



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

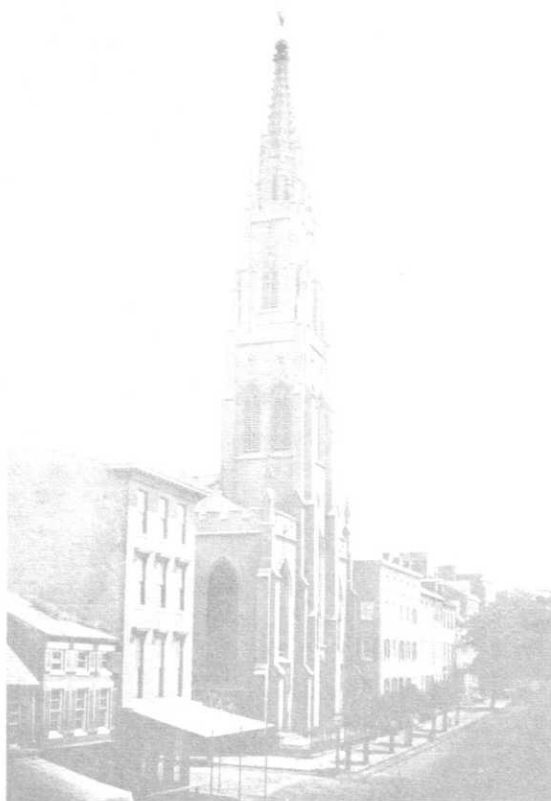
VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1975

## THE SAINTS BRING US CLOSER TO CHRIST

The example of the Saints prompts us to pattern our lives after them. We get close to our fellow-man and to Christ through the practice of Charity, giving food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, clothing to the naked. Even more so our imitation of the Saints in their practice of virtue brings us closer to them and to Christ, Who is the source of the Christian life both in heaven and on earth.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



*This is St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore, Maryland, where Father Seelos was pastor from 1854 to 1857. It was while he was pastor of this same church that Bishop John Neumann, C.S.S.R., was named bishop of Philadelphia.*

# FATHER SEELOS WAS ATTACHED TO GOD ALONE

by Father Grangell

Virtue for May: Poverty

Patron: St. Thomas, the Apostle

Text: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

(Matt. 5/3)

Father Seelos had two great devotions in his life — the Crib and the Crucifix. He not only had the Babe of Bethlehem and his suffering Redeemer always in his mind, he had pictures and images of them all around him as helps to keeping recollected. I presume there are more pictures of the Divine Infant and Christ on the Cross than of anything else in the Christian world. Think of the countless millions of Christmas cards and of Crosses and Crucifixes everywhere! Father Seelos studied and learned the lesson of Poverty from them. He learned from them that our Lord was an enemy of riches and worldly splendor and creature comforts. He heard Christ teach that one cannot serve God and mammon. He heard Christ say to him: If you wish to be perfect, sell what you have, give it to the poor and come, follow Me. (Matt. 19/16-22). He wished to be perfect, so he joined the Redemptorist Religious and made the vow of Poverty. He owned nothing, he used only the necessary things of life, had absolutely no superfluities. He lived by permission from his superiors. He was uncomplaining and always satisfied. He was attached to no material things. God was his only possession.

Riches are not wrong or sinful in themselves. Kings and Queens have been canonized by the Church as holy people. They practiced the virtue of Poverty. They were not attached to their enormous wealth. They did not allow their material riches to come before God and their religion. They prayed much.

Everybody must be detached from all that money can buy. He must be attached to God alone. Acquire and accumulate all the riches you can, but keep God and His Church and the Sacraments in first place. Be willing to lose everything rather than lose your Faith. That's the virtue of Poverty. **YOU ARE POOR IN SPIRIT.**

I think a man is sinfully rich who never says "Give us this day our daily bread", and who never says: "Thanks God, for all I have." Be generous and charitable to the poor and needy. We see so many pictures of starving people! Thank God we have something to eat. Share it. Perform your charity through the Church — St. Vincent de Paul Society, the St. Anthony Poor Box, for Foreign Missions. The Blessed Mother was poor. You can't imagine her complaining and being dissatisfied! When things go wrong, talk to her about it.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Marion, Texas

"Please publish this letter of thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession for all favors received. Many thanks."

