



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER I

JANUARY, 1974

1974 AND FATHER SEELOS

As we begin the new year, it may be well for us to pause and check our bearings. How far have we come, and where are we headed?

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY is published by the Redemptorists of the vice-province of New Orleans at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, for the purpose of making Father Seelos known not only in the area where his body lies, New Orleans, but throughout the U. S. and even in foreign lands. It is our hope that someday Father Seelos will be declared "Blessed" by the Holy See and ultimately a "Saint."

We pray for this intention, if it be God's will. We pass on to you in the pages of this bulletin the thanksgivings that pour into this office each month, with the hope that others will be moved to seek God's help through the intercession, of His servant, Francis Seelos. In relating to you the stories of cures, naturally we do so in the very human terms in which they are expressed. All statements contained in FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of the Saints.

We ask your prayers that one case, presently under investigation by the proper authorities, receive a favorable judgment.

Amongst the 28,000 subscribers to this bulletin, there are 19 from Ghana, West Africa. They are mostly young men, whether Christians or not we do not know. They read the bulletin and have asked us for Rosaries, Bibles and catechisms. With our limited resources we have tried to comply with their requests. Some of them may have been attracted to the faith through Father Seelos' prayers. We would like to think so. Maybe there is someone, individual or society, who would like to help them.

HAVE A HAPPY AND HOLY NEW YEAR!

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC are available at the Father Seelos Center for \$4.95 per copy. This is the life of Father Seelos by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R.

FATHER SEELOS WAS A MAN OF GREAT FAITH

by Father Grangell

The Virtue for January: Faith

Patron: Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Text: I am the Light of the World. (John 8/12)

Father Seelos was a man of great Faith. He was born of a good Catholic family, where all the members practiced their Catholic religion fervently. His faith advanced robustly with his years. As a young child he wished to be a priest. He cultivated that desire with much prayer, daily Mass, Holy Communion as often as he was allowed to go, by the laws of the Church at that time. As a boy and youth, he made many visits to the Blessed Sacrament. He was not afraid to make the Way of the Cross all by himself. He said his rosary daily.

As a Redemptorist novice he imbibed the asceticism of St. Alphonsus. It was love of God and will of God. His faith told him his religious rule was the will of God. It told him that his superiors were the representatives of God. It told him that the community bell, that called the religious to prayer and other exercises, was the voice of God. When he preached missions, he would say he was sent by God with a message to the people. He wanted to be Christ-like. His whole life was "how did Christ do it?" Nothing offended him because he knew Christ wished it that way. To see him kneeling before the tabernacle and saying Mass, you knew he was a man of faith.

How about our faith? Our Lord said if we had faith as small as the mustard seed we could transplant trees from earth to the ocean, we could move mountains. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. Christ's meaning: if we only had a small amount of real sincere, genuine faith we could work miracles. St. Peter failed to walk on the water of the lake and our Lord reproached him: "Oh, thou of little faith."

Let's pray for genuine faith. Ask the Blessed Mother, who had extraordinary faith, to pray for you.

Please accept my sincerest wishes to you for a very Happy, Holy and Healthy New Year. May 1974 be your best year ever. God bless you and Our Blessed Mother love you.

Father Grangell

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"Many thanks to Father Seelos for interceding for me. The report on my husband's cystoscopy was again excellent. I am so grateful and shall continue to spread devotion to him whenever possible. Please continue to pray for my husband's health; my sister's continued good health, and that a mole on another sister's face can be removed successfully and will not be malignant."

A. T.

New Orleans, La.

"I promised a letter to Father Seelos a while back, and I feel it is about time to fulfill my promise. Up to about 3 1/2 years ago I was living with my parents. I am now 26 years old. My father drank excessively and made our lives almost unbearable. For a long time I prayed to Father Seelos for help. My father stopped drinking for about one year while I was in college. It was unbelievable. He was a different person. Then he slipped back to drinking, but I must say not nearly as much as before. During the past five months he has drunk two days. Truly this must be attributed to Father Seelos' intercession. I owe much to him. Thank you, Father Seelos, from my brother, mother and myself . . . I must also thank Father Seelos for something else. I have finally found a nice Catholic boy who has never married. I love him very much."

J. V. P.

Dallas, Texas

"I have had many favors granted to me through Father Seelos' intercession. One of the favors was when the doctors gave up on my father's life, when he had had a stroke. My brother, who is a doctor also, agreed that our father could not live. Thank God and Father Seelos, he is still with us. Although not entirely well, he was not left with any physical defects. . . . My sixteen year old daughter was told recently by a doctor that he felt a mass in her left side and advised her to see a gynecologist. I prayed to Father Seelos asking him to intercede for us that nothing would be found to be wrong. She received a good report from the examination . . ."

Mrs. W. M.

New Orleans, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for a safe delivery of a normal healthy baby to my granddaughter. The baby was born Thursday night after a long period of labor. He is a normal healthy baby. I also prayed that my son would find work. He has and I hope he can make a success of it. Many thanks to God and to Father Seelos for his prayers."

Mrs. B. R.

New Orleans, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for a favor granted me. My son was accused of copying his term paper. He was called in today for a hearing. I learned of this yesterday. Today, he called me to say he was able to prove the work was his because he found the rough copies in his room. He thought surely he had destroyed them. Thanks to Father Seelos' prayers this matter came to a happy conclusion."

H. B. K.

SPECIAL NOTES

Make a New Year's resolution to make Father Seelos better known among your relatives and friends. Send the Center their names and addresses and we will send our little paper to them.

Volunteer to do a little work at the Center in 1974. Call 525-2405. COME!

You might be interested in knowing that in St. Alphonsus Parish, New Orleans, there is a neighborhood group of men and ladies, known as the Fatima-Seelos Rosary Group. They meet once a week in a different member's home to say the Fatima Novena prayers for the canonization of Father Seelos. They take up a collection of nickels and dimes. When they collect \$50.00 they write two checks of \$25.00 each, one for the Father Seelos Center and the other for Holy Redeemer College at Lacombe, La. Why don't you gather a few pious people in your neighborhood and do the same thing. Write to the Seelos Center and we will send you the novena prayers. God love you for your cooperation in the cause of Father Seelos.

For blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

For literature and all other information, etc., regarding the cause of Father Seelos, please call Mrs. Agnes Bourg at the Father Seelos Center, 525-2495.

January 11 is Father Seelos birthday. Please remember to say an extra prayer on that date so that his cause will progress speedily.

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