



Seelos and Sanctity

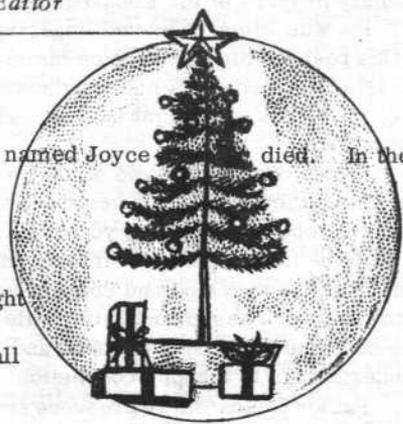
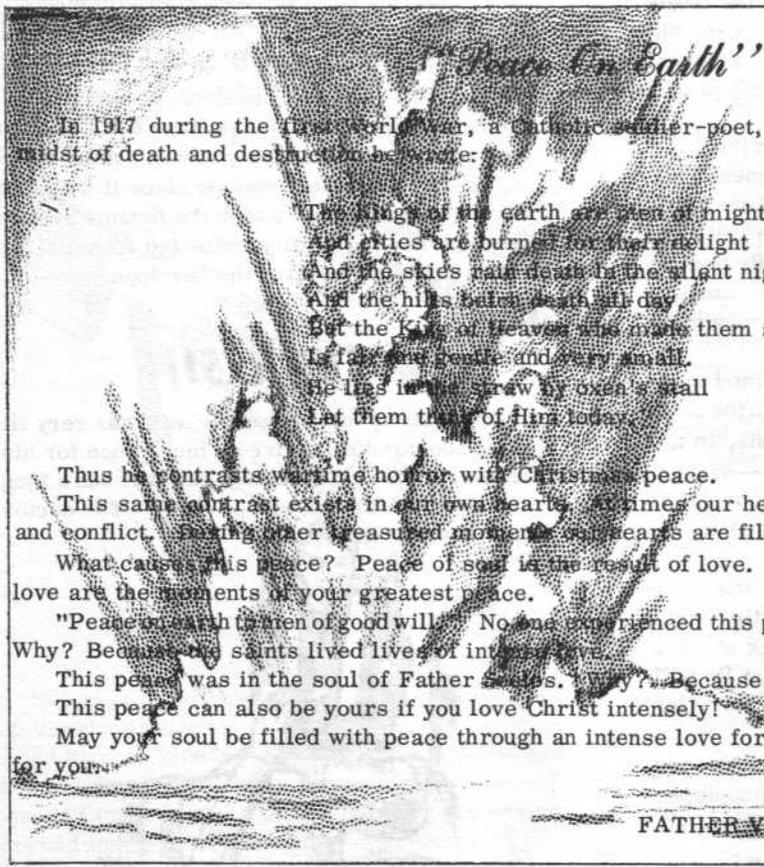
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REV. JOHN J. VAUGHN, C.S.S.R.
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JOSIE M. BECKER
Editor



In 1917 during the First World War, a Catholic soldier-poet, named Joyce Kilmer, died. In the midst of death and destruction he wrote:

The Kings of the earth are men of might
And cities are burned for their delight
And the skies rain death in the silent night
And the hills bear death all day
But the King of Heaven who made them all
Is low and gentle and very small
He lies in the straw by oxen's stall
Let them thank of Him today.

Thus he contrasts wartime horror with Christmas peace. This same contrast exists in our own hearts. At times our hearts are filled with anxiety, tension and conflict. During other treasured moments our hearts are filled with peace.

What causes this peace? Peace of soul is the result of love. The moments of your most intense love are the moments of your greatest peace.

"Peace on earth to men of good will." No one experienced this peace more fully than did the saints. Why? Because the saints lived lives of intense love.

This peace was in the soul of Father Seelos. Why? Because he lived a life of intense love. This peace can also be yours if you love Christ intensely!

May your soul be filled with peace through an intense love for Christ. This is our Christmas wish for you.

FATHER VAUGHN

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 † Bishop L. Abel Caillouet, D. D., Nov. 23, 1964 New Orleans, Louisiana

To Know and Imitate His Holy Life

Father Seelos displayed very clearly the virtue of HOPE.

In the midst of various adversities in his life he showed the strongest confidence in Divine Providence. His manner was always cheerful.

He tried to inspire others to feel this same great confidence in God's Providence both in talking to them and in his correspondence.

In spite of his many occupations he prayed unceasingly and was never absent from the Community prayers of the Congregation.

He was often observed fingering the beads of his rosary which he wore on his cincture, but he tried to conceal this unusual devotion by shaking the beads as though he was merely playing with them.

Father Seelos believed himself entirely unfit for anything and if you heard him speak or if you read one of his letters, you might have taken him to be the greatest of sinners. He relied on the assistance of God and courageously undertook the work assigned to him. He seemed to be supernaturally strengthened and brought his undertakings to a happy conclusion.

Father Seelos' mere presence seemed to inspire others with hope and confidence in the goodness and mercy of God -- in his sermons, in the confessional, in private conversation -- so much so that it rarely happened that he was unable to convert a sinner who had heard him speak.

