



# Seelos *and* Sanctity

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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## "COULD YOU NOT WATCH ONE HOUR WITH ME?"

by Father John J. Vaughn, C. SS. R.

Over three years ago we inaugurated a program of dedicating an hour a month to adoration of Christ in the church where Father Seelos was buried. Now that his remains have been transferred to St. Alphonsus Church, we would like once again to revitalize this program.

One of the outstanding virtues in the life of Father Seelos was his love for Christ in the Eucharist. His great devotion while saying Holy Mass was an inspiration to everyone who beheld him. After a full day's work he could often be found at night in the Church. In one hand he would hold his breviary, in the other a lighted candle.

He was the first one to introduce Forty Hours devotion in the city of Baltimore.

While giving a Mission in January of the year 1860, Father Seelos was kneeling before the Blessed Sacrament in Benediction when suddenly the altar of our Blessed Mother caught fire. It burned completely. The Church was packed and there was considerable excitement, yet Father Seelos knelt motionless with his eyes on the Blessed Sacrament, undisturbed by the commotion around him.

Undoubtedly Father Seelos spent many hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in St. Alphonsus Church. He said Mass in this church on many occasions. This church was constructed in 1854 and thus was in existence when Father Seelos was assigned to St. Alphonsus Parish.

We are asking those devoted to Father Seelos to promise to spend one hour either every day, every week, or every month, in adoration before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Let this hour of adoration be an extension of your celebration of the sacrificial banquet of the Mass. During this hour of adoration let us renew the four purposes of sacrifice. Let us **ADORE** the God Who created and redeemed us. Let us **THANK** Him for the wonderful gifts He has bestowed upon us. Let us manifest our **SORROW** for our offenses against Him. Let us **ASK** Him for the graces we need.

As you make your hour of adoration prepare for your next celebration of Holy Mass -- that intimate act during which you as a member of the people of God render your part of the contract which God made with us when He said, "You shall be My people and I shall be your God."

You are requested to choose a certain day of the week, rather than a certain date of the month. In other words choose 10 A. M. on the first Wednesday of the month or 4 P. M. every Thursday, etc. Do not choose the 15th of the month or the 18th of every month, etc.

Mail your choice of time to us at the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130. You may use the blank found inside this publication.

Before each of your assigned times you will receive in the mail a reminder card to help you remember to attend.

There will be many suitable books in Church to assist you in your hour of Adoration.

Is there some special favor you are looking for from Father Seelos? Why not pledge a Holy Hour regularly in the church that contains his mortal remains? Undoubtedly he will look with favor on your request.

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In imitation of Father Francis Xavier Seelos, C. SS. R., I hereby **PROMISE** to spend **ONE HOUR OF ADORATION EVERY MONTH** IN ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH on the day and hour stated below. (Circle appropriate words, e. g. :

First Tues. 4 P. M. - Every Sat. 11 A. M.)  
**FIRST - SECOND - THIRD - FOURTH - EVERY**  
**SUN MON TUES WED THURS FRI SAT**  
5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 A. M.  
12 Noon - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 P. M.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### **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. .*

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## FATHER SEELOS, ASK GOD TO HELP US.

by Luana Thiel Jambois

The baby turned in his crib. His face was dotted with the red rash of measles. The whimper he gave was not unusual for a sick child. But there was something different about this cry. Something alerted his mother where she rested in the bed next to his crib. She bent over his crib and touched his forehead. "Wake up!" she cried to her husband. "Go. Get the doctor!"

It was Friday, April 11, 1872. Three doctors hunched over the child, whispering in somber consultation. They offered no hope. For a twenty month old infant, these unexpected complications were too much! Little Julius Stephi had developed pneumonia and meningitis as well! They would try. The Doctors Hoffmann, Clark and Foligney were good men with families of their own. They liked the parents -- one of them had delivered the child. This was Pittsburgh, 1872. The means of fighting these illnesses were limited at best. Pneumonia was a killer itself. With meningitis too! They looked at the small body as the baby clenched himself in the beginning of his death agony and they looked at the anxious young parents! "God help them. We cannot," said one of them, pulling at his beard. "We will try," said another. "Come, little mother, sit and rest. Your vigil will be long perhaps," said the youngest.

