

SEELOS and SANCTITY

VOL. 4 NO. 7
JULY 1965

Can You Not Watch One Hour With Me?



"Mamma I am going to spend an hour in church tomorrow" said the little girl.

"Fine" said mother. "Is there some special reason?"

"Well, I think Jesus is lonesome for me."

Of course, we know that Jesus is perfectly happy in heaven and, therefore, cannot suffer loneliness, but His Heart is indeed overflowing with love for each of us. St. Alphonsus says that Jesus "remains night and day in this Sacrament, awaiting, calling and welcoming all who come to visit" Him. For this reason Father Seelos frequently visited Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

In imitation of the saintly Seelos we urge all his devotees to spend at least one hour a month praying to Christ in church before the Blessed Sacrament.

To those who live in the New Orleans area, we offer the enviable opportunity of visiting with Christ in the very same church in which Father Seelos himself visited. This church is located on the corner of Constance and Josephine Streets in New Orleans. It is called St. Mary's Assumption Church.

Those who live outside the New Orleans area are invited to make a Holy Hour in their parish church. (Those living in the New Orleans area are requested to make this Holy Hour in St. Mary's Assumption Church.)

Shut-ins may make their Holy Hour at home.

Don't be left out. CHRIST IS LONESOME FOR YOU. Sign the pledge card below or write us a letter, promising to spend one hour a month adoring Christ in the same Church in which Father Seelos himself adored Him.

We will send you a notice each month to remind you of the day you pledged for your adoration hour. Upon joining the Adoration League you will receive a booklet of prayers which Father Seelos himself used during his visits with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

FATHER VAUGHN

In imitation of FATHER FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS, C. S. S. R., I hereby PROMISE to spend ONE HOUR OF ADORATION EVERY MONTH IN ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH on the day and hour stated below.

(Circle appropriate words, e. g. : First Tues. 4 P. M. - Every Sat. 11 A. M.)

First - Second - Third - Fourth - Every Sun - Mon - Tues - Wed - Thurs - Fri - Sat
5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 - 11 A. M. - 12 Noon - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 P. M.

Name _____ Since I live outside the New Orleans area, I will make the HOLY HOUR in my parish church.

Address _____ Since I am a shut-in I will make my HOLY HOUR at home.

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Seelos - Apostle of Kindness

by Luana Jambois

"Oh sinners! You who have no courage to confess your sins because they are so shameful! Come without fear or trembling! I promise to receive you with all mildness. If I do not keep my word, I give you permission to remind me in the confessional that I told you a lie!

While he spoke these words, Father Seelos would open his arms as if to embrace each person from the altar. The lines of penitents waiting beside his confessional grew ever longer. The people instinctively knew that they had found a man with the sympathetic heart to understand their moral weakness.

In March 1847 Father Seelos was appointed Novice Master. Almost to the hour of his death he would be a guide to his fellow religious, using gentleness, good humor and his own practical example as signposts along their way. On January 8, 1851, Francis Xavier Seelos became Pastor of St. Philomena's.

Then, extraordinary things began to happen. News quietly spread about this kind and gentle priest who seemed to possess unusual influence with God. Wonderful blessings have been attributed to his prayers and intercession.

There was the epileptic daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. John Roelinger, whose illness had been so terrible that her own mother had begged Father Seelos to pray for her to die. After he prayed for her, the child got well. A child in Sligo, Pennsylvania covered with sores like a leper, was cured at the prayer of Father Seelos. Katherine Roelinger and another baby were granted cures for sore eyes which doctors had been unable to cure. "Father Seelos, cure me," a crippled man had said as he threw his crutches out of the rectory window. Touched at such faith, the humble priest had prayed for him. The man never needed crutches again. A thirteen year old girl was so ill that she could not confess her sins, which were many. At the first touch of the holy oil with which Father Seelos anointed her for death, she screamed. She was able to make a good confession and lived to overcome her early sins. No matter how much Father Seelos protested that he was but a sinful human the same as they, the people called him "saint" among themselves.

Toward the end of 1853 his father, Mang Seelos, died. Father Seelos heard of his father's death on the eve of All Saints Day. "Oh, may our death be like his!" he said in a letter to his family. "What a precious opportunity is along illness, borne with resignation and prayer! Dearest Mother be strong in your sorrow! Every member of the family taken away from your heart by the good God is a most acceptable offering if you make it with perfect resignation to His Divine Will. This is the road, dear Mother, along which Saints are made."

In March 1854, Father Seelos was transferred to Baltimore as Pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish and Consultor to the Provincial.

(to be continued)

IF YOU VISIT ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, PLEASE USE THE SIDE DOOR ON CONSTANCE STREET SINCE THE FRONT DOORS FACING JOSEPHINE STREET ARE OFTEN LOCKED.

