



# Seelos *and* Sanctity

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE  
PAID AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.

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

JOSIE BECKER  
EDITOR

---

In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

## The Apostolate of Smiling

Did it ever occur to you that you can become an Apostle of Jesus Christ simply by smiling? Just think of the joy you can bring to the world with a single smile. Father Seelos always taught by word and example that a smile is the constant companion of genuine sanctity.

Perhaps an acquaintance of yours is dejected, "down in the dumps." Think of how much you can do for his spirits simply by smiling.

Think of what you can do for yourself and your neighbor when someone gets mad at you. It won't do either of you any good if you bark back at him. Both of you will be helped if you answer with a smile. You might be emotionally torn up inside but why make everyone else miserable by having to listen to your sad tale of woe. Smile! You will make everyone else happy — and strangely enough you will find that you will be happier too.



A smile is one of nature's best means of making people happy. A smile costs nothing but creates much. It enriches those who receive it and those who give it. A smile is worth nothing until it is given away. No one is so rich that he can get along without it. Yet no one is

really poor as long as he can give it. No one needs a smile so much as the one who has none to give, while the man who always gives a smile needs little else.

Smiles spread sunshine in an otherwise drab and dreary world. The sunshine the smile spreads is the sunshine of God's love, if the smile is given because you love your neighbor and wish to make him happy for God's sake.

So, become a member of the "APOSTOLATE OF SMILING." Your smile is an instrument for winning souls to God. Sanctifying grace dwelling in your soul will sweeten your smile and will enable it to do much good.

Smile on the lonely faces, on the timid faces, on the sorrowful faces, on the sickly faces, on the fresh

faces, on the wrinkled old faces, on the familiar faces of your family and friends. Let all enjoy the beauty and the inspiring cheer of your smiling face.

Above all, smile at God in loving acceptance of whatever he sends into your life and you will deserve to have the radiant smiling Face of Christ gaze on you with special love throughout eternity.

FATHER VAUGHN

**Thanks  
To Father Seelos  
For.....**

... the return of my nineteen year old niece who had gone to New York without the knowledge of her parents to find a job. I think she has learned her lesson,

... the safe delivery of my daughter. Early in her pregnancy she was in two automobile accidents and also had the measles. After six months of prayer to Father Seelos, both the mother and the baby are doing fine.

... helping me to quit smoking (after 30 years) when the doctor told me that I had emphysema and that he thought there was little he could do for me. I feel like a new person and my health has improved remarkably.

... successful brain surgery on my son. Although his recovery is slow, the doctor is pleased with the results of the operation.

## HOSPITAL VISITS

During the month of May I had the privilege of visiting 60 people in the hospitals and blessing them with the crucifix of Father Seelos. I say it was a privilege because I truly in my heart believe that it was. I honestly feel that it is an honor to be able to bring this crucifix, together with whatever help and solace it carries to the hospitalized sick. I say this because I do not wish you to feel in any way that you are imposing a burden upon me. I only wish that I could visit twice as many people. The only thing that prevents me from doing so is because I have not been notified of more sick people. Therefore, do not hesitate to let me know of hospitalized friends and relatives in the New Orleans area. I shall consider it an honor to be able to visit them.

Please phone 895-6176.



Won't you please help our poor, tired, sick addressing machine?

We have nursed along our addressing machine just about as far as we can. We have used baling wire, paper clips, rubber bands and lots of ingenuity to keep it going.

Each time we call the repair man he merely shakes his head. The poor man has doctored the machine expertly, but, alas, he has finally exhausted the skills of his art. This poor faithful old servant has done its job well. It was already quite ancient when it entered our service. It is now time to allow it to retire and rest in its old age.

Besides, the volume of our mail has become so great that if we do not obtain more advanced equipment some of our poor volunteers who prepare this mailing will soon become as worn out as the machine.

The problem is: A new machine will cost more than our limited budget can stand.

