



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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THE POOR SOULS

Not only are we united by the bonds of blood and grace to the saints in heaven, but also to the souls who are being purified after death. As the people of God on earth, we salute our relatives and friends and neighbors who have gone before us into eternity and we pray for them, as our faith teaches us, that "they may be loosed from their sins."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



A reminder of the Poor Souls. The crypt of St. Mang's Church, where Father Seelos was baptized.

FATHER SEELOS LIVED A LIFE OF PRAYER

by Father Grangell

Virtue for November: Prayer

Patron Saint: St. Jude, the Apostle

Text: We must pray always and never cease. (Lk. 18/1)

I. Father Seelos and his religious community met before the Blessed Sacrament every evening for their last prayer exercise of the day. It is called Night Prayers. The long prayer begins with the invitation: Let us thank God for having called us to this holy institute. Then there is a short pause for each Father and Brother to express his personal gratitude to God.

Father Seelos loved his Redemptorist vocation because it gave him a daily program of community prayer. There was nothing optional about it. The Community met four times in the day to pray as a body. Father Seelos figured he could become a great lover of God, a saint, if he lived that regular life of prayer.

St. Alphonsus preached to the people a simple system for practicing the love of God. It consisted of four points: 1) Want it, desire it. 2) Get everything against the perfect love of God out of your life. 3) Make three meditations every day. 4) As you meditate, become very affectionate with God, tell Him ceaselessly: "My God, I love You." Then take that little prayer into the hours of the working day. St. Alphonsus made that system the life of the Redemptorist. (1) On Profession Day the Redemptorist says: Burning with the *desire of consecrating myself entirely to Thy Holy Love, I bind myself, etc.,* (2) Entirely, (3) There is a community meditation in the morning and one in the evening, and a private meditation in the afternoon. For Father Seelos, his home was a house of prayer. Without these prayer periods, he would have lived in a noisy, dissipated "bed and board" house. He would never have become a saint.

Father Seelos was absent from these exercises of prayer when parochial duties and Apostolic work called him elsewhere, leaving God for God. Sometimes he was alone at these exercises, the Community was engaged with demanding priestly duties.

II. What do you learn from this? Be a person of prayer. Use St. Alphonsus' system to become a great lover of God. (1) Tell God you want to love Him. (2) Get all habits and practices of sin out of your life. (3) Read a few texts of Holy Scripture morning, noon and night—plan it. (4) Whisper ceaselessly, "My God, I love You." Go to daily Mass and Holy Communion, make the Way of the Cross. Have a daily prayer-program and persevere in it. Don't forget! Don't quit!

Keep the Blessed Mother in all your prayers. Father Seelos and his community recited the Litany of our Blessed Lady twice a day. They ended their daily community prayer program with the "Hail Holy Queen" for the grace to persevere in their vocation until death. Be holy!

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"I have a picture and prayer to Father Seelos, dated 4/28/67, which the late Father Babin touched to Father Seelos' remains when they were being moved from the crypt in St. Mary's Church to St. Alphonsus' Church. On September 7, when hurricane Carmen was due to strike New Orleans, I took this picture during the crucial part of the storm and affixed it to the inside of our front door, said the prayer frequently and promised to write a letter to you and have a Mass said. Immediately after I returned to our living room I heard announced on the TV that 'Hurricane Carmen has moved slightly westward.' My prayers were for the hurricane to take a different direction from that of the City and also to protect our home and members of my family. I am fully convinced and so are a number of my friends to whom I related this and who were likewise praying to Father Seelos to intercede for us that it had to be his prayers which saved us."

A. M.

Reserve, La.

"Almighty God has answered our prayers by bringing Mother home to us once again. She is not completely well as she is still very weak, but I feel with constant prayer she will soon be back on her feet again. I am asking you to please pray that strength will soon come back to her. She reads the little Father Seelos prayer daily. She really wants to walk again and do the things she always loved to do. Please pray for her daily. Ask God to please let her regain her strength soon. We feel it is only through prayers she is with us today and we thank God for it every day."

J. B.

Vacherie, La.

"Enclosed is a donation for which please offer a mass for me in thanksgiving that my daughter passed the state board of nursing exam. Also for Father Seelos intercession in finding her purse which was stolen at work and later found with her car keys, etc., inside."

Mrs. R. H.

Detroit, Michigan

"I promised publication if my request was granted. I was in poor health and asked Father Seelos to intercede that all tests and X-rays would be negative as I was frightened of surgery. Thanks to Father Seelos. I have been examined and the doctor says I am in good health."

Mrs. G.

Brownsville, Texas

"Enclosed you will find a stipend for a Mass. I wish to report a favor received through Father Seelos' intercession. I sprained my foot and was in some pain but what really worried me was that I would not be able to walk to make my monthly payment and get in trouble. I promised if I would be well enough to walk I would have a Mass of thanksgiving."

Mrs. R. F. R.

SPECIAL NOTES

November is the month of the Poor Souls. Pray for your dead. When some friend dies put him in the St. Joseph Mass League. Write to the Center for details.

A great quality of prayer is perseverance — continue, stay with it, don't forget, don't quit, don't give up. Promise to make the Tuesday Novena in honor of our Mother of Perpetual Help til you die — don't quit along the years. We have services in St. Alphonsus Church at 6:30 A.M., 7:45 A.M., 10:30 A.M. and 5:30 P.M. and at Perpetual Help Chapel at Third and Prytania Streets at 7:00 A.M.

Go to Holy Communion on the First Friday as long as you are able to go to Church — don't quit, don't lose interest — go!

November 28, Thanksgiving Day! Go to Mass and Holy Communion and thank God you are an American! Ask God to bless our Great Country!

A little bit of everything. You belong to the Father Seelos Guild if you pray for his canonization and get others to do the same. Be sure we have your correct address. A man in Canada sent us 139 names and addresses for "Father Seelos and Sanctity." Send us four names and addresses or more.

For the blessing with Father Seelos' Crucifix, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

For literature and all other matters regarding the cause of Father Seelos, please call Miss Regina Beck at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, 525-2495.

If you have a few spare hours each month, please call the Center and volunteer your services. We can use you.

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