



Seelos and Sanctity

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, L.A.

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

JOSIE BECKER
EDITOR

God Is Merciful



One day Father Seelos preached a sermon on the Mercy of God. He spoke of the parable of the prodigal son. In this sermon, he says:

“We see how boldly he stands before his father and demands his inheritance as if his father were obliged to give it to him. Without a ‘thank you’ he grabs what he gets and runs away and wastes everything. Only when he heavily drinks the dregs of degradation does he enter within himself and resolves to go back home – And the father – how does he act toward his penitent, returning child? He runs to meet him. He embraces him. He loves him.

“The Savior on the Cross has His arms wide open to embrace the repentant sinner. He, too, clothes the repentant sinner with new garments, places shoes on his feet, a ring on his hand and makes merry with him at a magnificent banquet.

“Henry Suso writes: ‘Imagine the whole world as one large fire and you would throw into this flaming ocean a handful of straw – how quickly this fire would eat up the straw. Know that God forgives a sinner who repents of his sin more quickly than this fire burns up the straw.’

“In the state of Louisiana an old man said to a missionary: ‘Reverend Father, does God give His Mercy to a man as long as he lives?’

“‘Certainly, said the priest.’

“‘Even if he committed as many sins as there are blades of grass in this meadow?’

“‘Yes, was the answer.’

“‘But Father, if the meadow were a thousand times bigger than this one and the blades of grass grew even more closely together, what then? Suppose he had committed every kind of horrible sin including murder – would God still forgive him?’

“‘Yes, even then God’s Mercy prevails because God’s Mercy is above all His works.’



Thanks To Father Seelos For.....

"Hearing this answer the man took courage and made a good confession."

There are many people in the world today who need just such a message. They are discouraged. They are fearful of going to confession. They are riddled with guilt feelings because of past sins.

Such people imagine God to be a cruel judge who is trying to condemn them. They forget that he is first of all a Father.

If, as you read this, you have sin on your soul, do not be discouraged. Your Father in heaven is waiting to forgive you. Tell Him you are sorry. See a priest and make a good confession.

God is merciful.

God will quickly forgive you.

He loves you.

Faith From "Unanswered" Prayer

We received the following letter recently:

"I am writing this letter to let you know that I have received a favor from Father Seelos.

"Two years ago my little boy took sick with a disease which the doctors could not diagnose. Since then I have had another baby. It has contracted the same disease. The doctors decided to operate on the brain of my first baby, in order to accurately diagnose the illness. They have done so and now the illness has been accurately diagnosed. There is nothing they can do to cure my two babies, because the disease is incurable. However, I am relieved to know exactly what is wrong with my children. I will be ever grateful to Father Seelos. I shall continue to pray to him. Perhaps one of these days medical science will find a cure for this disease."

I am sure that many of you reading this letter will smile and say "Obviously this is no miracle."

I could not agree more completely. There is absolutely no indication whatsoever of Divine Intervention in this case. Merely making a diagnosis of an illness after an exploratory operation is a perfectly normal medical occurrence.

What I think is important is that an accurate determination of the nature of the disease really meant something to this person. I seem to read between the lines of this letter a deep spirit of resignation to the Will of God. I think this increase of faith was the result of prayer to Father Seelos.

Therefore, even though nothing even approaching a miracle was worked, results were obtained from her prayers. She was able to resign herself completely to the Will of God.

...helping me to find a job.

...my daughter's safe and speedy delivery of her fifth child.

...the return of my mother to the Sacraments. When I was very young my parents were divorced and my mother remarried. Two years ago my stepfather passed away, after receiving the Last Sacraments. After his death I prayed to Father Seelos to intercede with our heavenly Father to bring my mother back to the practice of her religion. Last week she went to confession and received her first Holy Communion in sixteen years.

...patience to endure my suffering. I have been confined to a wheel chair for ten years due to an automobile accident. My spinal cord has been disintegrated and I am paralyzed from the waist down. I am asking Father Seelos to cure me.

...recovery of a friend who was suffering from an emotional disturbance.

...a satisfactory settlement of false accusations made against my son.

...my mother's recovery from pneumonia without having to be hospitalized. She has an abnormal fear of hospitals.

...granting a peaceful death to my elderly uncle.