We thought for a long time and finally came up with this idea. We made an inquiry to the S & H Green Stamp Company and have found out that 2,000 books of green stamps will get us a new addressing machine. We were wondering if it might be possible for each of our readers to send us a book of green stamps. If everyone would do this we could easily reach our goal.

If you do not save Green Stamps send us any other trading stamps you may have and we will see what we can do about exchanging them.

Please help relieve the pressure on this very faithful group of women who sacrifice seven evenings each month after a hard day at work to enable you to receive this newsletter. Let's give them a new machine.

# LETTER OF THE MONTH

*Editor's note: The following letter, outstanding for its simple devotion, was received from a non-Catholic.*

Dear Sir,

May I point out to you that I have never before in my life wanted to give and be dedicated to the idea of helping to canonize a saint.

I would like to become a member of the Seelos Guild. I am very interested with the belief in the holiness of Father Seelos. At this time, I am praying to Father Seelos and have strong faith that he has already accepted my prayer.

Sir, I am a Methodist but I cannot erase Father Seelos from my heart and mind. May I please become a member of the Seelos Guild? I too must help in his canonization.

## 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. .*

## TO BE A PRIEST

by Luana Thiel Jambois

Francis Xavier Seelos was obsessed with reverence for the priesthood. It was a magnificent and happy obsession which began with the first remembered chimes of the Church Bells of St. Mang in Bavaria and ended with the toll of the sorrowful bells at St. Mary's in New Orleans at his death. From the first small altar he built in the corner of the bedroom he shared in childhood with his brother, to the last high altar before which his body lay on black draped bier, Francis Seelos loved his profession.

The way of his Beloved Lord was made open and clear to him. On a clear sunny day the mission priest at Fuessen had offered him a scholarship to study at Augsburg. He later decided to become a Redemptorist missionary in America.

He was not unaware of the favors his Blessed Lord had so bountifully shown him. To his family he wrote.

"Ever since coming here I have been too rich, too free of care, too honored, without a cross - Nothing but blessings as a reward for the badness of my life." Yet the poverty of the Redemptorist community more than matched the most abject poverty of their poorest parishoners.



Years later one of his pupils wrote of him. "I saw Father Seelos first on October 1, 1855, at St. Alphonsus in Baltimore. With two other candidates I arrived on Monday night at eleven o'clock. A tall, slight, saintly-looking person, answered the door. He was in his habit, but barefoot, and holding a candle. "Yes, yes," he said when we had explained our late entrance, 'we heard that you were coming. God bless you.' He smiled to make us welcome. 'You must be hungry and tired. Come at once into the dining room and have something to eat. Then you can sleep. Tomorrow you can leave for Annapolis.' Two weeks later I was sent back to Baltimore because of poor health. Father Seelos cared for me for five months. When the doctor said my lungs were sound, Father rejoiced like a child. 'Thank God you will yet be a good Redemptorist and convert thousands of souls. But you must pray.' When I left, he blessed me saying, 'Little one. Pray fervently and all will go well.' I was still a very young man, but I was deeply touched."

Father Seelos officiated on December 8, 1856 at the religious profession of seven novices at Annapolis. One of the young priests said: "His face shone as he repeated the words of St. Peter to the Master 'Behold! We have left all and have followed You!'" "He stood before the small altar in the old chapel. His gestures and his smile made us break into laughter. 'It is no small sacrifice! Why, dear Peter, do you boast? What have you left? Nothing but a poor hut and a few torn nets! There is no reason to be proud!'"

Father Seelos believed that cheerfulness and good humor must go together with piety and penance. His religion was happy, his soul gentle. He would permit no somberness. He often told his novices the story of a countess who on days of penance and fasting treated her servants in sharp bad temper. "'Look out! the cook would say, 'our gracious lady is fasting today!'" The students would sit around him picnicking on apples and dry bread and drinking water from their clear spring. As they laughed, joked and sang with their beloved teacher, Father Seelos would by his example teach them that cheerfulness is the constant companion of sanctity.