



# Seelos

and

# Sanctity

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

*Vice-Postulator*

JOSIE M. BECKER

*Editor*

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VOL. III  
NO. 2

## YOU DESERVE TO BE DESPISED

One of the hardest things for us human beings to bear is criticism, insults, and to be despised by our fellow men. Every one of us has an unconquerable desire to obtain the approval of our fellow human beings. When we fail to get it, but rather find ourselves the subject of disapproval and criticism, we become frustrated, hurt and resentful.

True, you have every right to feel that way and I can't blame you. I often feel the same way myself. But on the other hand, if you really think about it for a while, **you are actually being treated in exactly the way you deserve.**

But you may say, "I was right, the other fellow was wrong. He accused me of doing something I didn't do. He resents me unreasonably. He is so ungrateful for all that I have tried to do for him."

I grant you that what you say is undoubtedly true, but **think of all the sins that you have committed, for which you have received no real punishment.** Think of all the times you have offended Jesus Christ and yet He has readily forgiven you. If some enterprising newspaper reporter were actually able to delve deeply into your private, secret, hidden life, and publish on the front page of the daily newspaper every sin you've ever committed in all its disgusting detail, would you really and truly deserve to be praised or would you deserve to be criticized and condemned?

The answer is obvious. When you really think of all the sins you've committed, you actually have "gotten away with murder".....Thus **for every one time that you were blamed or criticized unjustly there were probably a hundred times when you could and should have been blamed and criticized, but were not.**

The attitude most of us adopt when we are unjustly criticized or our feelings are hurt is to react with anger or to crawl into the shell of depression.

This, however, was not the reaction of the Saints. Insults and criticism would not affect them in the same way that it affects most of us because the saints figured that when they were insulted and criticized they were only getting what they deserved. Sure, they knew that in this particular instance they might have been innocent, but they also knew that there were hundreds of

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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 † Archbishop John P. Cody January 31, 1964, New Orleans, Louisiana

## YOU DESERVE TO BE DESPISED - Continued from Front Page

times when they were guilty, particularly when they had offended Almighty God. They, therefore, considered insults and criticism as really being a part of the punishment they truly deserved for their sins.

In this way they truly did not feel that they were being dealt with unjustly and thus they accepted insult and criticism with true calmness of spirit. They accepted it in reparation for their sins. Thus they transformed these disturbing thoughts and actions into a means of obtaining greater grace from God and developing a holy life.

Thus if you wish to face insult and criticism without getting disturbed, tense, and filled with anxiety, accept these things in atonement for your sins. Say over and over to yourself, "I am getting only what I deserve. Lord, I accept this in atonement for my sins."

FATHER VAUGHN

### *For Seelos Guild Members* **ONLY**

This month we ask a special remembrance in your prayers of a guild member, who died in November, MR. HENRY KIRSCH. Had he lived he would have celebrated his 55th wedding anniversary, on January 26, 1964. Mr. Kirsch's parents were married by Father Seelos in St. Mary's Assumption Church in May of 1867. We have heard many little incidents in the parish of connections a family may have had with Father Seelos, but Mr. Kirsch has been the only one who could tell us that his parents were married by Father Seelos.

Please also remember the souls of all of our departed Guild members in your prayers.

From the many letters received at the Seelos Center, we know that you have been praying for each other. We have also received many notes expressing thanks to the Guild members for their prayers.

GOD BLESS YOU!

## More about Father Curley's European Research

In going over material which Father Curley sent us, we felt the following items particularly interesting.

**The school** which Father Seelos attended in Augsburg, was bombed in World War II. The University of Munich, which Father Seelos attended, was likewise bombed and fire destroyed a great part of it. Fortunately for our researcher, the printed records of both schools were still in existence and the name of Francis Xavier Seelos is very much in evidence in them during the period of his attendance at the schools.

Father Seelos was always **at the head** of his class and in fact received several awards during the time he attended St. Stephen's School.

**Gerard Seelos**, a member of the family of Father Seelos, is at the present time the German Ambassador to Brasil.

**Gerard Seelos' sister** who lives in Markt Oberdorf gave the "Hausbuch" or so-called "diary" of Mang Seelos (father of Father Seelos) to Father Curley.

**The house** in which Father Seelos lived while in Munich attending the University was also bombed in the last war and completely destroyed. However, Father

Curley was able to obtain pictures of it. Father Seelos lived on the fourth story of the building for two years.

