



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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MARY



Mary shines forth on earth until the day of the Lord shall come, as a sign of sure hope and solace for the pilgrim people of God. (Vatican II Constitution on the Church, #68)

Mary, our mother, is always ready to go to her Son for our needs. What a consolation to know we have such an intercessor in heaven. We should call on her to go to her Son for us. How can He say NO to His mother? Of course, our requests should be reasonable and for our good.

Mary is honored under so many titles and we all have our special title under which we call on her. We who are close to the Redemptorists Fathers

like to honor her under the title of MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP. This is an all embracing title.

Call on Mary using whatever "pet" title you have for her. Remember on Good Friday Jesus gave all of us Mary for our Mother, when He said to John "Behold thy Mother" and to her "Behold thy Son."

Happy Mother's Day and also since we are coming on to summer time, we wish you all a happy vacation. God bless you.

Josie M. Becker

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Virtue: POVERTY

Patron: St. Thomas, Apostle

Text: How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs. (Matt. 5/3)

In these days of ours when we have been waging wars against poverty, when we are struggling to effect a more just distribution of this world's goods to all the inhabitants of earth, we can be forgiven if we wonder why we are asked this month to practice a virtue called poverty.

In His time, Jesus said we would always have the poor with us, and that is readily understood. It stands to reason that there will always be some people who have more and others who have less. However, to have more or less was not the criterion Jesus wished to stress when He first preached the Beatitudes in His famous sermon on the mount. He was speaking not so much of the quantity of goods one might or might not possess. His intent, His interest was more in inculcating in His hearers the proper spiritual attitude on their part towards money and the things money could buy.

We all need money, just to live in a decent enough fashion, just to carry out God's will for us to exist on this planet until such time as He sees fit to call us to eternal life. During His public life, Jesus seemed to have little concern for money. When He needed money, it was there. Still He did use the services of the treasurer of His group of followers for whatever expenses they had to incur.

Our Savior taught us through the parable of the rich farmer what He thought about amassing wealth. The rich farmer looked out on the smiling fields around him, and realizing his present barns were inadequate to store the abundant harvests, resolved to build bigger ones. And then, with great satisfaction in his earthly possessions, he was promising himself a life of ease and merriment, when suddenly the time came for him to depart this life. Jesus simply asked, "to whom would all this wealth go?"

On another occasion a rich young man ran up to the Lord and asked Him what he should do to gain eternal life, and when Jesus said, "Keep the commandments," the young man replied he had kept all those from his youth. Then Jesus told him to go sell all he possessed and give it to the poor, and then come, follow Him. The Gospel tells us the young man turned away sad, for he had many possessions.

In these stories the Gospel is telling us two things about money. Number one, no one can take riches to the grave, and secondly, the possession of an abundance of wealth can, and so tragically often does, distract the mind from pursuing the higher and nobler ends of life.

Shortly after arriving in America, Father Seelos became a Redemptorist and in so becoming, took a vow of poverty. For him this vow of poverty would mean living in community with other Redemptorists, pooling whatever resources would come their way, and with the superior's permission, sharing with one another the food and clothing and housing necessary for their existence and apostolate.

This vow of poverty and a lack of possessions made it easy for Father Seelos to stick to his last, helping people to believe in God and do His will, even when it hastened his end. When he died, he died without any regret – only the supreme satisfaction that he made his life worth while before God.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Port Arthur, Texas

"I prayed for my husband, who was having trouble with his stomach. I asked Father Seelos to intercede for him to get better. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers. He is doing better."

From Metairie, La.

"My daughter and son-in-law were eligible for a low interest home loan. However, the house they were going to buy does not have a clear title. I prayed that the loan could be transferred to another house. The bonding company granted the transfer. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers. Also, my mother had a lump in her breast. Her doctor said that she should be checked by another doctor. He could find no evidence of a lump. Again my prayers were answered."

From St . Martinville, La.

"I prayed that my father would stop going out so much. My prayers were answered. He now stays home a lot. I also prayed to receive some money so I would be able to go back to school without asking my father for money. I won the jackpot at our church benefit bingo. Also I prayed many times asking Father Seelos to intercede for favors for me and have received answered to my prayers."

From New Orleans, La.

"My daughter who lives out of town was very ill. Doctor thought she might have cancer. After many tests in hospital away from here they found she had only a minor illness. Also my son lost his job and was out of work for a month. Through prayers he is now working. Also my grandson needed a job and had to move. These favors were also granted. He is now working and has found a house. Thanks to Father Seelos' intercession."

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

During the month of January we received 264 letters of thanksgiving and 353 letters of petition to Father Seelos.

May has traditionally been the month of the Blessed Mother Mary. We pray the Rosary more often. We decorate May altars; we have processions. Whether we have all these external manifestations of devotion in the same measure as heretofore, we on our part should not be deterred from performing our own private acts of piety.

One of the effects of Jesus' first miracle of changing water into wine was that the apostles believed more in Him. Since Mary brought the lack of wine to her Son's attention and implicitly asked for a resolution of the difficulty, should we not pray to Mary, Queen of the Apostles, for an increase in priestly and religious vocations?

St. Alphonsus parish will sponsor a Rosary procession and May crowning on Sunday, May 5, at 2 P.M. The procession will start at Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel on Third and Prytania Streets and proceed to St. Mary's Assumption Church on Josephine and Constance Streets for the crowning of the statue of our Lady followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. During the walk (approximately 11 blocks) the Rosary will be recited and hymns sung. A simultaneous service will start at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, which will consist of recitation of the Rosary, meditations and the singing of hymns. This is to accommodate those persons who are unable to walk with the group.

This May procession and crowning is being conducted in conjunction with the International Family Rosary March and the Knights of Columbus.

The procession should reach St. Mary's about 3 P.M. after which the crowning and benediction will take place. At 3:30 P.M. there will be a healing service and at 4 P.M. Mass. You may stay for these services also.

All of you are invited to attend. Those of you from out of town are invited to join us in prayer in your homes.

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

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