



Seelos *and* Sanctity

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

REV. JOHN J. VAUGHN, C.S.S.R.
VICE-POSTULATOR

JOSIE BECKER
EDITOR

Published monthly at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgement of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

October 4, 1867

by

Luana Thiel Jambois

The streets were quiet. The clop, clop, clop of a horse drawn carriage now and then invaded the stillness. The lamplighter would soon be making his rounds as dusk was falling. The tinkle of the bell at the monastery door announced yet another parishoner come to find out how their beloved Father Seelos was feeling today. Inside the monastery Father Seelos lay dying.

In imagination, let us go back to October 4, 1867. Let us listen to what the people who knew him had to say about him when he died.

"He became as if all spirit, as if he was lifted above all pain; he looked up as if he saw the heavens open. All of us experienced relief at seeing him thus. Father Alexander whispered a few words of confidence and love in his ear and very quietly and peacefully Father Seelos fell asleep with the Lord, Friday, October 4, 1867 about 5:45 in the evening. He was 48 years and 9 months in age. He had kept the faith because he lived according to the Faith to his very last breath." Thus Brother Louis talked of his friend, Father Seelos. Brother Louis had nursed Father Seelos in his last illness.

Outside the monastery walls, the wind suddenly shifted. A storm was beginning. The gaslights flickered. The quiet of the time before was broken as people began to shutter their homes and gather together their families in hurried preparation.

"After two hours his body was vested and laid in his coffin and brought to the Church which remained open for the entire night. New Orleans was suffering one of the most destructive and severe equatorial hurricanes that night. A tree right outside the window of the parlor was completely uprooted. But hardly had the churchbells tolled the sad news, the church began to fill with the faithful."

THE BALTIMORE PEOPLES PAPER said of him, "The Redeptorists lost in him one of its most beautiful ornaments. Heaven has gained a Saint, a martyr. He was in fact a man who because of his goodness of heart, through his ready sympathy with the troubled ones, through his simplicity won the hearts of all. Rev. Father Seelos died of the yellow fever, a victim of his vocation, a martyr of charity for suffering mankind. May his dear soul forever rest in peace and the glories of Heaven!"

THE PICAYUNE OF NEW ORLEANS in its editorial said, "Rev. Father Seelos of St. Mary's Church, District four - yesterday fell victim to the new raging yellow fever epidemic after he fought a long but loving battle. Today at 8 o'clock his Requiem was celebrated in his church. He will be solemnly buried at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

"No one could look at Father Seelos, especially in the pulpit or as he stood at the altar, without receiving the lasting impression that there was immeasurably more of Heaven than of earth in Father Seelos, the pious Servant of Christ. The many who sought his guidance were conscious of no other fault in him except that of his overflowing love and compassion for the poor, erring humanity."

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR of Baltimore said, "The announcement of the death of Rev. Father Seelos of the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer, who died in New Orleans of yellow fever, will start tears to flow among those who knew him. He died a victim and messenger of Divine Love. His lifespan was too short in years but long in good works. The earth has lost a hero of purity and apostolic zeal."

But I suppose the sentiments of everyone who knew him might best be summed up in the words of a Redeptorist novice, "There was something in his bearing, the kindness in his face. The first time I saw him I knew I was looking at a saint."

Dobloons Now Ready for Distribution

At long last we are prepared to distribute the dobloons honoring the centennial of the death of Father Seelos. We ran into a bit of hard luck with the dobloons. When the trucking company delivered them last month we discovered that someone in Chicago had packed several cans of paint upside down in the truck. During the trip down the lid worked loose and paint spilled over many of

the dobloons. Finally, however, a settlement has been made with the trucking company and we are now prepared to offer them for distribution.

The offering for the standard aluminum dobloon is \$1.00 each. The deluxe .999 silver dobloon is \$5.00. The offering for the set of five medallions (aluminum, verbronz, .999 silver, oxidized silver, copper) is \$15.00. Absolutely only 1,000 of these sets will be issued - no more! Undoubtedly, these sets will become a collector's item. Better hurry. These orders are coming in fast.

We will be happy to reserve any amount of dobloons you desire if you will phone us at 525-2495. Please call between 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Seelos Centennial in December

by
Father Vaughn

The other day I mentioned to a friend that we were planning a celebration of the death of Father Seelos. My friend replied "Why do you celebrate his death?"

I hadn't thought of the fact that the celebration of a death might seem strange to some people. Therefore, it might be well if I print my answer here.

The answer is very simple: We celebrate the death of holy people because many believe that it is on that day that they went to heaven. Thus when celebrating the centennial year of the death of Father Seelos, we are actually celebrating the belief of many people that he has spent 100 years in heaven.

Great plans are in the making for a spectacular and prayerful celebration of the centennial of the death of Father Seelos.

The highlight of the celebration will be a televised Mass. The entire Mass will be in English.

There will be a continuous vigil of prayer during the day. Everyone in the New Orleans area will be requested to accept a period of 15 minutes of prayer before his tomb.

Blessings with the crucifix of Father Seelos will be given on the hour and on the half hour in St. Alphonsus Church.

St. Mary's Church will be opened for this one day only. Guides will be present to explain the symbolism of the church and the former tomb of Father Seelos will

be opened for viewing, as well as the original coffin in which he was buried in 1867. The story of the life of Father Seelos will be narrated in color slides. A film of the television program concerning Father Seelos, which was shown several years ago, may be viewed at various times throughout the day.

Everyone who attends this celebration will receive a small piece of wood from the coffin of Father Seelos which was exhumed from his grave in St. Mary's Church last April.

Larger size pictures of Father Seelos and doubloons will be on sale. There will be open house in the Seelos Center.

We do hope all of you begin now to make plans to attend and to bring friends with you.

ANYONE WISHING FATHER VAUGHN TO VISIT ANYONE IN A LOCAL HOSPITAL TO BE BLESSED WITH THE CRUCIFIX THAT ONCE BELONGED TO FATHER SEELOS, PLEASE PHONE 895-6176.



... the safe delivery of my sixth child. My last child was so heavy that I was afraid. Thanks to prayers to Father Seelos I had a normal easy delivery. I have given him the middle name, "Seelos" in thanksgiving.

... helping me out of the depression I was in. Prayers to Father Seelos have helped my mental state and I show marked improvement in my health.

... recovery of my husband from surgery. We prayed to Father Seelos that the growth on his vocal cord would not be malignant. Even though the doctors had thought it would be cancerous, it proved benign.

... many favors: return of health for my father and his finding a very good job; my sister making good grades in college; and for giving me faith and courage to keep going. I have two handicapped children and our doctor and drug bills are very high. With his help we seem always able to meet our obligations.

... recovery of my husband of almost continuous hemorrhaging from the nose. The doctor feared brain damage from the continuous bleeding.

... for reemployment of my son by his employer. He not only was handicapped with a lame leg due to injury but was unjustly fired. The president of his company forced the foreman to apologize to my son and rehired him.

... sparing my daughter an operation for a kidney ailment. After a month's treatment the doctor decided surgery would not be necessary.

... gradual and continuous improvement in my mother's health. While hospitalized for a series of tests, she suffered three heart attacks.

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 . . .

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.