In this happy Christmas season, when we again celebrate the birthday of the little Christ Child, our "ray of hope," let us think of Him and pray with confidence, knowing that He will guide us and give us everything necessary for our lives.

May the Babe of Bethlehem and His Blessed Mother smile on you today and bring happiness to you and your loved ones, is the wish of all of us at the Seelos Center.

JOSIE M. BECKER

For Seelos Guild Members ONLY

Kindly remember in your prayers the happy repose of the souls of

LYNETTE BRUNG

MRS. THERESA BEGER (aunt of Josie
Becker)

both of whom died recently.

Keep up the good work of spreading devotion to Father Seelos. Continue your daily prayers that his cause will progress rapidly and continue to pray for each other. J.M.

GOD BLESS YOU!

"THREE PENNIES SAVED....."

You will note the envelope enclosed does not include postage. Our postage bill has been quite high. We are sure you won't mind placing a stamp on the envelope since it will cost you only 5¢ whereas under the former system by which the Post Office collected from us, we had to pay 8¢ to receive the envelope.

* * * * *

THANKS!!

"Sometime ago my son-in-law was very ill and the doctor did not give us much hope for his recovery. He is improving, but still has a long way to go before he will be well. The doctor says it might take years.



"It had been years since he had received the Sacraments and I prayed very hard to Father Seelos, asking him to intercede for me. Before

going to surgery he went to confession and received Holy Communion.

"Please continue to pray for him and also for my daughter who is not very well. They have five lovely children, but with both parents not well, their home life isn't too pleasant.

"Please pray for us, but most of all help us to thank Almighty God and Father Seelos for bringing back my son-in-law to the practice of his religion."

"In April I asked you to pray for my brother who was seriously ill, and I am happy to say that after four major operations he is now well and able to return to his business. I am so grateful to our Blessed Lord and to Father Seelos for his intercession. Please continue to remember my family and myself in your prayers."



"My 15 year old daughter had been troubled with high blood pressure for eight or ten years, accompanied by nose bleeds. Several years ago she had been hospitalized for tests on two different occasions, but to no avail. Lately she had been having very bad nose bleeds, more like small hemorrhages. The doctor gave her medicine to coagulate the blood but expressed concern because the blood pressure was higher than usual and felt it may be necessary to put her in the hospital again. He said to come

back in a week. In that week I prayed night and day to Father Seelos to reduce her blood pressure. When the week was up the doctor took her blood pressure, not once but many times, in several positions. He was amazed and said there was no medical explanation available — her blood pressure had dropped to 124 - the lowest it had been in eight years he had been recording it. She had had no nose bleeds in that week or since that time. I promised Father Seelos that I would write a letter and pray at his tomb in thanksgiving.

"This was the second great favor I received through the intercession of Father Seelos. The first one was in July 1954. A Notre Dame Sister at Redemptorist Parish was preparing my little girl, age 11 years, though severely retarded mentally, to make her first Holy Communion and she said that it was time for her to go to Confession. On July 23, 1954, Father Greenwell tried very hard to get her to go to Confession and succeeded after talking to her about one hour. Then he tried to teach her how to receive our Lord in Holy Communion - but she was very stubborn and would not cooperate. Before we left St. Alphonsus Church that Friday he told me not to be too discouraged but to pray to Father Seelos and he told me a little about him as it was the first time I had ever heard of him. That night I prayed fervently. The next morning we took her to Mass. The first time Father Greenwell approached her at the Communion rail she refused to open her mouth. He whispered to me that he would try again. In the mean time I looked at the tabernacle and asked Father Seelos to intercede with God and to let her receive Him this day. I told Father Seelos he could prove to me that he was in heaven by granting this favor to me. The next time Father came by her at the Communion rail, she opened her mouth and received our Lord as if she had been doing it all her life. I certainly felt that this was an answer to my prayer.

"This same little girl died only three weeks later on a Saturday morning, after being ill six hours with what was apparently only 'croup'."

PLEASE!!

"Please pray for me. Just when I need faith most it seems to have almost left me. I have become despondent over a number of sad events. A few years ago my dear husband died. Later my youngest son had a very serious nervous breakdown. (He is much improved, though I doubt he will ever fully recover.) Last of all, my heart was broken by one I loved and trusted.

"I say the little prayer to Father Seelos every night and I hope he will intercede for others in need and also for me."

"My husband has a drinking problem and has become interested in other women and does not seem to care for his family. He has not been to confession for the past four years and not attended Mass for the past three years. Please pray with me that he will make a good general confession and then I believe his other problems will be more easily overcome."

"Please pray that my daughter will return to her religious duties and my granddaughter will be raised a Catholic. Also pray that my daughter will have more patience with her child."

"Please pray and ask our Seelos Guild members to pray for my husband's true conversion from alcoholism and his return to the love and service of God. Also pray for his reconciliation with me."

J.M.



NO THANKS!!

For your own intentions, the ones mentioned above and all those placed before the tomb of Father Seelos let us say the following prayer -

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Seelos and Saucity

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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 THAT OTHERS MAY KNOW AND IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE...

