

SEELOS and SANCTITY



REV. JOHN J. VAUGHN, C.S.S.R.
vice-postulator

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EDITOR

VOL. I

DECEMBER 1962

NO. 8

MESSAGE OF THE VICE-POSTULATOR

It is Christmas day in the year 1844.

The scene takes place in St. James Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

A 25 year old man is standing at the altar, robed in shining white vestments. The church is filled by devout parishioners who have heard that today this newly ordained priest will sing his first Solemn High Mass.

The name of this young priest is FATHER FRANCIS X. SEELOS, C.S.S.R.

You may well imagine the joy of spirit and the depth of devotion with which Father Seelos said his first Mass. His soul was indeed intimately united with the new born Christ.

At this Christmas season it is our wish that Almighty God, through the intercession of this beloved SERVANT OF GOD will fill your hearts with that same fervor and devotion which he possessed. May your soul ever burn with love for God, as did the soul of Father Seelos May his spirit of prayer, sacrifice and devotion enter into your heart during this Christmas season and throughout the entire year.

Let us each pray for one another.

We in turn promise you a special remembrance at our Mass on Christmas Day, said before the tomb of Father Seelos.

FATHER VAUGHN

Editorial

I would like to share with you a letter we have received at the Seelos Center - not a thanksgiving or petition, but a letter which shows the progress we are making in spreading devotion to Father Seelos.

"I am writing to inquire about securing some information on Francis X. Seelos. The reason: A couple of relics were thrown in our mail slot at work and being the only Catholic in the office, one of the men put the relics on my desk. They were not in an envelope. I guess some youngsters had no idea what else to do with them. The man who told me he had found them at the office door stated he felt I would be interested as my late husband's name was Francis X. - Odd, what some people think, isn't it?

"I am really curious to know something about the relic and the Servant of God, Francis X. Seelos. I can't very well make out the initials. They could be C. SS. R. I would appreciate hearing from you."

I am sure that most Catholics in the New Orleans area have heard about Father Seelos and dare say that those who have heard of him have prayed for favors through his intercession. Every day we receive letters from people in other cities, however, we have just skimmed the surface. Won't you tell your out of town friends about Father Seelos? Or send us their names and we will be happy to send them literature.

On behalf of the volunteer workers at the SEELOS CENTER, I wish all of you, our friends in Father Seelos, a very blessed and happy Christmas. May the Infant Babe of Bethlehem keep all of you in His loving care.

Josie M. Becker

Meet Our Volunteers

In presenting the cause of Father Seelos to church authorities in Rome, it is necessary that much of the documentation be given in Italian. After inquiring we discovered that the cost of having these translations made by professional translators would be far out of the reach of our budget. We searched for many months for a solution to the problem. The answer finally came in the person of MISS CESARINA TINCOLLI, who came to us like a pot of gold from the sky.

Miss Tincolli is a native of Italy, residing at present in New Orleans. She is very well versed in several languages. She volunteered to make these translations without any remuneration whatsoever.

For the past eight months she has averaged two or three hours each night working on these documents. Approximately 250 closely typed pages had to be translated from English into Italian. Bear in mind that this was done after a very long and arduous day at her regular place of employment.

Miss Tincolli's work has gone a long way toward the development of this cause. We know that Almighty God, through the intercession of Father Seelos, will indeed greatly bless her for this magnificent accomplishment.



THANKS !

Two Loved Ones Helped

"In early June my husband entered the hospital for an ordinary checkup and received the shocking news that he had a malignant tumor on the main artery at the base of the heart, which was inoperable. The pressure of the tumor on the artery was blocking the flow of blood and was causing it to become stagnant from the neck up. He was immediately given nine powerful X-Ray treatments - with no results.

Two Loved Ones Helped (continued)

Three specialists were consulted and all agreed nothing could be done but to try to ease the pain. He was given two weeks at most to live. I pinned medals of the Sacred Heart and our Mother of Perpetual Help and a relic of Father Seelos on him, and spent every minute of the day in constant prayer, pleading for a miracle.

"On the feast of the Sacred Heart an unknown doctor came into the room, examined my husband and went over all of his X-Rays, then quietly stated that he could help my husband. He started treatments that very day and after three months treatment, my husband is walking, eating and sleeping well. Of course, he still must take a few more treatments. The doctors who gave no hope for him call it amazing and unbelievable.

"He is living proof of God's Infinite Mercy and great power. I have no doubt that through the powerful intercession of our Blessed Lady and Father Seelos my prayers were answered.

"There is another part to this story. Nine days after my husband was hospitalized my father was confined to another hospital for a checkup. This time we received another agonizing verdict - cancer of the bladder and an immediate operation was imperative. Because of his age (70 years) the doctor gave us no hope and did not even expect him to survive the operation. My mother pinned the relic of Father Seelos on him and during the entire five hours of the operation my mother kept fingering a relic and praying to Father Seelos, and I kept repeating over and over 'Mary help him'.

"My father came through the ordeal beautifully, though for three weeks he lingered between life and death. Today he is driving the car and doing all the things around the house that he did before his illness.

"We cannot thank the Sacred Heart, our Mother of Perpetual Help and Father Seelos for all they have done for us."

Grateful to a Friend

"I received a wonderful favor through prayer to Father Seelos. My brother was away from church and the sacraments for over forty years. I prayed to Father Seelos during Lent that I would receive a letter from my sister telling me that my brother had gone to confession and communion. I can't tell you how overjoyed I felt when I read her letter, telling me he had been to confession and communion and was attending Mass with her regularly.

"I am grateful to the friend who sent me Father Seelos' picture and prayer and ask God to make him a saint."

Worried Mother

"A few weeks ago I brought my nine month old son to our pediatrician for his checkup and the doctor expressed deep concern over his muscular development. She suggested that I see a specialist at once. I was able to make an appointment with the specialist for one week later. During that week I was deeply troubled with words like "spastic" and "muscular dystrophy" going round in my mind. My mother gave me one of your leaflets about Father Seelos and I began to pray to him as well as to my dear helper, St. Gerard Majella, and within a very short time my lazy little boy started to try all sorts of movements. By the day of my appointment with the specialist he was able to sit unsupported for the first time. All the tests were encouraging and we now feel that he will catch up to normal muscular ability very soon.

"I will continue to pray to Father Seelos and recommend him to my friends in the hope that it will not be too long before he is declared a saint."

About Karen

Father Vaughn wishes to express his sincere appreciation to all those who have been praying for his little cousin, Karen Reintjes. A special word of thanks is extended to the many, many people who were kind enough to

(continued on last page)

About Karen - Continued

write and inform him of their prayers. Father Vaughn's entire family joins him in these sentiments.

Karen is doing very well. The doctors are quite satisfied with the progress of her case, however, she is still a long way from being cured.



PLEASE!

"I am praying for my son, who was laid off at work, that they will soon call him back. Please remember him in your prayers."

"I have had a nervous breakdown and can't seem to get well. Please pray for me as I am praying hard too, morning and night."

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.

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