

SEELOS and SANCTITY



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MESSAGE OF THE VICE-POSTULATOR

One of the most beautiful stories in the life of Father Seelos concerns the training his mother gave him as a child. She was accustomed to training her children in the virtue of mortification and self-denial. She was not the type of mother who allowed her children to indulge in every pleasure their hearts desired. Rather she would gently urge them voluntarily to give up things they liked and to do things they did not like out of love for God.

So few parents today follow her example - rather they give their children almost every pleasure possible. From the time they are little babies they teach their children to grant their body any pleasure it desires. Is it any wonder then that we find it so hard to resist temptation when we grow up?

I have often thought that what made Father Seelos the holy man he became was the excellent training he received from his devoted mother and father.

Daily family prayer, daily spiritual reading and daily conversation about God and spiritual things were routine in the Seelos family.

MAY I THEN DRAW FROM THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS THE FOLLOWING THOUGHT:

1. If you wish to sanctify your soul you must do so by learning the art of self-denial. No one can give himself completely to pleasure. The reason for most people's anxiety and tension simply boils down to an uncontrolled search for pleasure.

The reason why we do not have more religious and priestly vocations today boils down to an uncontrolled search for pleasure.

The reason why there are not more saints in the world is because of an uncontrolled search for pleasure.

Remember the art of self-denial. Deny yourself some of the pleasures of the body - do things you don't like to do. Do all this out of love for God.

2. Realize the importance of training your children properly from the very earliest days of their existence. Teach them about God. Teach them to pray. Teach them to deny themselves. It is only in this way that your children will grow up to be imitators of the holy life of Father Seelos.

(continued)

January 11 is the birthday of Father Seelos. He was born on January 11, 1819. Why not wish him a happy birthday by attending Mass and receiving Communion on that day or come to the Mass on Sunday, the 13th.

(continued)

3. As this New Year approaches adopt the following plan:
 - a. Analyze yourself - find what is your biggest fault.
 - b. Make a resolution to avoid this fault. Write it down and put it in your prayerbook.
 - c. Renew this resolution several times every day - particularly with your morning and night prayers and every time you go to Mass, praying for strength to keep the resolution.

FATHER VAUGHN.



Meet Our Volunteers - continued

This month we salute MISS PAULINE ABADIE. Ever since Father Vaughn began, as Vice-Postulator, the promotion of the cause of Father Seelos, Pauline has been a ready and willing worker. She spends many hours at home working with the records of the SEELOS GUILD. She goes along quietly doing her job and sometimes, because of this we almost forget all she is doing. But when the time rolls around each month to mail our newsletter SEELOS AND SANCTITY and to greet our Guild members, we are well aware of the work she has done.

Pauline has assisted us in many other ways. She has helped us with typing - also with folding, addressing and readying the newsletter for mailing. In fact when we have been pressed for time she has taken home newsletters and along with her family, has folded hundreds of them in record time. We are ever grateful for the help she has given us.



Editorial

A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU! May God bless all of you and your families in 1963. May 1963 bring us much nearer to the day when our beloved Father Seelos will be declared a saint.

We usually begin a new year with resolutions - many of them broken - but each year we begin again with the same resolutions and hope with the help of God we will be more successful in keeping them.

Daily in our prayer to Father Seelos we repeat "Please let him be declared a saint of the church that others MAY KNOW AND IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE". We would like to leave just a thought with you about his holy life. Why not try in some way to pattern your life accordingly?

In his boyhood Father Seelos gave clear signs of all the virtues by which he distinguished himself all his lifetime - a childlike obedience, fervent prayer, love of the cross and extraordinary patience, singular love of his neighbor, a certain heavenly cheerfulness.

Summed up in this one little paragraph are virtues and qualities of Father Seelos which certainly bear imitation. Analyze each one and try to imitate it in your own life. Think what a better place the world would be to live in if we all lived these virtues.

JOSIE M. BECKER



EVERY SUNDAY - 9 A. M. Mass is offered in St. Mary's Church for the intentions recommended to the intercession of Father Seelos.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH is located on the corner of Josephine and Constance Streets.

THANKS !

God's Will

"While my aunt was very sick in the hospital a friend of mine gave me a prayer to Father Seelos. She said that if it was answered I should write you to help further the cause for his canonization.

"I prayed to him (and many other saints) every day for my aunt to get well or get to heaven. She was on her way to recovery. But suddenly one night she took a turn for the worse and within hours she died.

"She received the last Sacraments and received Communion each day while in the hospital. So I feel my prayers to him were answered."



After Eighteen Years

"I was visiting the chapel in a hospital one day and found a card telling about Father Francis X. Seelos. I started to say the prayer asking that he be declared a saint, and asking his help in gaining a favor. Through his help, my brother-in-law, who has been away from the sacraments for about eighteen years has made a good confession and is receiving the sacraments regularly."



Many Favors Granted

"I'm writing this letter in thanksgiving to Father Seelos for answering my prayers. My husband underwent a serious operation several months ago. The surgeon removed 70% of his stomach which was ulcerated. All through the operation I implored Father Seelos help. The operation was very successful and my husband recovered marvelously. He has now returned to work.

"Many other favors have been granted to me by Father Seelos. So thanks to Almighty God and Father Seelos. I am praying daily for all the petitions placed on the tomb of Father Seelos, and that he will soon be canonized a saint."



Mother Worried

"Just a note of thanks to Father Seelos. A few months ago my baby came down with a high fever. After several shots of penicillin, plus quite a few bottles of anti-biotics, the doctor thought it might be necessary to hospitalize him. I prayed hard to Father Seelos and promised publication of this favor, if granted. The fever broke.

"I pray that Father Seelos will be canonized because I'm sure he is close to God in heaven."



Health Improved

"Recently I have been praying daily to Father Seelos for the return of my mother's good health and for our house. After a month my mother's doctor gave us very good news and things look wonderful. Also about the same time we received news that the loan for our house had been approved and building would start soon.

"I am sure it was due to Father Seelos' help that these things have worked out so well. I am continuing to pray to him daily for other important things and feel sure if it is God's Will I shall receive them."



Come Out and Show Your Stuff!

We need people who have a little time between 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. to STUFF about 25,000 envelopes at the SEELOS CENTER. The envelopes require five different enclosures.

If you feel you might be able to help us during these hours, please phone Agnes Bourg at the Seelos Center, 525-2495, between 9 A. M. and 3 P. M.

PLEASE !

"Enclosed is offering for a Mass to be said in honor of Father Seelos for a speedy recovery of my brother, who is suffering from a nervous condition. As of last week he was forced to take an indefinite period of leave from his position. Would appreciate very much if you could include him in your prayers.

"My requests have always been granted from Father Seelos and I will continue to pray to him."

"Please ask Father Seelos to pray for my son, to go to confession and communion soon, and attend Mass regularly. I have been praying to Father Seelos for my grandson also, that he will speak well. He is six years old."

"In the Sunday Mass please remember an intention for the removal of all the obstacles to my entering the brotherhood next August. Thank you."

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....

SEELOS' CENTER
2030 Constance Street
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

RETURN REQUESTED

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