



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 5

MAY 1982

MARY — MOTHER



In this your month, Mary, please ask your Son to bless us. Especially we beg a blessing for all MOTHERS. God bless all of you. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

With this issue we start our 21st year coming into your homes. We have grown in these 20 years and know we will continue to grow. Please pray that through Father Seelos' intercession we will obtain the miracles we need for his canonization.

Josie M. Becker

HEALING SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AT 3:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS St. Mary's Assumption Church, Constance and Josephine Streets.

The final days in the life of Father Seelos speak of wholehearted acceptance of suffering. This may well be the rarest of all virtues. And yet, strange, as it seems, the acceptance brings healing.

Despite his best efforts the doctor does not cure all suffering. Despite the most telling spiritual experiences, there exists in every man's life suffering, which God does not relieve. So to St. Paul, who thrice asked God to remove his thorn in the flesh God answered: "My grace is sufficient for you." And Christ himself, without sin as he was, was not spared suffering. In the Garden of Gethsemane he accepted the supreme suffering when he said to his Father: "Not my will, but thine, be done."

Father Seelos' answer to suffering was acceptance. Through acceptance, suffering bears spiritual fruit and even psychic and physical fruit as well.

Resignation is passive. Acceptance is active. Resignation abandons the struggle against suffering. Acceptance strives without backsliding, but also without rebellion. There is no greater testimony to the power of Jesus than that which shines from the bed of a sick person who miraculously accepts suffering. There is no attitude more impossible for man without the personal intervention of Christ than the acceptance of suffering. And yet, this is our goal.

FATHER SEELOS PRAY FOR US.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for May: POVERTY

Text: Blessed are the poor in spirit. (Matt. 5)

Patron: St. Thomas, Apostle

In many pictures and statues of Moses, he is holding the two slabs of stone with the (10) Commandments written on them. Usually on one slab are the first (3) commandments and on the other, the (7). Why? Because the first three have direct reference to God. Remember how Father Seelos made the WAY OF THE CROSS every night before he retired. He put the (12) monthly virtues in the stations. In the 1st, he put FAITH and the WILL OF GOD. In the 2nd, HOPE, that God would help him, and his desire to be a great saint. In the 3rd and 4th, the greatest of all virtues: THE LOVE OF GOD and its twin virtue, THE LOVE OF NEIGHBOR. These first three virtues of the stations for January, February and March are the first, second, third and fourth commandments of God. In these virtues are the basis, the foundation of all holiness.

Our next virtue is POVERTY. We ask why Poverty? Because if one does not watch himself, he may make money his god and wreck his ambition to be a saint. Money, riches, wealth are not sins in themselves, but may lead man away from God and that is SIN.

Christ gave us the (8) Beatitudes in His first sermon on earth. The first beatitude is BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD. (Matt. 5) Founders and foundresses of religious Orders make Poverty a VOW.

The blessed Mother certainly practiced the virtue of Poverty. Remember your Christmas cards! We can't live as she did, but we must practice the virtue of Poverty! The VIRTUE of poverty in one word, is detachment. We must be poor in spirit as Christ taught in the beatitudes.

A few suggestions—never complain if something is missing in the way of food. Thank God you have your daily bread. You are denied some recreation and you could wear old clothes. St. Alphonsus used to say 'patched clothes' are signs of poverty. Father Seelos wore them. Be good to the poor.

You can't help every beggar, but you can give to the poor of your church-parish through the poor box every Sunday. Teach the children to do this. Don't be envious of others, never look down on the poor. If one never goes to Mass on Sunday he is failing against Poverty. He refuses to pay his debts to God.

As Catholics we are the richest people in the world. We have the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Mass, Holy Communion. Make your home a Eucharistic Home.

Ask the Patron Saint of May, St. Thomas, to inspire us as we say fervently as we kneel before the Tabernacle: MY LORD AND MY GOD.

And don't forget there are canonized Kings and Queens who knew how to use their riches wisely.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Jefferson, La.

"Last year I asked prayers for a cancer victim 34 years old. His mother was grateful and says the Father Seelos prayer every day. He is on the road to recovery."

Dunson, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos to find me a good farmer to work my land and I found one, A GOOD ONE. Then I prayed for a lease on my land and I got one."

From Gretna, La.

"My daughter had a beautiful baby girl. The doctor said she had a kink in the valve leading to her heart. He said it was critical. The nurse gave me permission to place a Father Seelos cloth memento on the crib. After a month the doctor said she is now healthy."

From Thibodaux, La.

"I had never prayed to Father Seelos very much but I had a bad kidney and bladder infection and through prayers and asking for his help I was cured. My husband had to go to the hospital for tests and I prayed he would not need surgery. He was put on medication."

Sylmar, Calif.

"Father Seelos cured my throat. I couldn't eat, hardly swallow. Many thanks."

From Carencro, La.

"My friend had surgery in September and she is doing quite well. She asks for your prayers to pull her through. Thanks to Father Seelos for helping thus far."

From Donaldsonville, La.

"My daughter had surgery and I want to thank Father Seelos for his prayers. It was not cancer."

From New Orleans, La.

"My daughter, mother of three, was in need of a job to help with expenses. She had not worked for fifteen years and only wanted part time work. I began to pray to Father Seelos and she found two days work. She has told everyone she couldn't believe this possible."

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SPECIAL NOTES

Give the Blessed Mother the month of May. Say the Rosary daily, visit her shrine in church, consecrate yourself and your family (by name) to Mary daily and also the two billion people in the world, DAILY too!

MGILY means MY GOD I LOVE YOU and make it mean also MOTHER OF GOD, I LOVE YOU.

Thanks for using the monthly gold envelopes. We need your help to pay our Post Office and our printing bills and a few others. God bless you for your generosity.

All your letters of petition go on the tomb of Father Seelos.

Spread devotion to Father Seelos. Say the prayer on the little picture card to pray for his canonization. As a Guild member you are involved in a holy work — praying that a holy man be canonized a saint.

If you receive a favor, a cure, a conversion, write and tell us all about it. In a cure, ask the doctor to drop us a line.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS.

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

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