



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER SEELOS' SECRET

A question that often comes to people's mind is, "Why is Father Seelos so well remembered even a hundred and more years after his death?" "What drew people to him in his lifetime?" Was it because he was a famous orator or a brilliant scholar or an irresistible personality?

His was not a long life, as we gauge years today. He lived to see his forty-eighth year. He was a good speaker in three languages, German, English, French, but a great orator I doubt. He spoke from his heart and his earnestness made a deep impression on his hearers.

In his 24 years as a priest he held many posts of responsibility. Teaching seminarians was one of them. He was a good professor—he had a clear mind and his preaching had given him a fluency in expressing his thoughts. He just did not have the time and leisure to delve into studies that mark the true scholar.

As to his personality, he was kind and gentle. However, he was no pushover—he knew how to be firm when the occasion demanded. Children loved his simplicity, and their elders were drawn to him by his genuine sympathy. There is no one deed that he performed that would have made him famous. He did the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.

His secret was he radiated God's goodness to men. Rather than attract people to himself, he brought men to God by the virtues of his life. What Rene Latourelle says about sanctity and the necessity of witness fits Father Seelos. "The child of God disclaims being the center of the world. God's love is in his heart, and this is his gift to men. . . . One can see how the sight of this new type of human nature, this new life consecrated through the love of God and men to the point of being in a perfect state of oblation, constitutes an extraordinary paradox, which excites astonishment at the same time it exerts over men in whom the same Spirit in travail, a secret and irresistible attraction."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

Copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R., are available. The price is \$4.95. You may order them from the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.

FATHER SEELOS WAS A MAN OF STRONG HOPE

by Father Grangell

The Virtue for February: HOPE

Patron: St. Andrew, the Apostle

Text: "Because he hope in me, I will deliver him, I will protect him because he hath known my name." Psalms 90/14

Father Seelos used to say that the act of hope, which we learn as children, is the most consoling and encouraging prayer for people who worry about past sins, about saving their souls and their health. It's most beautiful. We begin by reminding God that He is infinitely good and that He has made promises which He must keep. Remember God is infinitely good, no limits, no bounds, no deception, unlike human beings who are limited in their goodness. If you know a person who is good and kind and forgiving, he can't compare with the infinitely good God. He has made all kinds of promises. "Ask and you shall receive" — "Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name He will give it to you." Read your New Testament for many such texts. So we say: "Oh my God, relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope for the pardon of my sins, for Thy grace and for everlasting life, through the merits of Jesus Christ." Sinners should be consoled, heartened, saying this prayer. We pray for His grace. That means help for the sick, when we are in trouble, for success at work, happiness at home, anything. Above all, we ask for heaven; eternal life. We can't fail in life if we say this short prayer daily. That's how Father Seelos used to talk to people. He is talking to you now.

BLESSED MOTHER BE MY HOPE AND MY SALVATION.

FATHER SEELOS PRAY FOR US.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"May I please say thank you again for the very wonderful help and favors I have received since I have been praying for Father Seelos intercession. Would you please say a special prayer for my husband as he will soon need eye surgery."

C. C.

Houma, La.

"I wish to tell you of a favor granted. My doctor told me I needed surgery to have a lump removed from my breast. I was beside myself with fear. I said the prayer on the Father Seelos prayercard constantly that it would be non-malignant. The operation was a complete success, no malignancy. It's six weeks now and I am feeling fine. I want to thank Father Seelos for his intercession with God for granting me this favor. I shall always remember Father Seelos. I have visited his tomb in New Orleans and was deeply impressed by my visit. It is a beautiful church and a peaceful place."

B. B.

St. Francisville, La.

"I was very upset one night with fear and was afraid I would have to go to the hospital. I asked Father Seelos' intercession and soon my mind was calm and I went to sleep. I have been helped many times by him and am sure he has helped me to keep my sanity."

R. M.

Corpus Christi, Texas

"I prayed that my daughter would not have skin cancer and thanks to Father Seelos' intercession my prayers were answered."

M. D. M.

New Orleans, La.

"My nephew was in a tumbling accident at school eight years ago. Immediately he became paralyzed and the doctors and neurosurgeon said there was no hope. His spinal cord was severed and he is paralyzed from the neck down. There is no hope except for a miracle. I must admit that we have not asked Father Seelos to pray for us as the nuns told us to pray, however, I do want to pray to Father Seelos to intercede for us for a miracle. After eight years we have given up hope."

B. G.

Calgary, Alberta

"This letter should have been sent out sooner, but with my working and my husband having another attack and spending almost four weeks in the hospital, I kept very busy. I couldn't catch up with my writing until my husband was recovered and home. Many thanks to Father Seelos' intercession for helping my husband recover. He is home, but very weak. Now I have to quit my job and look after him. He had a heart attack and has had trouble for nine years."

S. K.

SPECIAL NOTES

February 2 is the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mother. Candles are blessed on this day. Always keep two blessed candles in your home.

February 3 is St. Blase Day. See to it that all the members of your home have their throats blessed.

We want Father Seelos to be known by everybody. Send us many names and addresses. We will contact them.

Thanks for helping to restore St. Mary's Church, Father Seelos' Church.

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

For literature about Father Seelos and any other matters pertaining to the cause, write to Mrs. Agnes Bourg, at the Father Seelos Center. She will see that your orders are filled promptly and handle any other matters for you.

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