



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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WE NEED SAINTS - NOW

Since some of the saints have been dropped from the calendar of the Church and since the number of saints' feastdays has been somewhat curtailed, some people have wrongly concluded that the Church is no longer interested in the saints. Some saints were dropped from the calendar because of historical reasons. The celebration of others has been left to the local churches where they lived and died and are revered. The number of statues in some churches has been reduced so that the altar of sacrifice might be given its proper emphasis and remain in the sight of all as the true center of worship.

All this notwithstanding, the Church in Vatican II makes plain that all the people of God are called to holiness of life, that all of us, as baptized members of the Church are called to union with God. Holiness is our universal vocation, and we fail Christ and His Church in as much as we forget to work toward that goal.

Holiness is one of the signs by which men can recognize the Church, a holiness not only in the means of salvation which it dispenses to men, but a holiness that is present and operative in the lives of the people of God.

One of the many men and women who have lived this life of holiness and thus have shown to the world the true riches of the Church is Father Francis Seelos. He fulfilled the ordinary duties of the life of a priest in an extraordinary way, and the good Lord has blessed his memory. And so do we who try to follow in his footsteps.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

FATHER CURLEY DIES

We have just received word at the Father Seelos Center that Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. died on December 3. You will remember Father Curley as the author of the book on the life of Father Seelos - THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC. Those who have attended the annual Mass commemorating the death of Father Seelos also had the privilege of meeting Father Curley several times when he attended the Mass. We ask that you offer a prayer for the happy repose of the soul of Father Curley. The Seelos program is indebted to Father Curley for the many, many hours he spent researching the life of Father Seelos and his work on the cause will be one of the main factors in its advancement.

You may obtain copies of Father Curley's book by writing the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130 - \$4.95 per copy.

FATHER GRANGELL'S MESSAGE

BY FATHER GRANGELL

THE VIRTUE FOR JANUARY: FAITH

Patrons: St. Peter and St. Paul

Text: Were your Faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this Mulberry Tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you. (Luke 17/6)

Father Seelos was the happiest man in the world. His strong, living Faith made him so. His Faith gave meaning to his life in every detail. He lived in God. He saw God's will in everything.

How about ourselves? Sickness comes. We accept it. We say God Knows best. He wants it that way. It's hard to be sick. It is a cross, but we say to God: Our Father, Who art in Heaven -- Thy Will be done on earth as in Heaven. In our sickness we hold the Rosary in our hands and we keep repeating on our beads "Thy Will be done!" Our Faith keeps us patient. We offer up everything in Christ, with Christ, through Christ and thus we lay up great treasures in Heaven for our eternity. We also console the sick around us, telling them to have Faith -- to see God's Will in all their pains and aches. They are on the Cross with Christ. When Father Seelos lay dying he asked his confreres to sing.

Faith is a big comfort when death visits our family and takes a dear one. We say if God did not want him, he would not have taken him. We shed tears on the occasion of death. That's because we are telling a loved one a last, long Good-bye. But through our tears we see him a new Saint in Heaven, who will pray for us at the Great Throne of God, Our Father.

Father Seelos used to say he considered the Blessed Sacrament God's greatest gift of Faith to him. He loved the Holy Mass. He was an angel at the Altar. He would tell his penitents and preach from the pulpit: Never fear losing your Faith if you love your Holy Mass and Holy Communion and make visits to the Blessed Sacrament. If we have Faith, it is wonderful to go into a Catholic Church at any hour of the day. We feel the Presence of God on the Altar. Faith tells us He is there bodily. We talk familiarly with Him. We talk about everything and everybody. We stay as long as we care to. It is a great joy. It is a bit of Heaven. When we leave, in the spirit of Faith and Love, we put our hearts and our tongues in the sanctuary lamp and we make that little tongue of fire talk for us ceaselessly.

In the spirit of Faith, pray for our Holy Father and for priests and religious. Pray for many conversions to the true Church. Pray for the world which seems to have lost God.

Ask the Blessed Mother, model of perfect Faith, to pray for you that you never lost your Faith, but that your Faith be strengthened day by day.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I am writing this letter, as promised, to express my thanks to Father Seelos for a favor granted. I had been out of work for almost three months. During this time I had been to a dozen employment agencies and gone on many interviews all unsuccessfully. Last Thursday, I asked Father Seelos to help me find the type of job I had been looking for. The following Monday morning the employment agency set up an interview for me. I got the job. Both personnel men who interviewed me were Redemptorist High graduated. Wasn't this a coincidence?"

N. C.

New Orleans, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for a while. Only God knows how terrible I felt. It's really too hard to explain - very nervous night and day. I kept the cloth memento with me and kept praying over and over and kept thinking of Him every minute. Now I must say that I feel much better. I feel I have been helped by the intercession of Father Seelos. God Bless Him over and over because he really gave me wonderful help."

F. G.

Gretna, La.

"This letter is to acknowledge a favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. My mother had been operated on and was found to have cancer. The doctors said that she would probably never leave the hospital. My mother was blessed with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos and I said his prayer every day. Four weeks later my mother was home with us. I am thankful to God and Father Seelos. I have continued my prayers and will start attending the Wednesday evening services to pray for his canonization."

J. C.

Richmond Hill, New York

"I have written many times about the wonderful favors I have received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I wrote about a man who could not have heart surgery, but doors seem to be opening in his way. Please pray for a miracle. I have asked favors for my family and have received them. I have been distributing literature about Father Seelos and others have been receiving help through his intercession."

A. H.

Clearwater, Florida

"My son had oral surgery last month. I had asked Father Seelos to intercede for him and my prayers were answered. There were two factors involved. One on the bone and the other the blood clotting time. We had extensive blood testing done on him, and then when the tissue test came back from the lab it proved negative. My fears and concern were removed. My prayers to God through Father Seelos have been answered once again."

H. K. L.

Chalmette, La.

"I want to acknowledge another wonderful favor I have received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I had a home for sale for over a year and couldn't sell it. It was given to another real estate agent and they had it for sale and couldn't sell it. I went back to the people to give me another chance and they did. I prayed to Father Seelos for his help to sell this property. Thank God and Father Seelos for granting my favor."

C. E. C.

SPECIAL NOTES

All of us at the FATHER SEELOS CENTER wish to extend to all of you our readers our best wishes for a very HAPPY NEW YEAR. May God grant you his choicest blessings.

For blessings with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495 or Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176. The necessary arrangements will be made.

Let's try to finish the restoration of St. Mary's Church in 1973, and return the body of Father Seelos to its sanctuary where it belongs. Please pray for his canonization.

Make some Resolutions for 1973. Father Seelos made a perennial resolution: to strive after greater Perfection in the love and service of God. His system was the asceticism of the "Twelve Monthly Virtues." You should resolve to go to daily Mass and daily Holy Communion - to your Rosary every day and to spread devotion to Father Seelos.

We appreciate the many of you who took time out to send us greetings at Christmas time. We hope yours was happy.

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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.