

# SEELOS and SANCTITY



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

JOEIE M. BECKER  
EDITOR

VOL. II

MARCH 1963

NO. 3

## MESSAGE of the VICE-POSTULATOR

### PERPETUAL ADORATION BEGINS IN CHURCH WHERE FATHER SEELOS PRAYED

One of the outstanding virtues in the life of Father Seelos was his love for Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. 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.

His great devotion while saying Holy Mass was an inspiration to everyone who beheld him.

He was the first one to introduce the 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 this Church, over which he was the equivalent of Pastor. In this very Church lies his mortal remains.

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 in St. Mary's Church. There will be a book in the rear of both St. Mary's and St. Alphonsus Churches in which you may sign up for a definite time. Each one will be assigned to a promoter. If something happens that you cannot keep your assigned time please notify your promoter and he will in turn try to get someone to take your place.

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 every month or the 19th of every month, etc.

If you wish you may mail your choice of time to us at the Seelos Center.

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 St. Mary's Church to assist you in your hour of Adoration.

For every one who makes a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament a Plenary Indulgence may be obtained.

Is there some special favor you are looking for from Father Seelos? Why not pledge a Holy Hour regularly in the Church that was so dear to his heart. Undoubtedly he will look with favor on your request if such is the Will of God.

GOD BLESS YOU!

FATHER VAUGHN

## Editorial

"A SAINT IS A SINNER WHO TRIED!"

Often we think of a saint as someone clothed in long robes, perhaps wearing a beard, with hands folded and eyes lifted heavenward in an ecstasy of prayer. It is natural that we think this because it is the way they are portrayed in the pictures and statues in our churches.

But the saints did a lot more than pray. They were engaged in countless works and activities. They were faced with THE VERY SAME temptations we are faced with today. They lived in a world in which their fellow human beings were constantly striving for greater comforts, more pleasures and deeper material satisfaction. Yet in spite of all this they lived lives of intense love for God. They dedicated their entire lives to Him. From the time they got up in the morning until they went to bed at night their constant thought was "How can I please God?"

This is what made them saints.

By canonization the church intends to place the lives of these people before our eyes as models upon which we can pattern our own behavior.

It is true we could study the life of Christ in the Scriptures and model our life after His, but He lived so long ago and was not subject to the same temptations that we have. The idea of canonized saints is to present an extension of Christ - other Christs - to each of us as models for our human behavior.

Many of the saints whom we venerate lived hundreds of years ago. Father Francis X. Seelos, though not yet canonized a saint, truly lived an heroically saintly life. Best of all he lived in our own modern times. In fact he could have heard the confessions of your grandparents. - (I know from reliable sources that he actually did hear the confession of my grandmother!)

If you wish to live a saintly life, study the lives of those who have gone before you and who have achieved heights of sanctity.

No one ever became a saint without first being a sinner.

A SAINT IS A SINNER WHO TRIED!  
JOSIE M. BECKER



## For Seelos Guild Members

THANKS A MILLION for all the help you have been in the development of our program! We know very well that our progress thus far is due in a great measure to you.

Also lots of thanks for sending us names of others whom you feel would be interested in knowing more about Father Seelos. This gives us the opportunity to invite them to become members of our Guild.

Please remember in your prayers the soul of Mrs. IRA V. COLLY, a Guild member who died during the past month.

DON'T FORGET THE INTENTIONS OF ALL OTHER GUILD MEMBERS! While you are praying for a favor, pray too for the intentions of all other members. They will at the same time be remembering your needs in their prayers. In this way each of us will be helping each other.

GOD BLESS YOU!

## Meet Our Volunteers

Our Newsletter started last May with a mimeographed copy. Each month we tried to improve it. Father Vaughn was anxious to have it printed. With our limited funds this was impossible.

While we were struggling to find a solution we suddenly thought of a very close friend, MARJORIE OSBORNE of OSBORNE, INC., 513 Gravier Street, New Orleans, La. She most graciously offered to handle the printing free of charge. The only thing we had to pay for was the paper.

When you receive this publication each month you can realize it comes through Marjorie's generosity. She does most of the work after working hours.

We feel that this publication is really our "life-line". It is the heart of the development of our program, because it keeps us in contact with you, who are so interested in the furtherance of this cause. It is one of the most important aspects in this development and we are happy to tell you that this has been brought about by Marjorie's generosity.