The time that the death agony began was 11:30 A. M. on Friday morning. It seemed that one young child could not possibly take such pain and continue living. The heat from his body was tremendous - The first cries of infant protest against the violence the sickness had brought had long since quieted. The doctors had left on Saturday night, promising to return today if the baby still lived. It was Sunday morning when Mrs. Mary Magdalena Vogel came into the home of her daughter. Mrs. Vogel lived in Lawrenceville near Pittsburgh. She was unaware that her grandson was dying. She had stopped for just a moment on her way to High Mass at St. Augustine's Church.

Her daughter and son-in-law seemed spent, their faces drained of spirit and their tears dried and stained with the anguish they had endured through the sleepless nights and days. The baby had such horrible pain that the poor little fellow had pulled out his own hair! Now, he too, was quiet

and pallid lying there.

"Only God can help us. Better to pray," she said when her daughter told her that all hope was gone. "Better to pray," she said to herself as she walked down the street to church, her sobs quiet and her eyes filled with tears.

But at St. Augustine's she could think of nothing else during Mass but her baby grandson. She saw him in his crib suffering. She saw his mother and father. She saw everything but the altar before her. Only at the sign of the Consecration bell did she rouse herself.

Suddenly she remembered Father Seelos. She had loved to go to confession to this kind smiling priest. When he died five years before she had felt that she had lost a friend. Now as they rang the bell in the Church tower at the Consecration she remembered how he had looked so full of love when he bent over the Host at Mass. He was surely a saint. She said aloud, "Father Seelos, while you were on earth you had the power to change bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. Now that you are in heaven you are not less powerful. Please ask God to heal my grandchild." She promised to make a novena in honor of Father Seelos and have a Mass said if little Julius would only get well, or, if it was God's Will, to die quickly without the horrible agony that racked his baby body.

She felt suddenly at peace. Her tears stopped. Whatever would come she would face it. Father Seelos would help the little family. She could almost see the hand he held out to her in greeting when she would see him, the friendly smile on his face, when he listened to her petty worries. Now that the worry was a big one, he would not be less interested, she knew.

"Mother!" Her daughter ran into her arms as she came to the house. She laughed. She cried. But this time they were happy tears, dancing in the sunlight. "Mother! The most wonderful thing has happened! Just after the consecration bell rang in the tower of St. Augustine's little Julius fell asleep. He's so quiet and peaceful! Come! Come see him! He's still sleeping and the fever's gone! I think he's going to be all right!"

The baby woke up an hour later, crying the hungry cry of a healthy baby. "Eat," he said. "Hungry, eat." And for the first time in days he ate.

The doctors were astounded! "A miracle," they said. "There is nothing to be done for him," they repeated. "God has done it all," said the doctor with the beard. "Our work was made easy.

Thank God. "

Little Julius Stephi was completely cured!

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....Father Vaughn has returned to the city and is now available to make his usual calls to hospitals in the New Orleans area and bless the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Again we repeat should you have a relative or friend in a local hospital and wish Father Vaughn to bless them, kindly call 895-6176.

....The doubloon (or medallion) commemorating the centennial of Father Seelos death should be available shortly. The order has been given to the manufacturer to proceed with striking the coins. The price of the standard doubloon is \$1.00 each. For those who wish a more permanent and lasting memorial, a deluxe doubloon, manufactured from .999 silver, will be available for \$5.00 each. There will also be an issue of only 1,000 sets of five separate commemorative coins. This five coin set will be composed of the following types: aluminum, verbronz, .999 silver, oxidized silver and copper. This five coin set will undoubtedly become a collectors' item. They will be available at \$15.00 per set. You may order them now from the Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.

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OCTOBER 4TH  
MARKS THE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE DEATH OF FATHER SEELOS.  
PLEASE WATCH THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
FURTHER DETAILS AS TO ITS CELEBRATION.

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