



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FATHER JOHN DUFFY, C.S.S.R.



When young John Duffy told his friends in Philadelphia that he was going to become a Redemptorist, they expressed their concern that he would be lost among them. Most of the early Redemptorists had come to America from Central Europe. Immediately Father Duffy found a lasting friend in Father Seelos, his novice-master. Father Duffy arrived in New Orleans much earlier than Seelos. He soon was building a church for the Irish across the street from the German church. He called it St. Alphonsus. Father Duffy was Seelos' last superior; he knelt at his bedside as he breathed his last on October 4, 1867.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

GOOD GOD, KEEP ME HUMBLE!

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for the month of August: Humility

Patron: St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Text: Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart (Matthew 11/29).

Tragically there are many people in the world who deny the existence of God! This is how God disposes of them through the inspired pen of the Psalmist: "The fool says in his heart there is no God — such are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, all alike have gone astray, they have become perverse, there is not one who does good, not even one." (Psalm 14 in the Old Testament of the Bible.) They call themselves atheists. They do not want God, so the "fools" say in their *hearts*, not in their intellects, not with their powers of reasoning — there is no God.

Tragically there are many Catholics who live as though there was no God. They are their own gods. They are proud, self-sufficient, independent. Hear them talk: I don't agree with the teachings of the Church! Christ says if anybody despises the Church, he despises God (Lk. 10/16). Christ tells us for one to possess eternal life he must receive Holy Communion (John 6/55). The proud man is interested only in his earthly life, not eternity. He never goes to Holy Communion. Right? Christ says without Him we can do nothing, so we must pray. The proud man never prays he works with his brains and muscles to make a living. He does not need God. Disaster strikes! See him helpless in a hospital, the victim of a paralyzing stroke! I hope he prays now. There is no need to ask God to give him his daily bread — he buys it. If there were no wheat, there would be no bread. Only God can make wheat! He has his own ideas about the use of sex and going to Mass on Sundays. Don't talk to him about these things. NEVER.

Like Pharaoh of (Exodus 5/2), he shouts by his bad sinful conduct; "Who is this God that I should hear His voice?"

If you know anybody like this, pray for his conversion, that the fear of God will enter his soul. The Bible says: "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111/10).

If the poor sinner would only think of these words: "It is appointed unto man once to die and after death the judgment." (Hebr. 9/27-28).

Humble people, like Father Seelos, say: I am what I am in the eyes of God and nothing more (1 Cor. 05/10) — all that I have, I have from God. Thanks, good God, for everything I have.

BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR ME THAT I KNOW MYSELF.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Kimmswick, Mo.

"We want to thank Father Seelos for the recovery of our little nephew. He had open heart surgery and two months later he started in Kindergarten. We know Father Seelos prayed for us. My son also had surgery for an abcess in his chest for which two ribs had to be removed in order to reach the abcess. So far he is doing fine, thanks to the intercession of Father Seelos."

C. G.

Metairie, La.

"My nephew had been occupying a supermarket for several years in New Orleans and was notified without reason by the owner that he would have to vacate the building by the end of the year. We all prayed asking Father Seelos to intercede for us and several weeks ago he located a building far superior to his first and a better location. Thanks to Father Seelos."

P. J. R.

Marksville, La.

"There are two favors for which I would like to thank Father Seelos. First I sold a piece of property, and secondly, I had a good report from my annual physical examination. I know Father Seelos interceded for me."

A. L. V.

New Orleans, La.

"Many years ago my son and his wife were separated with no reconciliation in sight. Through Father Seelos' prayers they are re-established in a happy marriage. I was sick and hospitalized for tests. I prayed to Father Seelos asking that they would not find too much wrong and my prayers were answered. Many thanks."

I. K.

New Orleans, La.

"A friend was accused of a crime he knew absolutely nothing about. I prayed to Father Seelos that the matter would clear up and no evidence would be found at all. Within one week my prayer was answered. I have received other favors through the intercession of Father Seelos."

R. S.

"Thanks for favors granted through Father Seelos' intercession."

J.K., Belle Chasse, La.; D.B.F., Harahan, La.; B.F., New Orleans, La.;
L.H., Crowley, La.; E.H., Violet, La.

SPECIAL NOTES

The canonization of St. John Neumann has aroused great interest in the Redemptorist Order, of which he was a member. His natural brother was a Lay Brother in the Order and is buried next to the great Redemptorist, Father Seelos, in St. Mary's Assumption Church in New Orleans. The feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Order, is on August 1 and thousands of Redemptorists around the world will thank God in a festive way on this day for their vocations.

If any teenagers and college men and older men feel that maybe they have a vocation to the Redemptorist priesthood or brotherhood, we invite them to get in touch with the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, for information and guidance.

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

We are praying for five distinct first class miracles. Join with us. Tell us about your sick.

Spread devotion to Father Seelos by distributing his picture and prayer. Pin a crocheted memento of him on your sick. Tell everybody to pray for miracles. If a cure surprises your doctor ask him to write a note about it toward the canonization of Father Seelos.

Come to the 4 P.M. Sunday Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church. Make the Father Seelos novena privately before Mass. It takes 15 minutes. Novena prayers are in the church. After Mass come to the altar and venerate the crucifix of Father Seelos. Bring your neighbor with you.

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