



Seelos

and

Sanctity

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Vice-Postulator

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FINDING LIFE BY LOSING IT

Christ said "He who loses his life for My sake will save it." Luke 9-24.

What did He mean? He meant that you shall save your life by losing it in dedication to service of your fellowmen.

In this sense Father Seelos lost his life during the entire course of his sojourn on earth. His every waking and sleeping moment was dedicated to the welfare of the souls with whom he came in contact.

As a young boy he was so generous in lending the little money he had that the pupils in school nick-named him "the banker."

As he grew older he yearned to dedicate himself to the spiritually needy souls in the foreign missions (America was a foreign mission at that time.)

As a priest he spent practically every moment of his day in prayer, study and labor for souls. People flocked to his confessional because he treated them so kindly. He was always being called to the parlor to give advice and consolation to those in need. Whenever a sick call came he answered it immediately. On one occasion he even took off his shoes and exchanged them for the ragged shoes of a beggar.

He saw the image of Christ Himself in every person he met. He knew that Christ loved each and every one of His human creatures. He was consumed with a passionate desire to imitate Christ. This was the source of his charity to all men -- namely his desire to imitate the love of Christ toward all human creatures.

Christ had told him "As I have loved you, you also love one another." John 13.34.

Each of us should strive to imitate the spirit of Christian charity we find in Father Seelos. To imitate the virtue of Father Seelos is to imitate the virtue of Christ Himself.

Let each of us manifest our devotion to Father Seelos by imitating his spirit of charity toward all men. Like Father Seelos, let us save life -- eternal life -- by losing our life in dedication to the welfare of our fellow man.

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 † Archbishop John P. Cody, Feb. 17, 1965, New Orleans, Louisiana

TO KNOW and IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE . . .

In this holy season of Lent, we would like to quote to you one of the many prayers which Father Seelos offered to our Crucified Lord. Would that we could all offer this prayer with the same sincerity as did Father Seelos:

"Oh Holy Cross, sanctified by the blood of my Jesus! You are the altar upon which the Lamb was slaughtered, upon which the Divine Blood flowed for the sins of the world. Oh Holy Cross, only hope of the sinner, second plank after the shipwreck of our innocence! Firmly bound to You, I shall pass through life to death. Oh Holy Cross, tree of life, loaded with the noblest fruit, upon which there hangs the precious pledge of our redemption, our salvation, our eternal happiness! Oh Holy Cross, let me be nailed to you like my Lord was! Oh Holy Cross, bridge to eternity, the way of life, oh lead me to my Saviour! Oh unite me with all who have loved You and who have conquered under Your protection! Oh St. Mary Magdalen, who could not be separated from the cross of your beloved Saviour and Master! Oh St. John, most heroic of all the apostles! Oh all you other saints who stood at the cross of Jesus and remained faithful unto death! Obtain for me the grace of holy perseverance. Amen."

JOSIE M. BECKER

The following is the first in a series of articles we will present telling you a bit about the life of Father Seelos, his family background, his childhood, etc. It is being condensed by Luana Jambois from a book on the life of Father Seelos, written by Father Zimmer, a Redemptorist.

Seelos -

Apostle of Kindness

In the Benedictine Abbey in Fuessen, in Southern Bavaria, the people waited for the blessing of the Pope. Pope Pius VI, returning from a trip to Vienna, was visiting the monastery. It was the year 1782.

For Seelos Guild Members ONLY

By now you should have received statements of your contributions to the Seelos Guild for 1964. Again we wish to thank you for your generosity. Without your help, we could have accomplished very little.

Continue your prayers that the cause of Father Seelos will progress rapidly and most of all continue to pray for each other.

GOD BLESS YOU!

A young woman waited with the faithful. Up to this time she had borne several children, who died at birth. Again she was expecting a baby. The thought of receiving the Pope's blessing in her present condition filled her heart with hope. The child she carried was to become the father of Francis Xavier Seelos, Apostle of Kindness. At the birth of her next child, the grandmother of Father Seelos died.

Mang Seelos wanted to be a Benedictine monk. Instead, obedient to the wishes of his father, he went to Paris to learn to be a weaver. Although he was German by birth he learned to love the French language and the natural gaiety of the people. After he returned home, Mang Seelos, like his father, became a weaver. He was also sexton at the church in Fuessen where the relics and staff of St. Mang were preserved.