# THANKS!

## *By Chance*

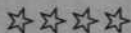
"While I was in New Orleans for the holidays I happened to pick up an envelope addressed to my sister, about Father Seelos. I am enclosing the yellow envelope and will help you as I am able. I would like very much to receive devotional material mentioned in your leaflet. The town I live in is 1/2 Catholic and I have been distributing Green Scapulars for some time now, trying to spread this devotion. Would like to do all I can to help your cause for Father Seelos.

"I have a special reason for wanting to do so. For almost a year I have been suffering with my teeth and jaws and have received very little relief. I have been praying to the Blessed Mother and the Infant Jesus and somehow feel with all my prayers that perhaps I should pray to Father Seelos, asking him to intercede for me with the Blessed Mother and the Infant Jesus to cure this illness without the need of extracting my teeth.

"I felt great peace and faith when I picked up this envelope with the material of Father Seelos and I feel that he will cure this condition if it be God's Holy Will. I promise in my prayers to him that I will do all in my power to spread devotion to him if I am cured of this most painful condition.

"I feel that Father Seelos has already begun to help me since I started to pray for this intention just a few days ago and decided to write to offer a little assistance. Upon our return home yesterday, my husband was informed that he would receive a very nice raise in salary.

"Thank you, Father, and I hope you will receive another letter from me telling you of a condition very much improved."



---

Marjorie says she is glad to do what she can for us to help spread devotion to Father Seelos and she feels sure he will help her in her problems. Won't you all say "thank you" to Marjorie for our little paper by remembering her intentions in your prayers?

## *Received Communion*

"I was granted a great favor since I have been saying the prayer to Father Seelos. My son-in-law went back to the Sacraments after 12 years and my daughter after 5 years. Please pray that they will continue.

"I am asking one more favor of Father Seelos and if I receive it I will let you know."

## *Not Since Grade School*

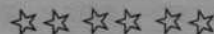
"I have been praying to Father Seelos and St. Gerard that my two boys would return to the practice of their religion. Neither had been to Communion since they left Catholic Grammar School. One was married and went to church and Communion and the other enlisted in the Air Force and he also went back to Church and the Sacraments. Thanks to Father Seelos and St. Gerard."

## *How "Cloth" Travelled*

"I am enclosing offering for a Mass of Thanksgiving for a favor received. I had trouble with my left eye and I used Father Seelos' cloth memento and my eye is all right again.

"I have another favor to report. I had given Father Seelos' cloth memento to a friend at New Orleans. Later on she was travelling on the bus from Florida to K. C. when one of the passengers became very ill. Her young son came to the bus driver and asked him to stop the bus and call an ambulance to take his mother to a hospital. The driver advised it would be better to continue with their trip and take her to a hospital in the next town, which he did. My friend wanted to help the sick lady. She looked in her purse for some aspirin. She saw the cloth memento I had given her so she took it to the sick lady, whose condition seemed very critical. She asked the lady to wear it.

"My friend is not a Catholic. She tells me that by the time they arrived at the hospital the lady was able to walk from the bus. The lady kept the cloth memento. My friend was very much impressed and I gave her another one for herself."



# PLEASE!

"Father please pray for me. After going through an operation, plus many complications, I am in a very deep state of depression and am very nervous. I am so sick and try very hard to pray. At times my mind is very distracted, but I still try. Please, Father, remember me in your prayers."

"I've prayed to Father Seelos - I've made novenas to almost every one I can think of. I go to Mass and Communion every day. I feel as if I can't go on much longer. I need help. There can only be one answer to my prayers - reconciliation between my husband and myself. I want him to come home. I need him and love him very much. Pray for me."

"Please pray for my daughter's health and my daughter-in-law's father, and for the conversion of my two sons."

"Please pray for me. I am very nervous. Also please pray that my brother will have steady work and we will both have good health."

"Please say a few prayers for me that my sight will return. Thanks and God bless you."

"Please pray to Father Seelos that my son will change his disposition."

"Please pray for my husband to get work. Also please pray for his health."

"Both of my eyes were operated - one was removed. Please pray that my sight will improve in the one eye."



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 and Sanctity

Published monthly at the  
SEELOS CENTER  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans 13, Louisiana

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. Visit Father Seelos' Tomb in St. Mary's Church, corner of Constance and Josephine Streets. A Mass is read each Sunday morning at 9 A.M. before the tomb of Father Seelos for the intentions specially recommended to us.

Miss Magdalen O'Connor  
2114 Laurel St  
New Orleans, 13, La.

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, L.A.

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