Five or six original letters of Father Seelos were also located.

Father Curley brought back about 5,000 photostat pages, not all of them directly referred to Father Seelos, but they concerned his life in one way or another. No single document was very long, but each one had a bit to add. In summarizing the finds in his European travels Father Curley tells us that the material he has gathered establishes the youth of Father Seelos in its historical setting and while it does not give all the information he would like to have, it does enable him to begin writing the story of his early life. We quote Father Curley's words: "The more one investigates his life, the more one is convinced that from an early age he had his mind on being a missionary. His sister is quoted as saying that Francis Xavier was thrilled at the story of St. Francis Xavier and that he often said 'I also will be a Francis Xavier.' How well he fulfilled that childhood ambition during his later years is evident from a study of his life!"

We wish to thank you for the wonderful response to our request for new names. We are sending them literature as quickly as possible after receiving them. Keep the names coming - this is most important.

## A VIRTUE TO IMITATE

As we go to press, Lent is "just around the corner." Lent brings to mind penance - mortification.

Father Seelos constantly practiced the virtue of mortification. It is related in the story of his life that after receiving notification of his acceptance by the Redemptorists for missionary work in America, he left the University of Munich without returning

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## THANKS!

"Enclosed find my first check of 1964. Not planned that way but signed just as the clock struck midnight, signifying the end of the old year. Happily I will never finish this book of checks, as Saturday I leave to join the Benedictines, thanks in large measure I am sure, to the prayers of Father Seelos which I requested a short time ago and which you asked for in the "PLEASE!" column of your last edition. Many grateful thanks from one who will in a short time by the irony of God's will be poorer than ever before, but in the better way infinitely richer."

"Recently I read in the "Perpetual Help" an article on the life of Father Seelos and of your efforts in promoting his cause for Sainthood. This article, stressing the love Father Seelos had for the Mother of God, so impressed me that I was drawn to the Church in which he is buried and (I am at a loss for words of description) after spending some time in prayer and meditation, felt that, somehow in my limited way, I would like to be of some help in promoting the cause of the Sainthood of Father Seelos.

"At that time I was and I still am in financial difficulties, however, yesterday, January 15, 1964, I asked the help of Father Seelos in taking care of one of my very pressing debts. Incidentally, I have prayed for help daily for the past three years and made numerous novenas and God has been very kind and generous to me. For this I daily thank Him. But my debts did not reduce, quite the contrary they became larger. After praying to Father Seelos, the debt was taken care of in a manner bordering on the miraculous. I secured the monies necessary through means I had tried hundreds of times before without success. I feel certain that God willed this through the intercession of Father Seelos. Needless to say, I am, pardon the expression, now pressing the saintly Father Seelos to secure for me through the Virgin Mother and her Son, Jesus, the miracle I have so earnestly prayed for."

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# PLEASE!

"Please ask Seelos devotees to remember two intentions in regard to studies. If my favors are granted I believe Father Seelos will be responsible, because in my estimation they will be almost miracles. One regards a difficult examination which many fail and the other is for a scholarship that seems almost inaccessible because I am limited. My chances for both seem nil."

*and*

"Please include in your prayers my husband's health. Pray that an operation which he faces will not be necessary if it is God's holy will."

*and*

"Please pray for good health for our family, also that we will be able to sell our house, as it is much too large for us to keep up without a father."

*and*

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 . . .

THANKS — (Cont'd from Page 3, Col. 4)

"Enclosed you will find offering for a Mass in honor of Father Seelos in thanksgiving for a great favor I received. I am not a Catholic, but I do believe."

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

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

*Seelos and Sanctity*

Published monthly at the  
SEELOS CENTER  
2030 Constance Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

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## A VIRTUE TO IMITATE

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home to bid farewell to his family. He made this sacrifice, though he longed to see his parents and sisters and brothers. It is also related in his life that he slept on the floor of his room rather than in his bed, to mortify his body.

Why not try during Lent to imitate this most admirable virtue of Father Seelos?

If we select only one form of mortification — give up candy, cokes, cigarettes, a favorite TV show, go to Mass & Communion every day, say the daily family rosary, etc. — and adhere strictly to this resolution, we will gain merit in heaven for the sacrifice thus offered.