

SEELOS and SANCTITY



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vice-postulator

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MESSAGE OF THE VICE-POSTULATOR

Father Seelos always tried to treat his brother human beings as if he were dealing with Christ Himself. His kingly smile attracted countless throngs to his confessional. The sick could always count on a visit from him. Anyone who was in sin always knew they could receive kindly and sympathetic treatment at his hands.

TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARITY MEANS THAT WE DO GOOD TO OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS BECAUSE GOD LOVES THEM AND WANTS US TO BE KIND TO THEM.

Therefore, if you wish to imitate the spirit of charity possessed by Father Seelos, you must strive for nothing less than the charity of Christ.

How is this Christian charity to be practiced?

First YOU MUST PUT UP WITH THE FAULTS OF YOUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. Sometimes they are hard to bear. It is unfortunate though that we see so clearly their faults but we fail to recognize the same faults in ourselves. Christ has said that we see the tiny little splinter in our neighbor's eye, but fail to see the big chunk of wood in our own. Let us see the virtues in our neighbor rather than his faults.

Secondly, Christian charity requires that we FORGIVE THE INJURIES RECEIVED FROM OTHERS. Do not be like the man in the Bible who was forgiven a debt of \$20,000,000 by the King, but who refused to forgive a debt of \$17.00. God has forgiven you many enormous sins. Can you not forgive the small injuries and insults from your brother human beings?

Thirdly, Christ's charity is COMPASSIONATE. When he saw the great crowds that followed Him into the desert, He multiplied the bread and fishes to give them food. Leaving the 99 faithful sheep He goes after the one that was lost. Pitying our poor nature He died on the cross to elevate it. Following our Lord's example we must always have a great compassion for the unfortunate and help them as best we can. Do not condemn them, but rather pity them and help them.

Fourthly, Christ's charity is GENEROUS. He gave Himself COMPLETELY for us. Therefore, we must always be ready to render service to our human brothers, even though it means a little self-sacrifice.

"By this shall all men know that you are My disciples that you have love for one another."

THE CHARITY OF FATHER SEELOS WAS THE CHARITY OF CHRIST, HIMSELF.

LET US STRIVE TO IMITATE THIS LOVE OF NEIGHBOR IN FATHER SEELOS.

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD DO UNTO CHRIST!

FATHER VAUGHN

Editorial

"Saints are supposed to be born not made by man. Please do not send any further of your propaganda."

The above note, unsigned, was received at the Seelos Center. This is the first note of criticism we have received, but we are happy to say we have received many telling us of favors received and expressing appreciation for our newsletter, SEELOS AND SANCTITY, as well as for other literature we have sent.

Saints most certainly are NOT made by man, but neither are they born Saints. Sainthood is the end result of human beings living a good and holy life, always aspiring to a greater love for God, and dying in His friendship - the state of grace. Every one in heaven is a saint, even though not canonized. All of us can become saints. The lives we lead and the last moments of our lives will decide this.

There have been pious men and women who have lived exemplary lives. During their lives they have practiced many virtues which have edified those who came in contact with them. Their deep faith and holiness has inspired and influenced the lives of others. After their death - and sometimes even during their lifetime - God has shown a special favor to them by granting their special requests, not once but many times. In this way God shows to His Church that He wishes us to give them special honor, to publicize the virtues of His special friends.

It is important that some means be developed to let others know about Father Seelos' holy life. The sanctity of his life is an inspiration to others to do good. No one denies that the world today desperately needs good example. All we are trying to do is present to people this saintly model for their imitation. Our program is designed to present to people this saintly model for their imitation.

Father Seelos was inspired by the holy life of St. Francis Xavier, his patron saint, so let us all be inspired by the virtuous life of Father Seelos.

We are all born to be saints - but not born saints.

JOSIE M. BECKER



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Guild Corner

This corner in our regular monthly publication will replace the extra letter written each month by Father Vaughn. An envelope is enclosed with this issue for your offering. Be assured of our appreciation of the offerings received. This makes it possible for us to spread the devotion to Father Seelos more and also enables us to publish this little paper.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of MRS. ISABELLE BARES, a Guild member who died during the past month.

Continue your prayers for the intentions of all the other Guild members. We know you have been doing so because many of you have written us that you were.

GOD BLESS YOU!



Meet Our Volunteers - continued

In September 1960, Father Vaughn was just beginning his efforts to revive interest in the holy life of Father Seelos. He had no funds whatever with which to begin the project. It was then that two friends came forth to help him. One of his former seminary classmates, DR. A. J. GIORLANDO, promised to buy the paper and Dr. Giorlando's cousin Mr. FRANK CANNATELLA promised to print 100,000 picture prayer cards of Father Seelos free of charge.

These first 100,000 picture prayer cards formed the beginning of the present day devotion to Father Seelos. They were placed in St. Mary's Assumption Church near his tomb. Father Vaughn gave a sermon on Father Seelos at all Masses one Sunday. People began visiting the tomb and taking handfuls of the pictures and distributing them to their friends. Within approximately five months all of them had been distributed in this manner.

