



Zeal *and* Sanctity

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

REV. JOHN J. VAUGHN C.S.S.R.
VICE-POSTULATOR

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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.

IMPRIMATURE + Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lucien J. Cailouet, T. A., V. G., November 16, 1965.



It was early December. Sister Jane noticed Bobby, eight, and Mary, eleven, were visiting the church during their lunch hour and after school. Finally Sister asked them what brought on the sudden change. After some hesitation, they stammered, "We're knitting a sweater for the Baby Jesus."

Somewhat mystified, Sister Jane shrugged her shoulders and forgot about the incident until the doorbell rang on Christmas eve. "We have finished the sweater, Sister," said the two young children, "Please put it in the crib."

The mystery was solved when Sister Jane opened the envelope and read:

"Dear Baby Jesus,

Here is your sweater. During Advent we said 1,000 Our Fathers. Each prayer was a stitch in the sweater we promised You. We hope You like it.

Bobby and Mary,"

We do not recommend that you do something so mechanical as saying 1,000 Our Fathers. But we do recommend that you imitate these children's devotion during Advent.

Father Seelos dedicated himself to preparations for Christmas by faithfully adhering to three types of pious practices during Advent.

1. He faithfully said certain extra prayers daily.
2. He did certain things he did not like to do.
3. He gave up certain things he enjoyed.

Let us imitate Father Seelos during Advent by "knitting a sweater for the Baby Jesus." Let us prepare for Christmas through prayer and sacrifice.

MAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON BE A SOURCE OF GRACE FOR EACH OF YOU. BEST WISHES AND PRAYERS FROM ALL OF US AT THE SEELOS CENTER.

Thanks To Father Seelos For.....



- . . . the success of the surgery on my brain, even though I am now blind through damage to the optic nerves.
- . . . a 16 year old boy who woke up after being in a coma for four months, even though doctors said he never would revive. His parents prayed constantly to Father Seelos.
- . . . our daughter's return after eloping and marrying outside the church in a marriage doomed to failure from the start.
- . . . the return to the sacraments of a man dying of leukemia and married outside the church.
- . . . the correction of a serious defect in my vision-for which I was given only a 20% chance of improvement.
- . . . the grace to return to the sacraments and the practice of my faith after 30 years of neglect.
- . . . giving my son the grace to overcome alcoholism and join Alcoholics Anonymous.

N.B. These reports of "Thanksgiving" are from the statements of our correspondents. Official judgement of the favors granted can be given only by the proper church authorities.

DON'T TRY TO BRIBE GOD

I can't help shuddering a bit when people tell me "If I get my favor from Father Seelos I will give you \$5.00 to help spread his cause."

I know that these people do not mean it the way it sounds, yet I cannot help feeling that there is something wrong with their attitude.

Is it not true that such a statement has overtones of "spiritual bribery?"

Would it not be better to say, "Lord I am going to make this sacrifice as a demonstration of my love for You. If it be Your holy Will, please grant me this favor."

People who love each other make sacrifices for each other. In return they ask favors from their loved ones. This should be your attitude at prayer.

Let your sacrifice be a sign of your love for God. Your heavenly Father, Who loves you with a father's love, will then demonstrate His love for you by bestowing His blessings upon you.

SEELOS APOSTLE OF KINDNESS

by Luana Jambois

Father Seelos arrived in New Orleans on September 28, 1866. His religious superior was Father John Duffy. In former years Father Seelos had trained him in the religious life as Novice Master. Jokingly he said "Now Father Rector, you will have a fine opportunity to pay me back for all I have done to you as a novice."

Father Seelos always had a sense of humor. He was so joyful as he went about his duties that the other priests were soon inspired by his cheerfulness. "It is good to be here as a private soldier," he said with a smile. "I have now made a complete circuit of all our American Houses. Here is my home. I have wandered enough."

On September 27 his mother, Francesca Seelos, 79 years old, died in Bavaria. The last tie binding him to earth was dissolved.

On July 17, 1867 Father Seelos blessed a new statue of Our Lady of Sorrows. He placed it under the Mission Cross in St. Mary's Church. (The statue is still there!) He said at the ceremonies that he hoped to be buried near this shrine. Three months later, his presentiment of death was true.

(to be concluded)

A PRAYER TO FATHER SEELOS

For your own intentions, 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

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME WHEN SENDING THE ENCLOSED CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE. HANDWRITING IS FREQUENTLY DIFFICULT TO READ; THUS SLOWING THE POSTING OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE MIRACLE OF FAITH

At times when people tell me of a special favor they most earnestly want from Father Seelos, I think to myself, "You poor soul. You are building up your hopes so strongly for a cure of an incurable disease. You are going to be so terribly disappointed if your prayer is not answered."

I must admit that I have always been wrong whenever I thought this. Experience has taught me that even though people pray so fervently for a cure of an incurable disease of a loved one, they ordinarily manifest a heroic spirit of resignation when the loved one dies.

I remember a certain man whose baby had leukemia. He wanted his baby cured more than anything else in the world. It would have been easy for me to think that he was grasping at straws, and that he would become bitter if God failed to cure his child.

He went to Mass and Communion every day, asking God, through Father Seelos' intercession, to restore his child to health. He and his wife prayed constantly.

Apparently God did not hear his prayer. After many months his baby died.

I spoke to him and his wife after the funeral. I was amazed, as I have been in so many other instances, at their deep spirit of resignation. "We now have an angel in heaven," they said.

Had God failed to hear their prayers? I think not. The spirit of faith with which they accepted this apparent tragedy indicates that their prayer was answered.

God took their child but God gave them something much more valuable. God gave them an increase of faith.

BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON



BITS OF INFORMATION FROM



....You can obtain picture prayer cards and cloth mementoes to be included in your Christmas cards by writing to the Seelos Center.

....Each month we receive a letter from the city of Navojoa in the state of Sonora, Mexico, from a lady who informs us of her holy hour made in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in that city.

....During Hurricane Betsy one devotee of Father Seelos was in the attic with the water rising up to meet her. Unable to escape, she tried her best to think of the prayer to Father Seelos which she knew by heart. All she could remember was to repeat over and over "Father Seelos help me."

....Serious roof damage occurred in St. Mary's Assumption Church during the hurricane. Temporary repairs have been made.

....Over 300 people have been regularly making a monthly Holy Hour in St. Mary's Assumption Church.

....Brother Wenceslaus Neumann, a Redemptorist lay brother and blood brother of Blessed John Neumann, C.S.S.R., a close friend of Father Seelos, is buried in St. Mary's Assumption Church.

....Father Seelos was ordained December 22, 1844 and read his first Mass on Christmas day.

....10,581 pieces of mail have been received at the Seelos Center so far this year.

....The task of addressing and mailing the 20,500 copies of this newsletter each month is done by strictly volunteer help.

....Some friends of Father Seelos decided that this newsletter needed something to catch the reader's eye. We had a suspicion that people were not reading what we wrote. Let us know how you like our "new look".

....Our sincere thanks to "Margie" and "Ozzie" Osborne of Osborne Printing Co. in New Orleans who have been printing this newsletter so far. They have been donating their time and labor for a long time. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.