...saving my husband's foot from being amputated. He is a diabetic and had an ulcer on the side of his left foot. Dr. Pavy, Dr. Guidry and Dr. Coleman declared that the ulcer had caused gangrene to set in. He later developed another ulcer on the heel of the same foot. The doctors declared that the foot had to be amputated. We prayed to Father Seelos. At the last minute there was sufficient improvement to cause a delay in the operation. Now, after one year, the ulcers are completely healed.

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.



Please print your name when sending the enclosed contribution envelope. Handwriting is frequently difficult to read; thus slowing the posting of the contributions.

"Politics" and Father Seelos

Luana Jambois

Father Seelos, who would have liked nothing better than to turn his back on the "politics" of the world, seemed always to be getting involved in them.

When he first came to America, he knelt on a ferry boat to say his rosary in full view of some rabid Protestants who hated Catholics. He was nearly killed. If a young Irish girl had not warned him of their plot to throw him off the ferry he might have been drowned. After his return to the monastery, he was counseled by his Superior, Blessed John Neumann, on the whys and wherefores of politics.

Father Seelos met President Lincoln and Mr. Seward, the minister of War. He had gone to plead for the President's help in voiding an unjust law which had been enacted for the Civil War. This law stated that all religious who were approved as healthy enough for the war would be drafted unless they could pay a set amount to the government. To the poor Redemptorist Community who did not have the money to pay such a tax, it worked incredible hardship. President Lincoln was sympathetic and willing to help them, although Mr. Seward was cold and abrupt.

When President Lincoln was assassinated, Father Seelos wrote to his relatives in Germany, "New York is filled with signs of mourning. The houses are hung with black and white crepe. All is buried in grief. President Lincoln, whom I saw and spoke to in Washington, was assassinated at a theatre. Today, April 18, 1865, is a day of general mourning. Business is suspended and everyone wears badges of mourning. Dear God! Everything these people do is for this world! Mr. Lincoln spoke kindly to me; yet he went to the theatre on Good Friday. These people! They do not think of their souls. Happiness in this world means everything to them. They simply do not care about eternity. Dear God, I would rather be the poorest beggar if I have only the grace to be faithful to my religion and to persevere until my last breath in that faith which alone leads to eternal life."

So Father Francis Xavier Seelos, even though he had learned to make friends with "the children of this world" still held the simple true heart which tied him to his faith, — a faith that meant much more to him than the most clever of "politics."

Are you actually reading SEELOS AND SANCTITY? It is an expense to print and send it out each month. We would be interested in knowing what our newsletter means to you. Many come to see us or write to us — we are sending out many, many more newsletters than the people who contact us. We trust that through this newsletter we are bringing the inspiration of the life of Father Seelos to many hearts.

BITS OF INFORMATION FROM



... At the time we are writing this newsletter St. Mary's Church is still closed. We ask our adorers to spend their hour of adoration in St. Alphonsus Church until St. Mary's Church can be reopened. Please pray very hard that it will be re-opened soon.

... You can save time for our office staff by putting your Zip Code on all mail sent to us. If you fail to do so, we have to look it up.

... Mary Sheppard, Anna Legendre and Margaret Richard have been a big help to us at the Seelos Center. They have volunteered their services every day to address envelopes, keep files, etc.

... The following people have assembled over a half million Seelos cloth mementoes: Miss Odile Legendre, Mrs. Adele Monroe, Mrs. Jules Guillot, Mrs. E. S. Blanchard, Mrs. M. Lara, Miss Katherine Conway; Mrs. Octavia Keller, Miss Helen Leonard, Miss Laura Leonard, Miss Elma Legendre, Mrs. Sidney Gaubert, Mrs. Eva Bielenberg, Miss Frances Drago, Mrs. Thomas Melancon, Ivy O'Neil.

... We ask all members of the Father Seelos Guild to pray for the intentions of all other members. Our Guild is a society in which each member prays for the intentions of each other.

... We ask the members of our Guild to be especially faithful in mailing their monthly contributions. We count heavily on this regular monthly income to support the works of the Seelos Center. We also ask those who are not members of the Guild to make regular contributions to defray needed expenses. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your generosity.

... Sincere thanks to all our beloved friends who sent their good wishes to us for the Christmas season.

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