



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1982

## BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



On behalf of the workers for the cause of Father Seelos, we wish each and every one of you the blessings of this Christmas season. May God bless you specially at this time.

Christmas seems synonymous with giving. Of course, material gifts are the first to come to mind. But why not this Christmas give a little of yourself — something without a price tag. You might visit an elderly or lonely person. Even a phone call to someone who needs to know that somebody cares. Believe me, you will feel better for it and you will have spread a little sunshine where there was so much gloom.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! WE LOVE YOU.

Josie M. Becker

Excerpt from THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC:

Father Seelos described his novitiate —

In peace and quiet I was able to make my novitiate while learning to practice the duties of a cleric. I learned to love the spiritual life and its treasures more and more. God planted deep in my heart the desire to offer myself completely to Him. This desire grows from day to day, so that I want to give God more than I have ever done before, all I ever held dear, all to which my heart was once attached. I want to offer it to God over and over again. When I think of my home, my indelible memory of my parents and brothers and sisters and all the others dear to me, I offer them all anew to the dear Lord. Always I recommend all of you to God's care and have only one wish, namely, that all of us will meet again in heaven.

## A CHRISTMAS STORY

*(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)*

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

Patron: St. Matthias, Apostle

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

One Christmas afternoon I dropped in the Church to visit the Crib. It was a dark afternoon. There were no lights except for the multiple vigil lights, like so many twinkling stars in the Christmas heaven, telling God ceaselessly with their tongues of fire that they loved Him. The church was very quiet. However, as I approached the Crib I heard a human sob of grief. A young woman was kneeling at the manger-throne of the King of heaven, talking with Him in the language of tears. I recognized her. She was very young, the mother of two small children, with a sick husband at home. I did not know what to say. To say 'Merry Christmas' was inappropriate. She relieved the situation. She said 'Merry Christmas Father! Say a little prayer for my very sick husband. I think he is dying. Father, God has sent a heavy cross into my young life. I am not rebelling against His Holy will — I accept it cheerfully. God has given me great Faith. This cross has kept me close to Him. It has made me prayerful. It has led me to Church on Christmas afternoon. The Crib inspires me. I see the three holiest people whoever lived in the world — JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, accepting most willingly the heaviest cross ever given to man in all history.

What a beautiful sermon she preached to me. I have never forgotten it!

Everybody has a cross of some kind in his (her) life. Some rebel against their Cross. They say 'Why does God treat me as He does?' I don't deserve this. I go to Church faithfully. Some people never go to Church and they have all their hearts desire. We must not judge. Some give up their religion because they have to suffer something, they say God is cruel, unjust — (that's blasphemy) I am finished with religion!!!

A cross is anything that gives pain, physical or mental. WHAT IS YOUR CROSS?

A lady who is becoming blind by the day, put this request at the tomb of Father Seelos: 'That God will give me the necessary courage to carry my cross in His divine footsteps! That's sanctity! That's the whole story of the virtue of SELF-DENIAL AND LOVE OF THE CROSS.

DEAR BLESSED MOTHER, PRAY FOR ME!

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HEALING SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 3:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

From Metairie, La.

"My husband had a stroke and sustained brain injury to that part of the brain which controls the vision and has not been able to see well. He has only a small amount of center vision. Three years ago my husband had a bypass operation and he was frightened. A friend gave him a cloth memento of Father Seelos and he became very calm. We wish to spread Father Seelos' devotion so send us prayers and cloth mementoes!"

From Lafayette, La.

"My cousin from Prescott, Arizona had a very large tumor on her skull. She is the mother of three babies. I mailed a cloth memento of Father Seelos to her mother to Scotch tape on her gown during surgery. We prayed that the tumor would not be malignant and after surgery she would function normally. As far as we are concerned her recovery seemed miraculous. Surgery was completed on June 18 and on June 22 she was released from the hospital. One week later she was driving her car. Everyone is utterly amazed. She now takes care of her home and children as before."

"I wish to report a favor granted through Father Seelos' intercession. A foreign student at U.S.L. was introduced to me and he expressed his concern, worry and frustration that he had not had news from his parents, sisters and brothers in war-stricken Beirut for several months. I immediately began praying to Father Seelos. The next day he received a phone call that his parents were safe and not to worry."

Edgard, La.

"I had been praying for two months for my son to get a job. With the prayers and help of Father Seelos my son found a job. I will always say the Father Seelos prayer. Thanks."

From Brooklyn, N.Y.

"My toe was seriously infected. I applied the cloth memento of Father Seelos. The doctor spoke of amputation, but it was put off. Simple medical treatment was all that was required."

From Alexandria, La.

"My grandson had a very bad accident and was burned pretty badly on both arms and face. The truck he was driving turned over and caught fire. My grandson was trapped in the truck. God gave him courage to break the windshield and he managed to save himself. That is how he was burned. The doctor thought he would have to go through a long period of skin grafting and suffering so I started praying to Father Seelos for his help. After three days my grandson showed great improvement and the burns started to heal. He did not have to have the skin graft. He is nearly all healed. I know that only my prayers to Father Seelos have brought him this far to recovery."

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**FATHER SEELOS CENTER (USPS 488-660)**  
POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

## CHRISTMAS NOTES

CHRISTMAS IS THE VIRTUE OF GIVING. HERE IS A CHRISTMAS PRAYER!

"Lord, teach me to be generous, to serve You as You deserve, to give and not complain, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to work and not ask for any reward except to know that I am doing YOUR HOLY WILL."

That's the life of our Most Holy Redeemer. He inaugurated the virtue, the practice of 'giving' at Christmas, His Birthday, when He gave Himself for our salvation. His whole life was one of giving from the CRIB TO THE CROSS.

SEE YOURSELF!! You give service, but you complain; you practice the virtue of self-denial and love of the cross! It's hard sometime, but keep smiling, see the will of God in everything. Live the little ditty in your every day life, scatter sunshine: 'Smile a while and as you smile another smiles and then there are miles and miles of smiles and smiles and life's worthwhile because you smile.'

Thank the Blessed Mother for the gift she gave us on the world's first Christmas Day: The Babe of Bethlehem. Christ belongs to us individually. Give Him better than the miserable, cold stable — YOUR HEART IN HOLY COMMUNION.

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

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