To Know and Imitate His Holy Life . . .



(Painting by St. Alphonsus Liguori.)

This is one of the many meditations Father Seelos made on the passion and death of our Lord. July is especially dedicated to the precious Blood of Christ so we feel that this prayer is most appropriate. Read it slowly and meditatively. Use it in your night prayers. Bring it to church when you visit Father Seelos' tomb and meditate on Christ's love for you in Father Seelos' own words.

"And one of the soldiers opened His side with a lance, and there came forth blood and water!' This shall be my closing meditation, my point of rest. O open Heart of my Saviour, place of refuge for all sinners! Blood flowed first - blood for the faults of the cursed earth! Blood to the last drop! Blood that does not call for vengeance but demands only mercy. The 'second Adam' sleeps. He sleeps the sleep of death. Behold His side opened! And it is not the stiff ribs that are taken. No, but rather His warm blood. And a helpmate is

formed without wrinkle, without stain, beautiful and chaste. His beloved bride, the holy Church, to rear for Him children for eternal life. I also belong to the number of the members of His church. I also am one of the happy ones who, washed in the purest water, nourished with the Divine Blood and under the influence of the Holy Spirit admitted to the society of the sons of God, and called to eternal happiness. What thanks shall I return? O my Jesus! Have mercy on me! I cannot think of these immeasurable benefits without most grievously accusing myself before the tribunal of my conscience, for my ingratitude which can scarcely find its equal. How long will it continue? How much longer will You put up with me? Oh Jesus, You are so good! In Your goodness show me the way to salvation! Pity, pity! Mercy! Oh Jesus mercy!"

THANKS!!

"It has been some time now since my first favor was granted through the intercession of Father Seelos. I had a very bad rash on my legs and all tests to determine the cause proved negative. The case baffled the doctors treating me.

"I began praying to Father Seelos and after a short time the rash began to disappear. Father Seelos helped me when medicine did not seem to help.

"At a later time I was admitted to the hospital in an emergency for a serious operation. I prayed to Father Seelos asking his help that I would recover. This favor was also granted me.

"My third request of Father Seelos was likewise granted me. While having my mouth open for an injection by a dentist my jaws locked. I was unable to close my mouth and was in great pain for three hours. I was rushed to a dental surgeon. Within a half hour I was able to close my mouth. The dentist told me that if my mouth had not closed when it did I would have had to have an operation.

"Father Seelos has been good to me and I

(Continued on Back Page)

THANKS continued

continue to pray to him. I have tried to encourage others to pray to him also."

"I am a Real Estate agent. I feel that through Father Seelos my prayers were answered, that an almost impossible financing of a certain piece of property has been made available for one of my clients. I prayed for this client to Father Seelos, as I felt in my heart that he wanted this property most sincerely. However, the client has now changed his mind and does not want the property. But, I still feel that a special favor was granted due to daily prayers to Father Seelos. Even though I am not a Catholic, I would like to see Father Seelos made a saint."

PLEASE!!!

"Please pray that I will not lose my vision and that my case of glaucoma will be arrested. Please pray that the damage to my sight is not as bad as I think it is."

"Please pray for improvement in my nephew's studies, personality and attitude toward his mother and father."

"Please offer a vigil light at the tomb of Father Seelos. I am praying that the war will soon end and my son will come home safely."

"I am praying to Father Seelos so that I don't become more crippled than I am now. Would you please help me to pray?"

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

A NOVENA OF VISITS

A priest friend has informed us that he is making a novena of daily visits to the tomb of Father Seelos for the recovery of his mother. We thought it would be a good idea to pass on to you. Try a novena of daily visits to the tomb.

A MIRACLE?

We have received word from Father Nicola Ferrante, Postulator of Father Seelos' cause in Rome, concerning a possible miracle submitted recently for initial investigation. He reports that it has been examined by a specialist in Rome who replies that it "looks good." However, he wants to have it examined by an eye specialist in Rome who can read English. The case concerns a little girl whose sight was restored after the doctors declared that it was hopelessly lost. Pray very hard that this miracle will be approved.

FATHER CURLEY'S BOOK

Father Michael Curley, C.S.S.R. reports that work on the book he is writing about Father Seelos is progressing satisfactorily. Father spends over fifty hours a week working on this project. He has been doing so for the past two years and figures that it will take him until the end of 1966 before his task is completed. When finished the book will contain EVERY KNOWN FACT about the life of Father Seelos!

We are indeed fortunate to have a man of Father Curley's talents working on the program. Perhaps it would be nice if you would drop him a note telling him how much you appreciate these efforts and that you are looking forward to the publication. His address is:

Rev. Michael Curley, C.S.S.R.,
529 Fifty-ninth Street,
Brooklyn, New York
