



Seelos

and

Sanctity

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

Vice-Postulator

JOSIE M. BECKER

Editor

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NO. 1

THE SEELOS PROGRAM - PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

I. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE IN 1963

1. The total number of copies of *SEELOS AND SANCTITY* mailed increased from 2,900 to 6,100. GUILD members increased from 750 to 1,200.
2. We distributed 100,000 picture-prayer cards, 70,000 cloth mementoes, 25,000 pamphlets titled "DO YOU NEED AN 'IN' WITH GOD?" and 16,000 packets containing a brief life of Father Seelos and an invitation to join the GUILD.
3. We received 5,600 pieces of mail, which includes 800 letters of thanksgiving and 1,000 letters of petition.
4. In March an adoration program was inaugurated in St. Mary's Assumption Church. Now 475 people dedicate one hour of adoration each month in imitation of Father Seelos.
5. In September, I was privileged to go to Rome to consult with authorities concerning the cause and to visit the places in Germany where Father Seelos lived.
6. Father Curley has begun a very important series of exhaustive research into the life of Father Seelos (see article).
7. On September 29 our annual televised Mass in honor of Father Seelos was celebrated in St. Mary's Church with 800 people in attendance.

II. PRESENT PROBLEMS

1. We must streamline our office procedure. Several businessmen in New Orleans are assisting us in this project.
2. At the present time we are \$3,000.00 in debt to three different printing firms. This has been necessary in order to have a sufficient stock of literature about Father Seelos available.
3. We need more funds. Since the largest portion of the finances at the present time comes from members of the GUILD, we must obtain more GUILD members.

III. WHAT YOU CAN DO IN 1964.

1. **TALK ABOUT FATHER SEELOS.** Your words are more powerful than mine. When friends

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE)

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 † Archbishop John P. Cody, January 11, 1964, New Orleans, Louisiana

THE SEELOS PROGRAM – Continued from Front Page

hear **YOU** talk about Father Seelos it will mean much more to them than if they would read my words in this letter. **Don't underestimate your power!**

2. **IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF THE SEELOS GUILD, JOIN TODAY.**

a. GUILD members say the Father Seelos prayer every day for their own and other members' intentions, and sign a "*Declaration of Intention*" to donate something each month. It does not bind in conscience and may be revoked at any time.

b. Among other things Guild members share:

1. In a **weekly Mass** before the tomb of Father Seelos,
2. In **special prayers** said by 8,000 Redemptorists all over the world,
3. In the **many prayers and good works** which are brought about through the distribution of the literature.

c. For your convenience a GUILD envelope is included in this publication. Do not feel embarrassed if you can only give 25¢ or 50¢ or less. The widow's mite is just as pleasing in God's sight as the gift of millionaires. Father Seelos loved the poor. It is only fitting that his cause be financed by the poor.

3. **SEND US TWO NAMES OF PEOPLE WHO YOU THINK MIGHT BECOME GUILD MEMBERS.**

The year 1967 is the 100th anniversary of Father Seelos' death. Our goal is to have 100,000 guild members by that time. Help us to reach our goal. Include the names in the enclosed envelope even though you may feel it is impossible for you to join the GUILD at this time. No postage is required to mail it.

We are depending on your help.

FATHER VAUGHN

For Seelos Guild Members **ONLY**

Let's all help Father Vaughn fulfill his desire to have 100,000 members by 1967! Send us names of people whom we can contact.

Keep up the good work. Most of all keep up your prayers for your own intentions and those of other GUILD members, and once in a while say a little extra one for all of us at the Seelos Center.

We ask your prayers for the following GUILD members, who died during the past month:

MRS. BLANCHE SNOW

MRS. ANTHONY CARONNA

We are receiving quite a few petitions for prayers for good health, successful operations, etc. Please add an extra prayer for them also.

GOD BLESS YOU!

FUESSEN – BIRTHPLACE OF FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, C.S.S.R.

In response to my request Father Michael Curley has written a detailed account of his two and one-half months of research in Europe. The object of the research was to pinpoint with more historical accuracy the early life of Father Seelos. The accounts of these early years were incomplete. The results of Father Curley's work have been most gratifying.

The research in Fuessen established the Seelos family in historical fashion. Most of the family lived near the town but one group settled in a town about forty miles to the west. These folks had to be visited and a family tree drawn up so that an accurate knowledge of the Seelos clan could be obtained and the present members of that family located in order to ask them for material that might be in their possession. Adam Seelos, a brother of Father Seelos, lived in another town some

distance away. His relatives still live there. From that family an important original letter was obtained, which shows the motives that Father Seelos had in leaving for the missions in America. In the letter he says that in conscience he could not resist going to help his fellow countrymen in America who were without priests.