Since that time Mr. CANNATELLA, proprietor of MASTER PRINTING COMPANY, 1830 No. Claiborne Street, New Orleans, La., has done countless printing jobs, free of charge, or merely

(Continued on Next Page)

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS -

for the cost of the paper. Without his help the Seelos Center would have taken a much longer time to get on its feet.

Actually we have kept no records on the actual amount of money that Mr. Cannatella has saved the Seelos Center, but if we had the figures we know it would represent a considerable sum.

So a hearty word of thanks to these "pioneers". We know that Father Seelos has said a special prayer for them because of their tremendous influence in furthering his cause.



THANKS !

Karen's Mother Writes

"Since the last note we've returned from St. Louis with very good news. They believe Karen's eye has been saved - the tumors have been reduced to scars - there is no malignancy left - just scar tissue from the treatment. Her vision seems to be quite normal.

"We also just heard today of all the prayers from your readers of the Father Seelos letter. Bob and I will never be able to thank you and these people enough for your efficacious prayers. God has blessed us so abundantly. Our thanks, although inadequate, will be prayers that each person who prayed for Karen achieve a greater degree of spiritual maturity.

"In the next few years occasionally remember Karen as she still needs to be checked every other month."

A Happy Death

"I had prayed to Father Seelos for my sick aunt to have an easy and blessed death and to be given the rights of the church. My favor was granted and I hope it will help in the promotion of Father Seelos' cause for canonization."

Position Obtained

"A few months ago my nephew was informed by his employer that the office was moving out of the city and his job would be terminated.

"Immediately I prayed to Father Seelos and he has now been employed by a very good firm.

Position Obtained - Continued

"I also prayed for a friend of mine who was very sick with hepatitis. Thank God and Father Seelos she is getting along fine.

"Please pray that my son will soon return to the Sacraments."

Despaired

"I would like at this time to thank Father Seelos for a favor granted. Before I began the Father Seelos prayer my wife had been unable to sleep nights and neither was she able to rest during the day. She was in a state of frantic despair. No medicines would help her to rest. In final desperation I turned to Father Seelos for spiritual help, as I had just received literature about Father Seelos from a friend.

"Almost immediately after I began the Father Seelos prayer my wife's condition improved. She was less nervous, went about her housework as she had done before she became ill and at night she drops off into contented sleep! God bless Father Seelos. I thank him profoundly!

"Enclosed is offering for a Mass in honor of Father Seelos for a favor granted. I have learned to love to say that little prayer to Father Seelos, often during the day, and I find that it helps me very much."

Granddaughter Recovers

"My grandchild suddenly became very ill and immediately we took her to the doctor's office. My daughter told me not to forget Father Seelos. I pinned a relic on the child's gown.

"She was having fainting spells and the doctor could hardly find her pulse or hear her heartbeat. He rushed her to the hospital where she was given injections and infusions.

"Three hours later my daughter called to say she was better but still very sick. That evening I visited her at the hospital and was surprised at the remarkable improvement. The doctor visited her several times and at midnight he was amazed to see how she had improved so rapidly.

"Each time the doctor sees her he remarks that he has never seen any one become so ill so suddenly and recover so quickly.

My husband and I prayed along with our other grandchildren, for three hours, begging Father Seelos to intercede for her. We hope that this answer to our prayers will encourage others to pray to him.



PLEASE!

"I was told about the wonderful miracles Father Seelos is performing. My whole family is sad. My nephew got in trouble about a year ago. He went to jail. He is out on bond and it seems everything is against him. He is really sorry for what he did and trying to do everything he can but he is unable to hold a job. I am asking for your prayers for him. Maybe if he could get in the Army it would help however, he failed to pass the test. Please pray for him."

"Please pray that a Catholic who has been married in the church and is now divorced and remarried will see the wrong he has done and come back to his lawful wife and children, and most of all his God."

"Please pray with me to Father Seelos for good health, happiness and improvement in financial conditions; that our family will always be as we are now."

"I am praying through the intercession of Father Seelos to acquire more will power. I am overweight and gaining more weight. I know I am eating too much for the amount of work I do... Please pray also that I will be more punctual in saying my prayers."

"Please include in your prayers my petition for a just decision in a possible legal matter which could inflict serious hardship on my son's family."



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....

Application to mail at second class rate
pending at New Orleans, Louisiana.

SEELOS' CENTER
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

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

GUILD MEMBERS - NOTE NEW FEATURE
IN THIS ISSUE - SEELOS GUILD CORNER

VISIT FATHER SEELOS' TOMB IN ST.
MARY'S CHURCH, CORNER OF CONSTANCE
AND JOSEPHINE STREETS.

A MASS IS READ EACH SUNDAY MORN-
ING AT 9 A.M. BEFORE THE TOMB OF
FATHER SEELOS FOR THE INTENTIONS
PLACED IN THE INTENTION BOX.