



Seelos *and* Sanctity

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
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HOSPITAL BLESSINGS

I am planning a new service for the people of New Orleans who are devoted to Father Seelos. I will visit the hospitals in the New Orleans area once a week, and bless the sick with the mission cross Father Seelos used while he was living.

If you have a friend or relative who is devoted to Father Seelos, please phone

895-6176 or 895-6439



I have been thinking about doing this for a long time, but have hesitated because I really couldn't see how I would have time to make all of these visits. I have, however, decided to go ahead with this program, trusting that somehow Father Seelos will make it possible for me to do so.

Because this program will require a great amount of my time, I must set down some limitations in this matter.

1. Sick people will be visited only in hospitals. I deeply regret that it will be impossible for me to visit private homes or nursing homes. This would indeed consume too much time.

2. I will be able to make these visits on only one day a week, probably on Saturday.

I am most anxious to visit as many hospital patients as possible. Therefore, please phone the above number and inform me of anyone who wishes a blessing with the crucifix used by Father Seelos.

Father Vaughn

Prayer Produces Miracles



When someone approached Pope Pius XII and asked Him what they had to do in order to bring about the canonization of Pope Pius IX, he replied, "You

must get many, many people to pray."

This is the real secret of any cause for canonization. Hundreds, thousands, millions of people must pray. They must pray to God, asking that the cause for canonization will succeed. They must pray to the Servant of God, asking favors from him.

This is the reason why we try to make Father Seelos more widely known. It is to encourage people to pray to him. If God wishes the Servant of God to be canonized, He will normally show His Will by granting favors requested through the intercession of the Servant of God. Such has been the experience of all those involved in a cause for canonization.

This has been our experience in the development of the cause of Father Seelos. As more and more people prayed, more and more favors were granted. Those who received an answer to their prayer tell others about it. These in turn pray and receive answers to their prayers.

In time, the devotion grows. More and more people pray to the Servant of God. The favors granted become more outstanding. When the devotion reaches a certain point, God in His Goodness grants a miracle.

Some people think that God looks around and selects certain holy people and performs miracles to prove His choice of this person for canonization. This is not quite true. There are thousands of holy people who lived lives of heroic holiness, for whom God has never worked a miracle. Miracles are the reward God gives for the build-up of devotion to one of His servants.

God normally works through what we call secondary causes. In other words He tells us human beings that we must work as hard as we can toward a given goal. He then comes along and supports and helps us in our endeavors.

We have seen this happen in the cause of Father Seelos. As more and more people prayed, the more unusual were the favors granted. This is why it is most important for you constantly to encourage others to pray. Give as many Father Seelos holy cards and cloth mementoes to as many people as you possible can. Tell as many people as possible about Father Seelos. In this way you will be fulfilling the recommendation of Pope Pius XII. "You must get many, many people to pray."

**Thanks
To Father Seelos
For.....**

... the return of my husband. We were separated for about a year. I know it was prayers to Father Seelos that brought him back.

... a successful cancer operation.

... reconciling my granddaughter with her father. After hurricane Betsy the families were forced to live together, thus easing the tensions between father and daughter.

... helping me regain a proper mental attitude. My wife died in July, 1963. We had known each other since the age of 14 (I'm now 62), so I was inconsolable. I practically became a recluse. I didn't want to do anything except sit in the cemetery. I let my business run down miserably. I sat at home seeing no one. I had even bought a rope planning to hang myself. When I read about Father Seelos in the New Orleans States-Item I began praying to him (my grandmother was buried by Father Seelos). Within a week my attitude completely changed and my financial situation has now improved.

... helping us sell our house in three weeks - something that seemed impossible to do.

... helping us to make an important decision in our lives. We have been married seven years and have no children. We have applied to adopt a child.

... the reconciliation with my sister after a misunderstanding following the death of my mother. My sister became ill. I immediately visited her. We are friends again.

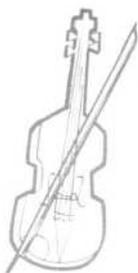
... the overnight disappearance of what might have developed into a serious infection. I applied the cloth memento of Father Seelos to the sore spot and prayed for the infection to heal. Only a small trace remained the next morning.

N.B. These reports of "Thanksgiving" are from the statements of our correspondents. Official judgement of the favors granted can be given only by the proper church authorities.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME WHEN SENDING THE ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE. HANDWRITING IS FREQUENTLY DIFFICULT TO READ; THUS SLOWING THE POSTING OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

The Music of Father Seelos

by LUANA JAMBOIS



The sound of song birds was the first music Francis Xavier Seelos grew to love. From the time of infancy, when the large Seelos family went together to Church where his father served as sexton, the peal of the church bells, the vibrating tones of the church organ, and the beloved hymns of his childhood became an indelible part of the love of music that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

To his student novices, his love of music and of small jokes upon himself was most apparent when he told them some of his various anecdotes. "When I was student novice, I took special pride in my skill on my violin," he would say. "When I was granted permission to play my violin together with the organ for High Mass, I was joyous indeed. But toward the end of the Gloria, I was so carried away that I lost my place in the music and lagged behind the organist. The organ had stopped playing but Francis Xavier Seelos kept playing on. The next morning a list was read from the Rector requesting certain students to leave the select group of musicians. I was dismissed in disgrace. My first attempt in the role of great artist was over. Maybe someday I will be able to play a golden violin in heaven."

His smile at the simple tale even extended to the smile he gave his students when they complained sometimes about his particular fondness for a hymn composed along the Memorare of St. Bernard, "Gentle Queen, Remember?" This hymn was sung a bit too often to suit the young novices. They would have liked a bit more variety. "Once beautiful, always beautiful," Father Seelos would say, smiling. The students would continue. The song would be sung just as often.

Father Duffy, his superior in New Orleans when he died, remembered his happy days as novice under Father Seelos. As his beloved teacher lay dying, Father Duffy told the priests and brothers of the Redemptorist community to gather round Father Seelos to sing the well loved hymn. Francis Xavier Seelos, lulled in his cradle by the sound of song birds died with the song to his beloved Mother Mary in his ears. The man who had sung the song of love to his Lord with the actions and thoughts of his entire life died cardled in the love songs of his religion.

BITS OF INFORMATION FROM



... We are still endeavoring to enlarge our mailing list. If each person receiving this newsletter would send us just one name it would help greatly.

... "I am sure I speak for each member of the Adoration League when I say we are very grateful to you for making this adoration hour possible for us to attend . . ." This from one of our devoted clients of Father Seelos.

... Are you continuing to make your monthly Holy Hour in St. Alphonsus Church?

... Sincere thanks to those of you who have written to us regarding the new format of our monthly bulletin. We have been trying to make our little paper interesting and informative. Your comments are helpful to us.

... For many years a St. Alphonsus parishioner, Winnie Sevine, has been making Mardi Gras souvenirs. The money she makes from selling them is given to a worthy cause. The Seelos Center has benefited from her little campaign for the past three years.

... Even Hollywood has come to the aid of St. Mary's Church. We received a check for \$50.00 from Bing Crosby to help the fund. Bing apologized for not sending more and pointed out that the requests for charitable contributions are so immense that he must try to "spread it around" as much as possible. We understand, Bing, and are most grateful.

... We will be without one worker for the mailing of this newsletter. Maggie Ford dislocated her right shoulder.



A PRAYER TO FATHER SEELOS

For your own intentions, 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 . . .