie, La.

"...Am sending \$5.00 to the restoration fund for St. Mary's church in thanksgiving for successful heart surgery. The operation was very successful after only two weeks, and even the Jewish doctors attending attribute it to the prayers offered for the patient. Please continue to pray for a complete recovery and that the patient can resume normal activities."

Mrs. A.J.S.

Chicago, ILL.

"...A skin ulcer on my left ankle was healed January 7, 1971. I received this wound in a mugging and robbery attempt December 23, 1967, and my ankle is still in the process of healing. While I do not consider this a miracle it is a great favor. I owe much to my doctor's skill and to our Mother of Perpetual Help and to our Lady of Lourdes and to St. Ann and St. Joseph and to all the people who prayed for me at novena devotions. I have been carrying a small picture of Father Seelos for about five months. I found it in the back of St. Michael's Church, Chicago. I have been a parishoner of this parish for 73 years. I have not been an invalid and have been able to get around the last two and a half years and at present."

M. J. T.

"...I would like to keep my promise to publish my thanksgiving to Father Seelos for obtaining a great favor. My son was not allowed to attend college from September to February because of poor grades. When he applied again in February he was told that he could not re-enter. I prayed to Father Seelos and after a visit of an older son to the directors and an appeal to them they agreed to re-admit my younger son. I should like also to thank Father Seelos for interceding for a nephew who had suffered a nervous breakdown. He is very much better."

Anonymous

Morgan City, La.

"On February 11, 1971 our son was seriously injured when struck by a truck. He was brought to Ochsner Foundation Hospital. The doctors there gave us very little hope for his recovery. While we were there we had the honor of having our son blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos. Through his help and the help of our Blessed Mother and the other Saints our son made full recovery and is now back in School. We have spread devotion to Father Seelos and will continue to do so."

T. M.

"...A little over a year ago we thought my mother was dying. I prayed to Father Seelos, that if she could get well enough to be out of terrible pain and could live comfortably and enjoy life that he would help her to live. This is the longest period in many years that she has not been hospitalized and is doing very well for her age. I am most grateful to Father Seelos."

SPECIAL NOTES

We have sent to Rome a report of a possible miracle through the intercession of Father Seelos. Please pray that this will be judged as a miracle through his intercession.

Pray, too, that St. Mary's Church will be restored to its former beauty, so that Father Seelos will be back in its sanctuary when we get the good news from the Eternal City. Thanks to all who are helping in this restoration project. God love and bless you.

It takes a long time for some boys and young men to accept the vocation to the priesthood. Ask them to get in touch with Father Seelos Center. We want to help.

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call 525-2495 or 895-6176. Arrangements will be made.

August 2nd is the feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists. Pray to him to use his influence at the Throne of God, for the canonization of his illustrious son, our friend, Father Seelos.

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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.