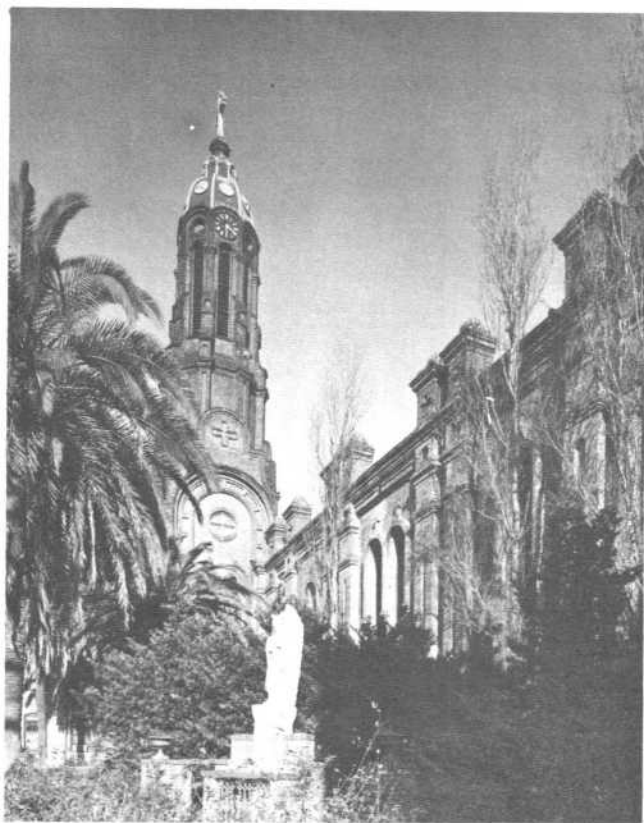




FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1974



On the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets in New Orleans stands this monument to the faith of the people who built it over a century ago. They themselves carried the bricks from the river (over ten blocks away) — the men, on their shoulders and in wheelbarrows, the women, in their aprons. For the last year of his life this was the scene of Father Seelos' apostolic labors. For one hundred years his body lay at rest beneath the sanctuary floor. And now, after the ravages of Hurricane Betsy in 1965, it is being restored to use. It is the finest example of German Baroque architecture in the United States.

Merry Christmas To You!

by Father Grangell

My Dear Friend and Friend of Father Seelos:

Christmas is the time of giving. I want to give you your best gift, something priceless, of infinite value. I will remember you and your dear ones in my three Christmas Masses, and in my New Year's Mass, that God will bless 1975 in a big way for you and yours, and in all my daily Masses of the New Year. That should make your Christmas very merry and holy.

The Babe of Bethlehem gave the world its first and best Christmas Gift. He gave Himself to be our Redeemer, to save our souls for a happy Eternity.

As you kneel at the crib, your prayer should be: My God, I love You! Thanks for the great work of my eternal redemption.

Spread some of your pretty Christmas cards of the Crib all over your home and where you work, to remind you to say that little prayer all day long.

The virtue for the month of December is self-denial and Love of the Cross. The text is a challenge: "If any one will come after Me, let him take up the Cross and follow me." (Matt. 16/24). The Patron is the Apostle St. Matthias.

Father Seelos' life and all our lives are made up of dozens of daily opportunities to deny ourselves. Make them acts of love of God — not so many complaints.

Everybody has a cross in his life, something he does not want, something he prays to be relieved of. He prays as our Lord prayed in the Garden of Gethsemani: Let this Chalice pass from me. Your cross could be an incurable sickness, a malignancy, family trouble, a crushing humiliation — you name it! If like Christ you accept the cross and say to God: Not my will but Thine be done, you are a saint.

If you have good Faith, a cross will bring you closer to God. I remember one Christmas afternoon, dropping in Church to make a visit at the Crib. Churches are usually empty on Christmas afternoon. On this occasion there was a solitary figure, a young woman kneeling close to the Tabernacle. She was weeping. Her young husband, the father of two small children, was dying of tuberculosis. She was praying for resignation to God's Holy Will. Her cross brought her to the Blessed Sacrament. Her faith was her only Christmas joy. Father Seelos asked his confreres to sing as he lay dying. He was happily making his last act of the virtue of love of the Cross.

May the Blessed Mother and the Babe of Bethlehem bless you at Christmas time and always.

Pray for me.

Father Grangell, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Carencro, La.

"Enclosed find offering for favor granted. I shall keep to my promise and let you know how successful our prayers to Father Seelos were. Our son-in-law had to have a very serious operation for a case of bleeding of the pancreas, which is usually fatal. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession and special thanks to our dear friends for their prayers. Please publish this letter."

D. M.

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish this letter of thanks for many favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I want to thank him for my grandson getting a job and also for all past favors received."

W. P. V.

New Orleans, La.

"Thanks for a favor granted through Father Seelos' intercession. The doctor told me that my nine year old twin boy had bone cancer. I pinned the Father Seelos cloth memento on him during surgery and thank God it turned out all right."

A. Y.

New Orleans, La.

"I prayed for five years or more for this favor. My nephew who was working in New Orleans and was seeing his wife and six children only on weekends, was finally transferred to his hometown. It was only through the intercession of Father Seelos that this favor was granted. Please publish this letter."

L. O.

New Orleans, La.

"My husband had three operations last year and was very sick. I prayed asking Father Seelos to intercede for his recovery. He has been back at work six months and doing very well. I will always be grateful to Father Seelos."

H. C.

Houston, Texas

"I had a car accident in which a lady hit my car from the back left side. It turned my car around facing traffic and turned over. I am very thankful that no one was hurt. My car was almost totally demolished. I believe what saved me was Father Seelos' prayers. I had a cloth memento of Father Seelos in the car and a decoupage of Jesus also in the car. My thanks and love to Father Seelos."

S. H.

SPECIAL NOTES

St. Mary's Restoration

The good news this Christmas is that at the end of March, 1975, St. Mary's is scheduled to have its grand reopening. The repairs made necessary by Hurricane Betsy are now in progress.

The entire cost of the restoration is \$700,000.00. A very generous person has loaned \$400,000.00 without interest, besides donating \$40,000.00 for the repair of the stained-glass windows. Sufficient funds have been donated by lovers of Father Seelos and admirers of the architectural beauty of St. Mary's to meet the cost of the restoration with the help of the loan, except for the final payment of \$70,000.00.

You good readers of FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY have helped generously in the past. You can still help now. Donations of any amount will be appreciated.

Give THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the life of Father Seelos, to some dear one as a Christmas present. Call the Center 525-2495.

Call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176, to have the sick blessed with Father Seelos' Crucifix. Write to the Center for literature about Father Seelos.

We are having a Solemn Novena in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for December 8 in St. Alphonsus Church, New Orleans, beginning on November 29 at 10:30 A.M. with a concelebrated Mass. Bring someone with you. Park your car in our two school yards. Father Grangell will preach the sermons. If you can't come, send us your petitions, 2030 Constance Street.

Merry Christmas from the Fathers and workers at the Center. God love you.

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Subscription \$1.00 per year.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Executive Assistants.