



Seelos

and

Sanctity

REV. JOHN J. VAUGHN, C.S.S.R.

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A Blessed Christmas Season

This greeting is being written to you from 30,000 feet above the earth. I am on board a TWA Jet headed toward Kansas City, Missouri. It is now 7:15 P.M. I left the "Queen Mary" at 2:45 this afternoon, after a very pleasant five days on the Atlantic ocean. I am now going to spend a few days with my mother, father and three sisters before returning to New Orleans.

By now you have received my letter written from Fuessen, the birthplace of Father Seelos. I wish each of you could visit this charming little town. Without doubt it is one of the most romantic spots in all of Europe. The friendliness of the people truly stands out in my mind. They seem to have the same gay, carefree attitude toward life that one finds in the character of Father Seelos. I really and truly feel that I know him better after having visited his hometown.

One fact, however, has become abundantly clear as a result of this journey. WE HAVE A GIGANTIC TASK AHEAD OF US !! Let us not try to fool ourselves into thinking that Father Seelos will be canonized soon. I had a good opportunity in Rome to see the immense amount of work which was involved in the Beatification of Bishop Neumann. The work will not be less for Father Seelos. It will take lots of time and lots of work.

Anyone who had any experience at all with beatification processes emphasized the importance of making him more widely known and prayed to. *We must double our efforts.* More literature must be published. The circulation of this publication must be increased, again and again. Thousands - millions - must learn about him.

Your contributions have enabled us to advance as far as we have. The only motive which prompts us to pursue our goals with such vigor is our firm confidence that this generosity will continue and increase.

Most of the contributions we have received come to us from people who have prayed to Father Seelos for a favor and who have received an answer to their prayers. We are, therefore, convinced that the key to the entire program is **PRAYER TO FATHER SELOS!**

Pray to this very holy Servant of God. The more people pray to him, the sooner he will

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

IMPRIMATUR † Rt. Rev. Vicar General Lucien J. Caillouet, P.A., Dec. 2, 1963, New Orleans, La.

To Know and Imitate His Holy Life

Father Seelos possessed a Christlike love for his fellow human beings which showed itself in his attitude toward all, from the time he was a child until the moment he died.

He was gifted with an inborn cheerfulness and friendliness from his very childhood. He appeared to be filled with a certain heavenly happiness that attracted all. Everyone loved him very much without ever becoming too familiar or too bold in his presence. This was especially true of the religious over whom he was superior.

He never showed the least bit of favoritism towards anyone. In fact he was so successful in displaying the greatest friendliness towards everyone that each person who knew him considered himself to be his special friend.

No one ever saw him angry. At times he would, for a few moments, seem carried away in his sermons, and would appear to be somewhat angry in his vehement denunciation of sin. However, he would return at once to his accustomed gentleness and would almost ask pardon of his audience for having displayed his temper.

His lovely disposition and almost supernatural friendliness seemed to attract people the first time they met him. He took special interest in each person who came to him for advice and help - rich or poor, educated or ignorant - he treated them all with the same friendliness. He freed all of them from the burden of their sins. He gave to each of them his heaven-inspired advice and sent them away very much consoled.

Some of his penitents related that if he could not give them absolution at once because they were not firmly resolved to give up their sins, he treated them with such kindness that almost all of them returned to make a good confession. The very charity with which he acted towards them brought them back.

For Seelos Guild Members ONLY

Father Vaughn's article covers anything to be said to you this month. However, we would like to remind you of our "mutual prayer" plan - all guild members pray for the intentions of all other guild members. We are all united in prayer for all of our intentions.

In your prayers please remember to include the happy repose of the soul of *MRS. CELIA MENDEL*, a guild member who passed away during the past month.

Also continue your prayers for the speedy canonization of Father Seelos.

**MAY THE INFANT BABE OF
BETHLEHEM SHOWER BLESSINGS
ON YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES!**



He had a special love for the sick. He was very faithful in visiting them. He was able to console and comfort them, while at the same time urging them to patience in their sufferings. He brought them Holy Communion very frequently.

If people could not come to him for advice because they lived far away, he was very faithful in corresponding with them. In his letters he would guide their souls as to how they could best serve God. This was especially true in the guidance and direction he gave to nuns.

