



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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SAINT JOSEPH



As March approaches it brings to my mind thoughts of St. Joseph, who incidentally is my patron saint. I have a great love for St. Joseph and am sure Father Seelos must have felt something of that same love, being such a holy man and so devoted to Jesus and Mary. It's hard to separate these: Jesus, Mary, Joseph. After all, they lived as a family, which should be an example to all young people today.

March 19 is the feast day of this great saint. Let us cultivate a habit of prayer asking his intercession along with that of Father Seelos for the many needs of the church, particularly for vocations to the priesthood.

Josie Becker

O my God, I truly believe you are present within me. I adore Your limitless perfections. I thank you for the graces and gifts You gave to Father Seelos. If it is Your holy Will, please let him be declared a saint of the Church that others may know and imitate his holy life. Through his prayers give me this favor I ask of You

THE BREATH OF LIFE: My God I Love You.

(Father Grangell's monthly Conference)

Virtue for March: LOVE OF GOD

Patron: St. James Major, Apostle - Father Seelos

Text: Thou shalt love thy Lord thy God with thy whole being (Mark 12/30)

Read Deuteronomy 6/4-9.

St. Alphonsus, a great Doctor of the Church, gives us a beautiful practice of the virtue of "LOVE OF GOD." Five things make up the system:

1. Desire to love God, want it, long for it, pray for it.
2. Get everything opposite "The Love of God" out of your life — habits and practices of sin.
3. Be alone with God for a few minutes every day, to talk familiarly with Him, to read the Gospels, to think of the Monthly Virtues.
4. Before, during and after your meditations, make acts of Adoration, Love; acts of Contrition, sorrow for sin; acts of Thanksgiving, for everything you have; acts of Supplication, asking for graces and blessings for body and soul, for yourself and for others.

The capital letters spell out the word ACTS, as a memory help for the kinds of prayer you are to say — using, however, your own words. In fact these are the only kind of prayers one can say. They are the ends of the Infinite Prayer of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

5. You must tell God often in your meditations that you love Him. Then take the prayer "My God I Love You" into your working day. The breath of your life becomes "MY GOD I LOVE YOU."

To say this little prayer takes one second of time. We must do better than that. We must tell God we love Him numbers of times. understandable to Him alone. As you look at the globe of the earth, you realize it is made up of solids and water. If all the solid things were reduced to atoms, as small as the fine dust on highly polished furniture, there would be a number of them! If all the water were reduced to tiniest drops as small as the fog, there would be a number of them! There must be a number because they are finite, created things. Only God knows that number. Your prayer: "DEAR GOD, I offer You as many acts of love as there are atoms and drops of water in the world, and, I want that number multiplied by itself every second as time moves, and, as long as there is time."

Now, you make up your own ACTS of love of God. Let your imagination run wild. Words are not necessary. A little child is a perfect lover — he never uses words. That "kind of love" wins heaven. The true lover of God keeps the Commandments, obeys the Church, loves the Blessed Mother and makes acts of love of God for those who never say "MY GOD I LOVE YOU — SAVE SOULS!"

SPECIAL LETTERS

Moreauville, La.

"I am writing to report a favor granted me by Father Seelos. I had suffered a long time with terrible back pains to such a degree that I could not sit up for longer than fifteen minutes at a time. Everywhere I went I had to lie down in the car. My doctor told me I had a degenerative disc disease — that one of the vertebrae discs in my lower spine was deteriorating. My mother worried as I was soon to be married and would probably have a hard time carrying children. Father Harry Smith gave us some prayers to Father Seelos. My mother, sister and myself said the prayers. Since then I have not had any trouble with my back. I had no problems during my first pregnancy and have had none so far in my second. My obstetrician took X-rays shortly before the birth of my first child and reported that he could find no trace of the disc problem. He told me that more miracles happen than people realize. I am grateful to Father Seelos since now I am able to lead a normal life."

W.L.W.

Churchpoint, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession. My son after many years of stomach trouble is now out of pain, attends school and plays and makes many friends."

A.T.

Slidell, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for obtaining me a position which is very much to my liking and comes within the scope of my abilities."

G.S.

Chalmette, La.

"My niece thought she had cancer but the test proved negative. Also, she is very nervous and has to raise her 7-year-old child. Many thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

C.T.

River Ridge, La.

"My son was having throat trouble. Five weeks after an operation he returned to work — his boss kept the job open. Many thanks to Father Seelos. Pray for my grandson who will have his tonsils removed."

R.F.

Asuncion, Paraguay

"My baby of 5 months was gravely ill with meningitis, almost at the point of death. We prayed to Father Seelos. Thanks to his prayers, my child today is healthy and beautiful."

N.L.R.

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SPECIAL NOTES

A HEALING SERVICE: Christ said of his Priests "They shall lay their hands upon the sick and they shall recover." (St. Mark 16/18)

After the 4 o'clock Mass on Sunday in St. Mary's Church, when the people are venerating the crucifix of Father Seelos, present your sick to the priest and ask him to lay his hands on them. If this is done with great faith, miracles will be worked.

Lovers of Father Seelos all over the world, are given a special blessing at this time every Sunday. Spread this good news.

Thanks for the many new names, addresses and zips for the Father Seelos Guild. Its only obligations are:

- 1 - Pray for the Canonization of Father Seelos
- 2 - Spread devotion to Father Seelos

Quite an honor and privilege!

LENT begins on February 28th. Do something extra for the love of God: Daily Holy Mass, Holy Communion, Way of the Cross (the Center has a very short form); the daily Rosary (Sorrowful Mysteries), a bit of penance at table, some self-denial — give up a TV program and read the Bible instead. Pray for conversions and pray for vocations to the Priesthood.

Father Seelos certainly loves us. In the year 1978 the Center received 1952 letters of thanksgiving telling of favors obtained. That was 5-plus daily. GREAT!

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

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