A. P.

Moreauville, La.

"I promised publication for the following favor — my daughter had to undergo surgery and I prayed for success of the operation and I feel through the intercession of Father Seelos my prayers were answered."

L. O. B.

Clearwater, Fla.

"Once again I say thanks to God for such a wonderful person as Father Seelos. My prayers through his intercession have always been answered. I have faith in prayer. I am hoping that Father Seelos will soon be canonized and devotion to him spreads. Please publish in your monthly newsletter."

E. L.

Jeanerette, La.

"Thanks for favor granted. My sister had a mole on her leg which bled and gave her pain. The doctor thought it was malignant. I asked Father Seelos' prayers and after removal it was found to be benign. I have received many favors through the intercession of Father Seelos and am now making a novena to him for relief from arthritis in my feet and hip."

E. B.

New Orleans, La.

"My son had been hit in the eye at the age of nine and was in the hospital for two weeks. The doctor told me he would lose the sight in that eye. He is now 48 years old. He developed a cataract and was operated on in April. He now wears contact lens and can see very well. I prayed to Father Seelos and am thankful for the favors I have received through his intercession."

S. C.

New Orleans, La.

"This is a letter of thanks for the intercession of Father Seelos. Our baby-sitter, 39 years old, died last week of cancer. My wife and I asked Father Seelos to help her not to suffer. She had been very sick about two years and weighed only 72 lbs. when she passed away but she never once said she was in pain. I am sure Father Seelos interceded with God to grant her this easy death. This is the third time our prayers through Father Seelos have been answered."

H. B.

## SPECIAL NOTES

This is the month of Our Lady, the Queen of the May. Put a flower at her altar in your home and daily consecrate yourself to her—say your Rosary, too. Father Seelos had his fingers on her beads constantly as he walked around the house. The fifteen decade Rosary was a part of his Redemptorist habit. He loved the Blessed Mother.

We receive many letters monthly thanking Father Seelos for favors obtained. Tell us in detail what these favors are. Many write about finding things through prayers to Father Seelos.

Write to us for crocheted mementoes of Father Seelos. Pin them on your sick. To have your sick blessed with the Crucifix of Father Seelos, make arrangements through Miss Addie Buhler—895-6176.

We thank you for your Holy Mass stipends.

Did you ever talk to a school boy or a High School student or a College man about being a Redemptorist Priest like Father Seelos? Get in touch with Father Grangell at the Center.

Please inform the Center of your new address and zip code number. Tell us of the old address too, because the same person is often listed, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Joseph Smith and Mrs. Mary and Ms. Mary Smith at the same address. KEEP OUR FILES CORRECT.

We may not be in the restored St. Mary's Church for many months! We will inform you of the date of opening.

For copies of THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, write the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance St., New Orleans, La. 70130. The price is \$4.95 per copy.

Father Grangell has been having quite a problem with his eyes since he underwent cataract surgery. Please remember him specially in your prayers. Ask Father Seelos to intercede for him so that he may carry on his work with us at the Father Seelos Center for a long time to come.

The Redemptorist Holy Redeemer Seminary at Lacombe, La., is having a Fair on Saturday, May 10, and Sunday, May 11. Try to make it. There is a very attractive raffle.

1. A 1975 Chevy Vega (economy car) with Turbo hydraulic radio, tinted glass (or \$2,500 cash).
2. 1975 Phileo 18-inch color TV with stand.
3. An upright freezer.

All for 50c a chance or 3 for \$1.00 (you can't beat that! Write to the Center for tickets). Help the Seminary.

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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.