



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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MARCH 1981

THE PENITENTIAL SEASON



After all the hubbub here in New Orleans, which accompanies the Carnival season, we are in the holy season of Lent – a time of penance and prayer, a time for soul searching and striving to improve our lives, a time for contemplating on the passion and death of our Redeemer.

This is a good time, before we get too far into the year, to review our New Year's resolutions. Have we lived up to the standards we set for ourselves this year?

It has come to our attention that we have duplicate names on our list for mailing this paper. If you are receiving extra copies, please clip the name from the front of the page and send it to us at the Center so that we may remove the duplicate plate.

Thanks for your help!

Josie M. Becker

I WANT TO LOVE GOD PERFECTLY

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

The Virtue for March: Love of God

Patron Saint: St. James, Major

Text: Love God with all your being. (Matt. 12/30)

All the saints are fundamentally the same — they all loved God.

They are accidentally different, age and the work they do in obedience. Some followed the same Rule as religious and yet did different kinds of work. Peter Donders, a native of Holland, soon to be canonized, and Father Seelos made the same vows, yet Father Donders spent thirty years of his priestly life among the lepers in Surinam, South America. Father Seelos was a simple, prayerful, zealous priest. Both loved God heroically, both did what religious obedience specified. A saint gives up his will to please God, God's will for him is what obedience orders. Perfect obedience makes the saint.

St. Theresa of Avila loved God most perfectly. She used to say: "I don't care if every saint in heaven has a higher degree of glory than I will have, but I do not want any saint in heaven who loved God more than I loved Him when on earth." It's a challenge! Let's meet it.

The Little Flower of Jesus seems to have met it. She wrote: "In order that MY LIFE may be ONE ACT of perfect love, I offer myself as a victim of holocaust to Thy merciful love." Her ceaseless prayer was MY GOD I LOVE YOU (MGILY).

Not all the saints were religious. Maria Goretti, a teenager, was murdered because she refused to commit a sin of sex. St. Thomas More was a married man, a great statesman, Chancellor of England. He was beheaded because he would not change his Catholic religion to please the King. Matt Talbot, a working man, was an unknown, hidden saint. He had been a confirmed drunkard, was converted at a mission. He dropped dead on a street in Dublin. His body was covered with pointed chains, which tortured him all day long as he did hard work. On investigation they discovered he had spent his nights in prayer and loved his daily Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. He may be canonized.

St. Monica was a married woman. She prayed for thirty years that her son become a Catholic. He became the great St. Augustine. Dismas, the good thief, became a saint on his death-bed, the cross, close to Christ.

The great saints in the world today are the sick, the crippled, the bedridden, suffering with an incurable disease and who offer their pains and aches and severe suffering to God for the conversion of sinners. They see God's will in their cross and their ceaseless prayer is MY GOD I LOVE YOU.

BLESSED MOTHER, HELP US TO BE SAINTS!

SPECIAL LETTERS

Donaldsonville, La.

"I was worried about the outcome of my physical examination and everything came out negative. Thanks for this favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos."

S.H.

Metairie, La.

"My husband had lost his vision partially in one eye. Immediately I prayed the Father Seelos prayer. Thanks for his intercession. He was treated in the hospital and now the vision has improved. I feel his eye will get completely well."

F.C.

Metairie, La.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers. My mother's cancer of the nose is gone. She will undergo plastic surgery. We got the good news on Friday, the 13th."

M.T.

New Orleans, La.

"After praying the Father Seelos prayer for several months, seeking marital fulfillment, my spouse and I were blessed with a marriage encounter weekend which not only proved to be a turning point in our marriage but also in our lives. I received much more than I prayed for in my petition to Father Seelos. I truly feel some sort of a miracle happened for which I will be eternally and prayerfully grateful."

G.Z.

Patachogue, N.Y.

"Father Seelos seems to obtain the answer of all my prayers whenever I call on him. I try to spread devotion to him. Once again this day I called on him to bless a project that my husband had undertaken and it was successful."

J.C.

White Castle, La.

"I had a heart attack then I had heart failure. I went to the hospital several times. I prayed on the way to the hospital that I would live. Now I am home again and I hope for a long time. I pray the Father Seelos prayer every day and am wearing the cloth memento."

C.F.

Lafayette, La.

"Eight months ago my husband had surgery for removal of a cancerous tumor of the intestines, and today all tests are negative. He has recovered beautifully. Three years ago my nephew had a similar operation and through Father Seelos' intercession, he had a complete recovery."

J.C.M.

Ashville, N.C.

"I had trouble with my knee and leg suddenly. I asked Father Seelos prayers for help that I could walk and find remedies to help me. I am getting along pretty well now and want to thank him."

J.L.

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SECOND CLASS POSTAGE

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FATHER SEELOS CENTER (USPS 488-660)
2030 CONSTANCE ST.
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70130

SPECIAL NOTES

Father Seelos is a very popular "Saint". So many holy people sent him Christmas gifts, to help promote his cause for canonization. In his name: THANKS EVERYBODY. We have not caught up as yet with his mail. Be patient, keep sending him gifts in the gold envelopes to help the cause for his canonization. We heard that the Post Offices of the United States are planning on changing the zip code numbers on all mail. It will be seven or nine digits instead of the present five (70130). That will ruin the Center. We will have to destroy all our plates and have 35,000 new ones made. It will be a terrific expense. Let us get ready for this. Let us build up a MAIL FUND and thus be able to continue with our printing program. If you can afford it, send us an extra dollar for the fund. Thanks and God bless you and Father Seelos help you.

If you move, send us your new address with the old one. If you sign your name with one capital letter, like J. Smith, we take it for granted that you are a single person. Use Miss, Mr. or Mrs.

You might be interested to know that Bishop Ott of New Orleans and Father Farrante, the General Postulator of the cause in Rome of Father Seelos, are working together. Say some fervent prayers that we will get some good news pretty soon — PRAY, PRAY!

We are in the Holy season of Lent. Do something penitential — mortify yourself at table; give up a smoke and a drink, GO TO DAILY HOLY MASS. Make the Way of the Cross. At each station say: "Grant that I may love Thee always and then do with me what Thou wilt." Say the rosary. Pray for careless, negligent, fallen away Catholics to come back to the Church and that the youth love God. Come to the Fatima novena every Sunday in St. Mary's Church at 3:30 p.m. and venerate the Crucifix of Father Seelos after the 4 p.m. Mass.

March is the month of the two favorite saints of mine — March 17 St. Patrick and March 19 St. Joseph.

LOVE THE BLESSED MOTHER

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

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