



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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## FATHER SEELOS AND ST. MARY'S



There is an inseparable connection between St. Mary's Assumption Church and Father Seelos. Father Seelos spent the last year of his life as the acting pastor of this church. When he died he asked that his body be buried there. For 109 years people have come from all walks of life to revere his memory and even pray to him.

St. Mary's was almost irreparably damaged in Hurricane Betsy in 1965. A group of interested laymen and priests banded together to restore this venerable church. Last year it was re-dedicated on August 15. With new sound, lighting, heating and air-conditioning, paint

and plaster at the cost of \$800,000, it once again is a thing of beauty and a wonder to behold, say all who see it.

There is, however, still a debt of some \$395,000. All devotees of Father Seelos are invited to help liquidate this debt. One way is to immortalize your name and/or that of a loved one by donating \$500 or \$1000 for a bronze plaque to be permanently displayed in church.

For more details please write St. Mary's Assumption Church, 2030 Constance St., New Orleans, La. 70130.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

# FATHER SEELOS' EVERY BREATH WAS A PRAYER

by Father Grangell

Virtue for November: Prayer

Patron Saint: St. Jude the Apostle

Text: They must always pray and not lose heart (St. Luke 18/1)

Father Seelos said a short night prayer before retiring every night. It shows us how close he was to God: "Oh Lord, my God, I thank You for having preserved me during this day and I ask you to preserve me during this night. I take this repose in order to please You and I wish to love and please You each moment that I breathe, as the Angels and Saints love and please You in Heaven. Mary, my Mother, bless me and protect me under your mantle. My Guardian Angel and all my patron Saints, intercede for me." How beautiful, how simple, how all comprehensive it is. A child can understand it. Maybe it could become your night prayer. Study it a moment. Like all good prayers, Father begins with thanks for favors received before he asks for favors to come. He gives God something—everything—his life. We live by breathing. He gives God his every breath as an act of love, as perfect as the Angels and Saints love and please God in eternity.

We begin life breathing, we never cease to breathe until we die. We pay no attention to our breathing. We think and say and do a thousand things a day—never give a thought to our breathing. Isn't that a fact? Let's offer God our every breath as a prayer. Since we breathe ceaselessly we will pray ceaselessly, we will live the above Scripture text! Read it (Luke 18/1).

Recollect yourself for a few seconds! Now, talk to God: My God, I offer You my every breath of life as an act of love of You and sorrow for having ever offended You. I wish never to cease loving You, never to cease praying. If I should become unconscious in sickness, or from a heart attack, or an accident, or an operation, or live to be mentally incapable to pray, I offer all my breathing at that time as a continuation of my present acts of love and sorrow for my sins. And, good God, at the moment of death, when I gasp my last breath, which will be my last act of love of You in this world, I hope to awake in eternity hearing you say, calling me by name: I LOVE YOU!

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People are inquisitive, they want to know the meaning of everything. Make some small cards with "M.G.I.L.Y." on them. Put them in places where all can see them—in your car, some place at home, on your desk. When you are asked what the letters mean tell them: "MY GOD I LOVE YOU"—the theme prayer of the Father Seelos guild.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

Lafayette, La.

"I am a Carmelite on leave taking care of an invalid mother. We have been having trouble getting hay baled and sold on the property of my mother. I promised I would spread the devotion of Father Seelos if he would get someone to do this for us. Yesterday my prayer was answered."

Sr. P. L.

Omaha, Neb.

"Our five year old developed the flu during our move across country. She had such a stomach problem that it would have been impossible to travel in the car with her. Through the help of Father Seelos, the problem cleared and we were all able to travel together."

M. L.

New Orleans, La.

"For a long time someone owed me some money. I began to pray the Father Seelos prayer and in one week I received a check. Thanks."

E. N.

Pierre Part, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for his intercession. Both of my sons have found jobs."

E. P. R.

New Orleans, La.

"Many thanks for a successful operation in which part of colon was removed. I am fine and will be going back to work."

M. T.

Metairie, La.

"Our thanks to Father Seelos for the sale of a small house and land. We prayed for over one year, asking Father Seelos' intercession."

J. C.

Jefferson, La.

"Recently my five year old grandson developed high fever and a bad cold. We feared it may be pneumonia. Through the prayers of Father Seelos he recovered."

L. A. M.

New Orleans, La.

"My being a diabetic, I recently had an operation on my leg and was afraid it would not heal. I asked Father Seelos prayers and it was not long before it was completely healed."

A. H.

## SPECIAL NOTES

November is the month of Poor Souls. Pray for your dead. When a member of your family or a friend dies, send condolence to the bereaved in a gift of Masses for the departed. Write to the Seelos Center for information about the St. Joseph Mass League.

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The penitential season of Advent begins on November 28. Prepare for Christmas by going to daily Mass.

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Go to Mass on Thanksgiving Day and thank God you are an American. Pray for our great country.

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Organize groups of people, 5 to 50 in a group, and come to the tomb of Father Seelos in St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans as pilgrims. Notify the Center when you are coming. One of the priests will pray with you and describe beautiful St. Mary's for you. Bring your non-Catholic friends.

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Help us to keep our files correct. Inform us of any mistakes we are making: Correct spelling? Wrong address? Anything? Thanks, When our mail is returned to us we must pay high postage. We can't afford it.

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On every Wednesday at 4:30 P.M. in St. Alphonsus Church, and on every Sunday at 4 P.M. in St. Mary's Assumption Church, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the devotees of Father Seelos. After these Masses, the Crucifix of Father Seelos is venerated by the people. They take the Crucifix in their hands and bless themselves with it. Parents bless the babies and small children.

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For blessings with the Crucifix of Father Seelos for your sick in the hospitals, call Miss Addie Buhler 895-6176.

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