



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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ST. JOHN NEUMANN, C.S.S.R.

St. Philomena's Church



On the nineteenth of June of this year of Our Lord, His Holiness Pope Paul VI will raise Blessed John Neumann to the ranks of the saints of the Catholic Church. Rejoicing with him on that day will be his one-time assistant, the Servant of God Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C.S.S.R. They labored together in old St. Philomena's Church in Pittsburgh from 1845 to 1847. Bishop Neumann built the church, now no longer in existence. Of his pastor, Father Seelos said, "In every respect he was a remarkable father to me."

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

IS THE DEVIL A LIAR, OR—?

Father Grangell's Monthly Conference

Virtue for June: Purity of Heart.

Patron: The Apostle, St. James, the Less (St. Maria Goretti. Tell the teenagers her story.)

Text: Blessed are the Clean of Heart for they shall see God. (St. Matt. 5/8)

If the devil were to appear to you as he appeared to our Lord—read St. Luke Chapter 4/5 and 6—and tell you the world is his and he gives it to whom he pleases, what would you say? You would call him a liar, but he would insist: The material creation is God's, but the souls of the people and their eternity are mine. According to recent U.S. statistics and polls, fewer people, and especially the young, practice Religion than a few years ago. It's getting worse for God and better for me, says the devil. When a soul is baptized the priest commands me: Depart from him, you unclean spirit! That's what I am—an unclean spirit and with impurities I win souls for hell. So many are not clean of heart.

There is a new word in the dictionary—pornography. This means the peddling of sex in all its perversions, and it is a million dollar business.

The devil does not appear in visible form—he works through the newspapers, books, magazines, T.V., the movies, suggested lewd forms of amusement, indecent companionships, impure, dirty language, jokes and general immodesty. The smallest children do not know the meaning of modesty. It is fashion today.

The devil is a fallen angel. Father Seelos routed him and all his temptations with the assistance of the holy archangel, St. Michael. He began his every day at the community morning meditation with the prayer: St. Michael, archangel, glorious prince, be mindful of us and pray always for us to the son of God.

He used to remind the people that God gave each of us a Guardian Angel to help us live angelic, pure lives.

Prove to everybody around you, especially to the members of your family, that you are living a pure life. Go to Holy Communion at least weekly. Impure people never go to Holy Communion.

SAVE SOULS! REMEMBER THE SPIRITUAL BANKS OF LAST MONTH'S CONFERENCE!!

SAY THE "MEMORARE" DAILY TO THE IMMACULATE MOTHER OF GOD. MEMORIZE IT.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Lafayette, La.

"Extensive and repeated tests indicated a polyp of the colon which had to come out. In addition, there was indicated the possibility of the discovery of a malignance which would have meant additional major surgery. I turned to Father Seelos as I have for years. I was admitted to the hospital, prepared for the procedure and colonoscoped three times. To the complete amazement of the surgeon there was no malignancy, there was no need for further surgery, there was not even a polyp. My most grateful gratitude to Father Seelos for his powerful intercession in my behalf. In your kindness, Father, please see that this testimony is published."

L. D. D.

Slidell, La.

"About three years ago I felt very alone and depressed. Our 23 years of marriage seemed doomed. We rarely talked and it seemed we had nothing in common anymore. We were also in great financial trouble. Our business had great losses and we were on the brink of bankruptcy. Our son brought home a card with the picture of Father Francis Seelos which mentioned the need of miracles in order for him to be canonized a saint. I knew immediately that it would take a miracle to help us so I decided to pray to him for two miracles — one to make us content and happy again and the other to get us out of financial trouble without losing our home. I promised to turn our small screened gazebo into a chapel for him if he interceded for us and our prayers were answered. About three months later we heard a homily about Marriage Encounter and this was an answer to our prayer. Slowly we worked together and found ourselves able to start paying off our debts. A year ago I had a plaque made and engraved to place on the gazebo, "Father Francis X. Seelos Chapel." He healed our souls, our hurts and our lives."

S. S.

New Orleans, La.

"My grandson was born with Wering-Hoffman disease (his muscles would never develop) and we were told he would never be able to retain food or move. After one year, thanks to Father Seelos prayers, he is eating well, moves, sits up alone and is getting stronger each day."

D. W. C.

New Iberia, La.

"My husband underwent tests for what we thought might be cancer. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession, the tests were negative and he is feeling fine."

R. S.

Gretna, La.

"Recently I was robbed of my purse and promised publication in your paper for the recovery. Thirty minutes later I received a call from the police notifying me of the recovery with all papers and prayers in it. I am most grateful for this favor."

L. G.

SPECIAL NOTES

June is the month of the Sacred Heart! Make a resolution to go to Holy Communion on the First Friday of this month and every month till you die. God promises you will die in the state of grace as a reward. Tell this to all your children and to your grandchildren, especially the teen-agers. Win souls for God.

You are invited to the Pontifical Mass in St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, June 19, at 11:30 a.m. It's the day John Neumann, C.S.S.R., will be canonized a saint. He and Father Seelos were personal Redemptorist friends. Make them your friends.

Be cheerful, pleasant, happy! It's a virtue. "Smile a while, and as you smile another smiles, and then there are miles and miles of smiles and smiles and life's worth while because you smile."

Be considerate and kind toward the older people, especially the hard of hearing and those whose sight is failing. Be patient. See Christ in them.

Teach the sick two short prayers ceaselessly: My God, I love You — Your will be done. Pin a crocheted memento on the sick — write for some.

Continue praying to Father Seelos no matter what happens. He may be canonized because of you. Pray for a miracle for yourself or for someone else.

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

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