His love for his fellow human beings was genuine Christ-like love - not a sentimental human love based on emotional attraction. He despised every shadow of sentimentality and avoided it most carefully both in his letters and in his conversations.

May we suggest that you strive always to maintain a cheerful and friendly manner

toward your fellow man. Lend a helping hand whenever possible to your family, friends, neighbors, as did Father Seelos. Most surely you will feel an inner peace and happiness that comes only from giving of one's self to help another. You will find you have gained more than you have given in helping another person with his problems. Do not count your charity in dollars and cents *only*.

(Material used in article is taken from the Life of Father Seelos by Father Zimmer and has been condensed for this paper.)

THANKS!

"My father, a confirmed alcoholic for years, was cured of a 30 year case of alcoholism about three years ago. Out of the blue an A.A. member came to our house one night. Since that night he has not touched a drink. Prayers take time but they *eventually move mountains*. I knew my prayers would be answered. My mother had carried this cross all her life and I had carried it eight years after her death.

"But Dad had still not received the Sacraments. I knew God would bring him back, but I wondered if it would be on his death bed.

"About three months ago I received a card asking me to give an hour of adoration each month at the tomb of Father Seelos. I did not know anything about Father Seelos but I read the literature and I began to believe that my attendance at that hour might be what God wished of me. Because I live on the other side of the city, I figured the inconvenience of making this visit each month to St. Mary's Church might merit some

reward for my prayers.

"Now I have only been making this monthly hour of adoration since the latter part of the summer of 1963 (about 3 times).

"My Dad recently entered the hospital for a check up. I spoke to the visiting priest, never thinking the time had arrived for the answer to my prayer. When my Dad got out of the hospital he phoned me. 'Thanks. I feel like you just gave me a million dollars!' he said. I was dumfounded. He had gone to confession the day after I had phoned the priest. He had received Holy Communion each of the remaining days he was in the hospital. He told the priest, 'My daughter was behind this.' I would say he had not been to the sacraments in 16 or 18 years.

"Daddy recently inherited money but he and I both agree we are happier about his return to the Sacraments than the inheritance, which is a considerable amount.

"I attribute my father's sudden return to God to my prayers and hours of adoration at Father Seelos' tomb. Father Seelos, I believe, was responsible for it all.

"I am praying for a cure of a very painful and mysterious ear ailment of mine - also for a Catholic annulment of my marriage (my husband divorced me about 13 or 14 years ago). I would like a companion if it be God's Will."

We at the Seelos Center are very happy Father Vaughn is back home again. There are always so many little things coming up which we have put off "to ask Father about." We are glad he had such a wonderful trip as you could all see from the very newsy letter he wrote, and we all say most sincerely - "Welcome home, Father Vaughn."

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be canonized. Through our united efforts we will eventually succeed.

Please accept my most heartfelt wishes for a very Blessed Christmas Season and for the abundance of God's grace during the coming New Year. I shall pray to Father Seelos, begging him to intercede before God for you. May each of you in the coming year, fulfill completely the destiny outlined for you by Almighty God from all eternity.

FATHER VAUGHN

PLEASE!

"Ever since I lived in New Orleans I have followed the activities of the Seelos Center with interest, admiration and hope. Your October issue of *Seelos and Sanctity* will be especially remembered as I have clipped the part on mental prayer for my 'prayer scrapbook' - a sort of private prayer-book.

"For some time I have been thinking of becoming a brother and made a final decision not too long ago. I am corresponding with and have spoken to Superiors of several different orders and hope to make a decision this month and present an application for admission around the first of December. It is my hope that He will give me a present on His Holy Birthday - notification of acceptance by an order.

"Please pray at the tomb of Father Seelos that my vocation to a religious order as a brother will be assured if it is God's Will."

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 . . .

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On behalf of all the volunteers whose work makes possible our little visit into your homes each month, may we wish you a very merry Christmas. We all feel like old friends since we have been sending *SEELOS AND SANCTITY* into your homes for many months now.

**MAY YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES HAVE
A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON.**

**WHEN YOU HAVE READ THIS PAPER,
PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!**