

SEELOS and SANCTITY



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vice-postulator

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VOL. I

NOVEMBER 1962

No. 7

MESSAGE OF THE VICE-POSTULATOR

One of the big holidays of November is Thanksgiving. At this time we should strive to nourish a spirit of gratitude. Gratitude is one of the outstanding virtues of Father Seelos.

He was always grateful for the wonderful family God had given to him. In fact he states that he desired to travel back to Europe merely to kiss the feet of his pious old mother in gratitude for her wise severity in training him in piety and self-denial.

He never left a single letter go unanswered, so anxious was he to express appreciation for the trouble the letter writer took.

Another frequent topic of his conversation was his gratitude for his vocation to the priesthood and religious life. He always maintained a great devotion to St. Cecilia. It was on her feast day that he received his letters of acceptance into the Redemptorist Congregation.

HOW YOU CAN IMITATE THE SPIRIT OF GRATITUDE OF FATHER SEELOS:

1. In your night prayers always include a word of thanks for the blessings God gave you that day. Try to think of the blessings in particular, rather than merely saying "Thanks".
2. In your morning prayers always say a word or two thanking God for letting you live during the night. (150,000 people died during that night. You were spared.)
3. This year the feast of St. Cecilia occurs on the same day as Thanksgiving, November 22. Father Seelos' devotion to St. Cecilia was based on his gratitude for his vocation. In other words Father Seelos valued spiritual favors

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much more than earthly favors. Don't just thank God for your good health, your job, etc. Thank Him most of all for keeping you out of sin and for giving you the grace to pray.

4. Whenever anything nice happens to you, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem, form the habit of saying immediately "THANK YOU GOD".

FATHER VAUGHN

Meet Our Volunteers

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We are happy to find ourselves firmly established in our new offices. We have a print shop, secretary's office, mailing room, storage room and private office for Father Vaughn.

While many people assisted in the required renovation, little could have been accomplished without the invaluable services of one particular man. His name is "GUS" (AUGUST) HEBERT. Work began July 23 and we moved in on October 1. During this entire time Gus donated eight hours a day, five days a week, without pay, doing a little bit of everything. This included cleaning out trash, putting sheet rock on the walls, painting, laying floor tile, plastering, electrical work, etc. etc. etc.

Gus is still working around the Center, building shelves and fixing up countless smaller items, too numerous to mention.

We don't know how we could have possibly completed the new Seelos' Center without his help. We know that he did this purely for spiritual reasons, in the hope that Almighty God will see fit, through the intercession of Father Seelos, to grant him the answer to his prayer. If it is answered it will mean more to him than any amount of money we might have been able to pay him.

WHEN YOU HAVE READ THIS, PLEASE PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND.

Poor Souls Month

Among the many graces given Father Seelos by Almighty God was that of a happy death. It is most appropriate in this month of the Poor Souls that we pause a moment and think about his death. During his short last illness his confreres kept a constant vigil at his bedside. When the moment of his death approached they sang his favorite hymns in honor of the Mother of God. An eyewitness tells us - "His eyes were fixed on the crucifix until they could see no more. A supernatural brightness appeared to illumine his dying countenance."

We should be inspired by his happy death to pray that ours too may be happy, that we too may be taken to heaven with the sound of others singing Mary's praises in our ears. Pray too that you may die embracing a crucifix, with fond expressions of love of God in your mind and heart and on your lips.

THANKS !

A Child Prays

"I have been praying to Father Francis X. Seelos for a special favor and it was granted. I shall continue to pray to him. My little four year old boy too knows the prayer and we pray together."

Shut-in

"I am a cripple and have not been able to travel for the last five years. A lady from New Orleans sent me the prayer to Father Francis X. Seelos. I prayed for my special intention of becoming able to travel. Since Father Francis has been in my home I made my first attempt to travel alone in the subway. Since then I have made other trips and have been successful. I have been able to control my nerves completely."

The 11th Hour

"My family and I had prayed for the conversion of my cousin, who had been married outside the church for 31 years.

"For three weeks he was in the hospital, very sick. About one week before he died I placed my intention to Father Seelos that he would return to his religious duties.

"The day before he died the priest heard his confession and gave him absolution.

"Thanks to Father Seelos for all the favors he has granted me."

Near Despair

"We are so happy to have learned about Father Seelos. My Mother has been praying to him for courage not to despair since my Father died. It is wonderful how her prayers are being answered. We were very worried about her state of depression.

"It is wonderful to feel that each of us may help in having Father Seelos declared a saint of the church."

Two Favors Granted

"I would like to tell you of two favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos.

"A woman was rushed to the hospital for a throat operation. After the operation she could not breathe and her windpipe was cut to save her life. The cut would not heal so I pinned a relic on her and it began to heal. She has now returned to work.

"A young girl from school had a very bad septic foot and the doctor decided to amputate the foot. It was a terrible sight. I sent the relic to the mother, who pinned it on the foot and now it is almost normal. The doctor has now permitted her to return to school."

Just As God Wants It To Be

"Thank you so much for remembering me in your prayers to Father Seelos, which I am sure have been answered, because the doctor told me there is no need for an operation, that time and nature will help me.

"While on my way to the doctor I kept remembering one sentence in your letter 'Just as God wants it to be'. I prayed to Father Seelos that everything would be all right and asked God to give me the courage to be able to say 'Just as God wants it to be'.

"Once again, thanks for your prayers. Please keep on remembering me."

Sight Saved

"On September 3 my little girl awoke with a very swollen and infected eye. After taking her to the doctor I found out she had spread her small-pox vaccination from her arm into her eye. By that night her eye was very, very bad.

"My neighbor gave me the prayer to Father Seelos and a relic. I pinned the relic to her pajamas and said the prayer over and over, asking that her eyesight be spared and that the infection would not leave too bad a scar, as they anticipated.

"The next morning her condition was improved. Each day she was a little better and within a week was well.

"Yesterday I took her to an oculist to see if any damage had been done. The doctor said her eye was perfect and not even a scar remained on the eye or the eyelid. He said she was very fortunate because usually cases such as hers result in complete loss of the eye.

"I feel my prayers have been answered."

If you have received a favor through the intercession of Father Seelos, won't you write us so that we will have it in our files.

PLEASE !

We ask you please to remember in your prayers two year old Karen Reintjes, cousin of Father Vaughn, who has cancer of the eye and is not expected to live. One eye has been removed. They are desperately trying to save the other eye. The cancer appears to have spread and little human hope appears to be present. The family has put the case into the hands of Father Seelos and are quite willing to accept whatever God wills. We know Father Vaughn will appreciate your prayers.

For your own intentions, the intentions mentioned above, and all the petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos, let us pause and say -

O MY GOD, I TRULY BELIEVE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH 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 SO THAT OTHERS MAY KNOW AND IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE. THROUGH HIS PRAYERS PLEASE GIVE ME THIS FAVOR....

Reminders

EVERY SUNDAY - 9 A. M. Mass is offered in St. Mary's Church for the intentions recommended to the intercession of Father Seelos.

PAY A VISIT to St. Mary's Church and the tomb of Father Seelos as often as you can - every day is possible.

Include in your prayers all intentions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos.

EVERY WEDNESDAY at 7 P.M. our SEELOS' ROSARY GROUP recites the rosary for the intentions of their group and for the speedy canonization of Father Seelos.

SEND IN NAMES of persons you feel will be sincerely interested in receiving literature about Father Seelos.

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