



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1979

## GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST !!



All of us here at the Father Seelos Center wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas. May you receive many blessings at this time of loving and giving and may the joy and happiness of the Christmas Season be with you and your families. We ask God's blessings on you through the intercession of Father Seelos.

Josie Becker

At the annual memorial Mass honoring Father Seelos on October 7, Bishop Stanley Ott brought us the good news that papers were prepared and would be sent to Rome that week regarding a possible miracle to further the cause of Father Seelos. Please continue to pray with us that our work will continue to bring help and hope to the devotees of Father Seelos and the day he will be raised to sainthood in the Church will come in our time.

### **FATHER GRANGELL WILL CELEBRATE HIS ANNIVERSARY ON DECEMBER 2.**

On Sunday, December 2, God willing, Father Grangell will celebrate 60 years of priesthood. You will remember it was necessary to postpone this celebration from May inasmuch as Father Grangell was hospitalized with a broken hip. He is doing very well but still is having a little difficulty walking. He is anxious to see all of you.

When you come to the Mass at St. Alphonsus Church, you may park in either of the schoolyards on St. Andrew Street.

WHAT DOES "OUR DIVINE SAVIOR"  
"OUR MOST HOLY REDEEMER" MEAN?  
"THE CHRISTMAS STORY" IS THE ANSWER  
(Father Grangell's Christmas Conference)

The Virtue for December: Self-denial and love of the Cross.

The Patron Saint: St. Matthias, Apostle.

The Text: If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. (Matt. 16/2)

There are two texts from the lips of our Divine Savior that help us to understand the mystery of Christmas. The one is the sentence, He will pronounce against the lost soul at the Judgment: 1. Depart from Me you cursed one into everlasting FIRE PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL and his angels. (Matt. 26/43) The other is the invitation He will give to the soul who is saved. 2. Come, you blessed of my Father, and possess the KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU from the foundation of the world. (Matt. 26/34)

The explanation. 1. God created the angels to be eternally happy with Him. Some of them sinned, they rebelled against the Infinite God. Because they were finite creatures, they could not make infinite atonement for their sins and no infinite person offered to atone for them. Everlasting fire was created for them. (Matt. 26/43) What a terrible thing sin is in the eyes of God! 2. God created a most beautiful world as we read in the first pages of the Bible. He created man on the first day of the foundation of the world. (Genesis 1/24) Man was created for the Kingdom of Heaven from the foundation of the world. (Matt. 26/34) Man, like the angels, offended God. His sin was infinite because he offended an Infinite Being. Like the angels, he could do nothing to satisfy the justice of God. He and his descendants, you and I, were lost forever. However, an Infinite Person, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, offered to come to the world as a man, to suffer and die for us as our Redeemer and Savior. How we should love Jesus Christ! !

God did not tell the world when this God-man was coming. The true religion of the centuries was awaiting His coming. He came on the world's first Christmas, suffering as a poor little baby in a stable-home on a manger-bed.

Our Savior suffered every pain and ache that man suffers. His whole life was one of self-denial and love of the Cross.

Now He challenges us: If anybody, man, woman, teen-ager, wishes to be follower, let him deny himself. (Matt. 16/21) Self-denial is a fundamental virtue for Christian perfection, for real holiness.

We are now in the season of Advent; our monthly virtue is SELF-DENIAL AND LOVE OF THE CROSS. Everybody has a cross of some kind. Be PATIENT — PRAY.

Children sing at the Crib — or used to:

Linger not in Thy rough stables  
Stay not in the freezing cold,  
Our warm hearts are widely open,  
Thee, Sweet Infant, to enfold.

No great miracle takes place at the Crib. The Infant Jesus does not come to life. A greater miracle takes place at Communion time. The living Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, our Savior, our Redeemer, comes to us with His hands filled with graces and blessings. Tell the teen-agers, tell everybody in our family, if they receive Holy Communion often and practice the virtue of self-denial ALWAYS, they will never lose their GOD-GIVEN CATHOLIC FAITH.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!!!

## SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"Please print in your paper. Every time I pray to Father Seelos he seems to intercede for me. I prayed for my son and my prayers were answered."

E.L.A.

Wichita, Kansas

"I have recently been ill and there was some possibility of cancer. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers. No cancer was found. I can't thank him enough for his help."

M.B.

New Orleans, La.

"I was operated on for cancer of the rectum in June 1978 and now my doctors say I am doing magnificently well. I have gone back to work. Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession."

E.E.M.

Harahan, La.

"My sister had her left leg amputated. She is now free from pain since the surgery. Our hope was that there would be no amputation, but God willed otherwise. We are grateful that the prospect for an artificial limb is in her favor. She already has been fitted for the limb and the therapist says she's a good candidate for one."

L.P.C.

Gramercy, La.

"My son has cancer of the lung. The test shows the growth to be very small and the kind that can be cured. Please pray that he will get completely well."

J.C.

Baton Rouge, La.

"My husband and I were trying to sell our home so that we could build another in the country. The house had been up for sale for at least seven months with no success. I work with a lady who has been spreading devotion to Father Seelos for some time. So I asked her to pray for me. In two days a man called and was pleased with our house. On June 1 the final papers were signed. I just had to write this letter. I will forever hold Father Seelos close to my heart and pray for his canonization."

J.S.L.

Marrero, La.

"My daughter had surgery and the doctor said the gland in her neck was cancerous. I went to New Orleans and Miss Addie Buhler had someone call with Father Seelos' crucifix and they left some cloth mementoes. It is now over three years ago and the doctor told us there was no trace of cancer. I am not stopping praying to Father Seelos for her continued good health."

R.T.

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## SPECIAL NOTES

MERRY CHRISTMAS — from Father Grangell

To all you good people interested in Father Seelos and working for his canonization: I want to give you the best Christmas Gift, one beyond the price of silver and gold, a gift of infinite value! I shall share the merits of my three Christmas Day Masses and of my Holy Masses of Christmas week, on New Year's Day and of my every daily Holy Sacrifice in 1980. I shall pray for all your intentions in my every daily Holy Mass and for all the members of your family. Tell them of this Gift I am giving them.

PRAY FOR ME — MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

Always carry five or six pictures of Father Seelos in your pocket or purse. When in conversation tell your friends, neighbors, relatives, something about Father Seelos. Give them a picture — thus spread devotion to Father Seelos in our conversation.

Remember Father Seelos is a saint, not yet canonized. He is a very lovable, attractive approachable saint. It is so easy to talk to him, to ask for anything, even to work miracles for you. Never lose interest in him.

When you put MGILY at the head of your letter you say a prayer. The one who receives the letter will say a prayer MY GOD I LOVE YOU! Keep praying.

A message from New York: "send me some more picture-prayer cards of Father Seelos. I put them in my mail, my birthday and all greeting cards." Wonderful !! (Don't forget your Christmas Cards.)

Thanks for your gifts to the Center to meet our high cost of printing and postage.

A 15 year old boy recently became a Catholic through Father Seelos. Now he wants to be a priest! Congratulations! Teen-agers take notice!

Father Seelos is well known in Central and South America. The good people write about miracles. Be it known to all: We have the prayers of Father Seelos in Spanish.

People today want to be involved in some kind of religious work! Tell them about working for the canonization of Father Seelos. Most unusual work.

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

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone 525-2495. Subscription is \$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.

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