Father Curley discovered that the houses where Francis Seelos lived were still standing. Since the numbering of the streets was changed some years ago, it was necessary to make certain from the city archives that he was in the right place when he went to the Seelos home. Incidentally, most people thought Francis Seelos had always lived in the sacristan's house attached to the church. The records proved that he lived in another house. Many documents in the city archives demonstrated this fact. There is now no doubt that all the Seelos children were born in the same house for the documents in various departments in the city archives and church records prove it beyond any chance of mistake.

The city archives contained a series of documents on the father of Francis Seelos, which proved very enlightening, and which enabled Father Curley to study the background of Mr. Mang Seelos. In one of the letters he gives a brief account of his life. Several other letters indicate the family's financial condition. Two letters request financial aid to help young Francis Seelos go to High School and College. These give such details as the income of the father, the number of children to be supported and the distress that Mang Seelos was having when the weaving business in which he was engaged began to fail.

In Fuessen it was established that the man who helped Father Seelos to pursue his studies was a Father Heim. In Augsburg, Father Curley was able to trace the history of Father Heim until his death about fifteen years later.

As you can see, a great deal of work was involved. Father Curley had to read hundreds of manuscripts (written in Latin and German). Countless exasperating delays caused difficulty (in not finding people at home, getting permission to read the documents, delays in

THANKS!

"I tried for fifteen years to obtain regular work. I prayed to several saints to ask Almighty God to help me. Last year we almost lost our home. At that time I prayed to Father Seelos. Our home was saved and I obtained regular employment. I am still praying to Father Seelos and distributing literature about him to friends.

"Will you please publish my letter so that others may pray to obtain favors through the prayers of Father Seelos?"

"In May my husband was injured on his job and he brought suit against his employer. I prayed to Father Seelos and have spent an hour a month before his tomb praying for his canonization. I also asked that a settlement would be made soon. For a time everything looked bad. The lawyer advised us to get verification from two doctors, which we did, however, the company doctor had a different opinion. We did not lose faith. Yesterday the lawyer called us and said a settlement had been reached out of court -- just three days before he was to appear for trial! We received a little better settlement than we were first told we would. For this we shall be forever grateful.

"I will continue to spread a knowledge of Father Seelos and will never stop praying that one day he may be called 'Saint'. In our eyes, he has already reached this goal."

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On behalf of all of us at the Seelos Center, we wish you a very happy New Year. May all of you be showered with God's blessings in 1964.

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having photostats made, etc.). It also involved considerable expense (travel expenses, photostat expenses -- over 5,000 of them -- etc.). Father Curley deserves a great vote of thanks -- and a prayer. His work is only beginning.

JOSIE M. BECKER

PETITIONS

"Please help me pray for my son to be more careful in his driving. He has had two accidents this year. Thank God no one was hurt in either one. Also please pray for him to get a better job. He works so hard for so little that he is ready to give up his job, however, he is afraid he won't find another job because he has no education. Please pray for him to have more faith. I ask him to go to church, but he says he prays in his own way and doesn't have to go to church. Please help me pray that he will go to church and receive Holy Communion. I worry so much about him."

"Please pray that my son will be married by a priest - that another son will be cured from stiffness of his arms and hands - that another son will stop drinking for his own and his family's sake."

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 . . .

In the January issue of *PERPETUAL HELP* magazine there is a very nice article about Father Seelos. Copies of this issue may be obtained by writing to:

PERPETUAL HELP MAGAZINE
LIGUORI, MISSOURI

We have just received word of the death of two Redemptorist priests in Canada -- REV. FATHER LUCIEN HOWARD, C.S.S.R. and REV. FATHER STANLEY GOETZ, C.S.S.R. Please say a prayer for them.

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Seelos and Sanctity

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FATHER SEELOS' BIRTHDAY

January 11 marks the 145th anniversary of Father Seelos' birth. We haven't planned any special Mass in his honor on this day, but it would be nice for all of us to make a special effort to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on that day.

Have you pledged one hour's Adoration each month in St. Mary's Church?

When a New Year begins we all make good resolutions. Won't you resolve now to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at least one hour each month?

Write us and say "I wish to spend one hour of adoration each month. Please contact me."

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