After a courtship of only six weeks, Francesca Schwarzenbach and Mang Seelos were married. Their wedding anniversary on October 28, was always a day of family thanksgiving to God and of rejoicing.

Seventeen children were born to Mang and Francesca Seelos. Four boys and four girls died in infancy. Besides the nine children who remained, they adopted an abandoned little boy. "Here is another one for you," Mang told his wife. The family quickly made him one of them, loving him as their very own.

Francis Xavier Seelos, the seventh child, was born on January 11, 1819. He and two of his

sisters entered religious orders; two brothers and one sister married, and two other sisters, Antonio and Josepha, remained single. One sister, Cunnegunde, was killed when she fell from the upper floor of their barn while unloading hay. As the griefstricken family knelt beside her, Mang Seelos prayed aloud. "The Lord gave," he said, "and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the Name of the Lord."

With resignation to God's Will, with love of His cross, with strict discipline and much parental love, Mang and Francesca Seelos reared their children. The family attended daily Mass, said Grace before and after meals, and bowed their heads in prayer at the sound of the Angelus bell. During dinner the children discussed the religious talks they had heard at school. They were trained to work hard and diligently. Mang Seelos was a strict father, but always fair. In the evening before bedtime the family would gather for spiritual reading. Their favorite book was the LIVES OF THE SAINTS. God and His Church was the pivot around Whom the family revolved. Devotion was as natural to them as breathing. They tolerated no idleness; yet they lived joyfully, with humor and kindness. The peace of mind which eluded richer folk, made them rich in the midst of their poverty.

The child who was to become Francis Xavier Seelos, Redemptorist priest and missionary, and later candidate for sainthood, could not have had a more wonderful homelife.

(to be continued next month)

THANKS!!!

"I would like to tell you of a special favor my family and I received through the intercession of Father Seelos.

"Two years ago my husband passed away after a long illness. I was left with eight children. The oldest was fifteen and the baby was born a few days after my husband's death. We had no savings and no relatives who could afford to help us. We had been paying on a house and two lots and still owed about \$3,000.00. The house was badly in need of repairs, which it was estimated would cost about \$5,000.00. After

trying many sources we were unable to borrow the money for the repairs because of our low income - \$131.00 welfare and \$161.00 social security per month.

"The children and I began rosary novenas to Father Seelos begging his intercession for help in our dire need. After several months I found a company willing to finance the repairs to our home, with payments on the loan within my budget.

"I truly feel that it was through our prayers to Father Seelos that we received the necessary help.

"My parish priest suggested that I wait until the work was completed before writing you. It will soon be one year since our home was finished and all is going well.

"Needless to say, Father Seelos is very special to us."

"Some few months ago I asked you to pray for a successful operation on my sister. Her condition was very serious.

"I am happy to say that she has gone through the operation successfully and although her recovery is not yet complete, I am hopeful that within the next few months she will again be well.

"Please continue to pray for her."

"My daughter had a tumor removed from her breast. I prayed to Father Seelos that the tumor would not be cancerous. She has been sick for a few years and I was afraid it was serious.

"I started a novena to Father Seelos, praying that if it was God's holy Will, everything would be all right. God has been very good to us. The tumor was benign.

"Please publish this letter and may Father Seelos soon be called 'Blessed.'"



PLEASE!!

"The enclosed check is an offering for a low Mass for my health. I am having very bad asthma attacks and am quite frightened. Please remember me also in your prayers at Mass, that these attacks will cease."

"After thirty-seven years of marriage my husband has developed a complex against people. He does not want to visit his relatives nor mine. When visitors call he might just sit and not speak or might talk so unkindly that I am afraid he is on the verge of a breakdown.

"In the past he has been a very pleasant man, who was well liked by my family, as well as by friends and neighbors.

"This is making my life very miserable. Father Seelos has answered many of my requests in the past and I am confident that he will intercede with God for this special favor that my husband will find himself soon and that our old days will end peacefully."

"Please pray that my brother will return to the practice of his religion. He has been away from church for 40 years."

"Please pray that my son who is in college will have a successful year as he needs help very much. Also pray that my husband will always be mindful of his religious duties."

"Please pray that my daughter's faith will strengthen and that she will give up a friendship with a young man whom I am afraid will ruin her life if she continues seeing him."

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

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..

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