



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1978

This letter was received at the Father Seelos Center recently and we want to share it with you.

Annapolis, Md., Sept. 25, 1978

Dear Friends:

I send you greeting from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in the thriving city of Annapolis, Md. We are especially proud of our parish because of its traditional beauty and because of our hard working, ambitious and loyal Redemptorist priests and brothers.

This year and especially during this week, we are celebrating our 125th year as a parish. In the midst of our celebrations and as we are looking back into our precious history, we have been introduced to Father Seelos. Many of the parishioners as myself, were surprised to learn that he was once pastor of our beloved St. Mary's.

Learning a few very interesting facts about his life, I have promised myself to foster devotion to this saintly Servant of God. Our priests and brothers are very anxious to see Father Seelos listed in the calendar of the Saints.

If at all possible I would appreciate if you can send any information on how I can obtain prayers, relics, pictures, etc. of Father Seelos or anything connected with his life or his cause for sainthood. I hope to get many others at my church to seek his heavenly intercession.

We join you with our prayers and petitions. Who knows! Maybe through our constant prayers we may very, very shortly at least invoke Father Seelos as BLESSED FRANCIS SEELOS!

God bless you always for your kindness and assistance.

FATHER FRANCIS SEELOS, PRAY FOR US!

Sincerely,

Harry M. Thompson, Jr.

SPELL IT CORRECTLY — CHRISTMASS

(Monthly Conference of Father Grangell)

Virtue for December: Self-denial and Love of the Cross

Patron Saint: St. Matthias, Apostle

Text: If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. (Matt. 16/24)

Not many people know the origin and the meaning of the greeting: Merry Christmas! Do you? It began centuries ago in England when that country was all Catholic. As the good, pious people met each other on their way to Holy Mass on December 25 they said to one another: Let's be happy and cheerful and merry today as we go to the Birthday Mass of our Divine Savior and realize why He, the Son of God, became the Son of Mary on this day! That greeting eventually became "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

Every Holy Mass is fundamentally, essentially the same — the Offertory, Consecration, Communion, but every Mass commemorates some great mystery of Faith, and all the readings and prayers are centered on this particular mystery.

The Christmas Masses make us conscious of the mystery that the Blessed Mother gave Christ to the world as a tiny baby to the Priest and Victim of our infinite saving sacrifice, and laid Him in a manger — and so does the Catholic Priest bring Christ bodily as Bread and Wine into the world and lays Him on the altar to be the Priest and Victim of our every daily holy sacrifice.

The world is feverishly preparing for Christmas 1978 in a materialistic way. How many people know that the decorations are for the Birthday of the Savior of the world! Be sure to tell this to the children. Gifts are given at this time. How many people realize that Christ inaugurated this custom when He gave Himself to the world to save us. Everybody loves Santa Claus! He is Saint Nicholas who was so good to poor children. How many know that?

The Church prepares for Christmas in a spiritual way. She gives us the season of Advent — the four weeks preceding Christmas — to do a little penance — do some! The monthly Virtue for December is SELF-DENIAL AND LOVE OF THE CROSS. To understand this virtue just study the STABLE OF BETHLEHEM!!! Instead of complaining about our cross in life — everybody has a cross — let's accept it and make saints of ourselves.

As Father Seelos said his daily Holy Mass he saw the Divine Infant as the white host on the altar. The altar was the manger. On the 25th of every month he renewed his religious vows before the Blessed Sacrament. His Advent evening meditations were on the mystery of the incarnation.

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS A MARY CHRISTMAS. KEEP MARY IN IT.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Harvey, La.

"Through the intercession of Father Seelos my daughter is on the road to recovery after surgery."

E.R.G.

New Orleans, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for many favors granted to me and my family through his intercession."

J.M.

New Orleans, La.

"My nephew had a malignant tumor of the brain and the doctor had little hope. After a lengthy illness he is doing great — he plays ball, swims and rides his bike. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

N.M.

Lafayette, La.

"Thank you Father Seelos for your prayers, granting me patience and Guidance in solving in-law problems."

E.B.S.

Thibodaux, La.

"We have had many favors granted through Father Seelos prayers and every day we feel we are helped through his intercession."

C.J.N.

Covington, La.

"I had emergency surgery and through the intercession of Father Seelos I am home now and doing well."

A.B.

Gretna, La.

"My second husband of 13 years was an alcoholic and I was having a hard time. I prayed to Father Seelos for help for my husband and he has now stopped drinking and I have security, all through Father Seelos' prayers."

E.B.

Digby County Nova Scotia

"I have had many good things happen since passing out the prayer cards and mementoes of Father Seelos."

F.M.

Metairie, La.

"Our family had financial problems recently and Father Seelos came to our aid. He is also helping my emotional problem."

J.S.

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POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

NOTES BY F.G.

Merry Christmas to all lovers of Father Seelos — the many cheerful, happy volunteer workers at the Center and you good people who are praying for the canonization of Father Seelos and who are spreading devotion to him!

I wish to give you your most priceless gift, one of infinite value — a sharing in my Holy Masses on Christmas day and New Year's Day and on the last days of 1978 and on every day of 1979.

In all these Holy Masses I shall pray for all your personal intentions and for all the members of your family. Tell them.

May the Blessed Mother love you always! May Father Seelos work miracles for you!

PRAY FOR ME

Father Grangell, C.S.S.R.
MGILY

Spread devotion to Father Seelos. Put his picture-prayer cards in your Christmas mail, give them to the sick, leave them in Churches. Send us many names and addresses for the monthly FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY. Father Seelos is known in Formosa, China. A man writes thanks to Father Seelos for helping him "with my arm."

Let's all pray for priestly and religious vocations. Ask the teen-agers of your home to read the Monthly Conference in FATHER SEELOS & SANCTITY.

A good Christmas gift for a priest or religious or a good friend would be THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC, the life of Father Seelos. Get the book from the Center - \$5.95. We will send it for you.

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

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Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.