



Seelos and Sanctity

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SHEER CHEER

by Father Vaughn

While gathering ideas to write this article I looked up the word "joy" in a book in my library entitled "Comic Dictionary." This book gives humorous definitions for many words. The comic dictionary listed as the definition of the word joy, "sheer cheer."

When first I read it I had not the slightest intention of using it in this article. But the more I thought about it the more it seemed to me that this really did define the word, "joy." Joy is "sheer cheer." It consists in lightness of spirit, a sense of peace and happiness that seems to invade the spirit and pushes aside all that might make us unhappy.

At some particular point in your life you have met someone who struck you as being continually in a state of joy and peace. As you gaze into this person's eyes you seem to see reflected there a calm spirit, a joyful soul.

Have you ever asked yourself "What makes him so joyful?" "Why does she seem so happy?" If you studied the lives of these people you would discover that all of them share a common characteristic. ALL OF THEM WERE DEDICATED TO SPREADING JOY INTO THE LIVES OF THEIR FELLOWMEN.

IN EXACT PROPORTION AS YOU GIVE JOY, YOU WILL RECEIVE JOY. JOY INCREASES AS YOU GIVE IT AND DIMINISHES AS YOU TRY TO KEEP IT FOR YOURSELF. IN FACT UNLESS YOU GIVE IT YOU WILL ULTIMATELY LOSE IT. IN GIVING JOY, YOU WILL GATHER TOGETHER A STOREHOUSE FULL OF HAPPINESS GREATER THAN YOU EVER BELIEVED POSSIBLE.

Each morning upon awakening, start the practice of joyful thinking. When you get up think happy thoughts: "Thank You, God, for giving me this bright new day." "What a fine husband (wife) and children I have!" "Today I will smile on the world and it will smile upon me!" "Something good will happen today. I offer my day to You, God, all of it. The sky is blue and the world is green outside my window and here in my home is the love You have given me."

Start picturing in your mind ways in which you can spread joy throughout your own world. Your own world is made up of the people whom you see in your life each day as you go about your work. Can you make your husband or wife happier with a smile instead of a frown, a compliment instead of a complaint? At the office can you give someone a pleasant word whom you might formerly have passed by? Can you lighten the task of someone with just a little help, a little giving of yourself? Even the butcher, the grocer, the neighbor on the street, the child playing on the sidewalk respond to that special radiance you can give them by just wishing them well.

In the evening, write down all the good things that happened to you this day. These are things you can remember tomorrow morning to give you a bright start on the new day. They will help you to build a spirit of Joy that you can communicate to your fellow humans.

Read through the New Testament at random. The happiness of those holy souls who loved God so much will leap out at you from the pages. You will find the Bible full of joyful expressions. Pick out your favorites. Write them down. Memorize them. Try to remember the joyful sayings of Jesus Christ whenever you feel let down during the day.

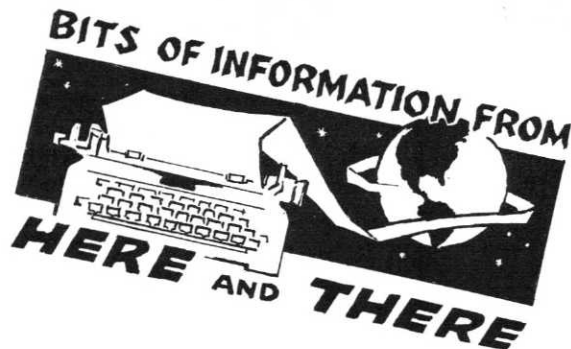
THINK JOY.... TALK JOY.... PRACTICE JOY.... SHARE JOY.... SATURATE YOUR MIND WITH JOY AND YOU WILL FIND THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE ALL OF YOUR LIFE! WHAT'S MORE, YOU WILL BE PREPARING YOURSELF FOR THAT JOYFUL DAY WHEN YOU WILL LIVE FOREVER WITH THE KING OF JOY.

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 . .

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.



.... Father Vaughn will be unable to visit any sick during the month of July. However, the customary visits to the sick and the blessing with the crucifix of Father Seelos will be resumed on Friday, Aug. 4, 1967. If you know of any hospitalized person in the New Orleans area whom you would like to have Father Vaughn visit on or after August 4, please phone 895-6176.

.... The doubloon (or medallion) commemorating the centennial of Father Seelos should be available by the time you receive this newsletter. As of this writing we have just seen the lead slugs on which is imprinted the image that will be found on the completed doubloon. The order has been given to the manufacturer to proceed with striking the coins. The price of the standard doubloon is \$1.00 each. For those who wish a more permanent and lasting memorial, a deluxe doubloon, manufactured from .999 silver, will be available for \$5.00 each. There will also be an issue of only 1,000 sets of five separate commemorative coins. This five coin set will be composed of the following types: aluminum, verbronzon, .999 silver, oxidized silver and copper. This five coin set will undoubtedly become a collectors' item. Positively no more than one thousand sets will be issued. They will be available for \$15.00 per set. You may order them now from The Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, La. 70130.

.... We are still in need of more S & H Green Stamps for our addressing machine. We know you are probably rather tired of hearing us ask for them and frankly we are a bit weary of it ourselves, however, we still have a good ways to go. We are confident that with your continued help we can make it.

.... Plans are now being made for a ceremony on the occasion of the centennial of the death of Father Seelos in October. If you have any ideas please contact us soon.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH HELL

by Luana Thiel Jambois

It was Baltimore, 1855. Father Francis Xavier Seelos was listening to the story of Augustus Krebs. The man's cousin and his sister were telling him of things he had heard only in his classes in the seminary. He had been given the title of Exorcist in one of the rites of ordination. This was as stirring and powerful an example as he had ever heard. "There but for the grace of God go all of us," he said.

Augustus Krebs had been suffering from what appeared to be diabolical possession for twelve whole years! The doomed man could not even enter Church any longer! He could not hear the names of Jesus and Mary without shrieking out the most horrible blasphemies! His body was racked with uncontrollable forces and unspeakable horrors! He was unable to lead a normal life; but his body was remarkably well and healthy!

"I will come to see him this evening," Father Seelos promised.

True to his word he knocked on the door of the Krebs' residence that evening.

The sister of the suffering man opened the door. "Gus," she said, "Look! Father Seelos has come to help you!"

Augustus Krebs turned from where he sat hunched over in the corner of the room. A tall thin priest stood there whose eyes seemed to look deep into his soul. Augustus opened his mouth to ask him for help. Instead he screamed abominations at him. "God!" The name rang out in the middle of his curses. Augustus Krebs twisted and bent backwards so that his head touched his heels! His contortions threw him to the floor. Rigid and uncomprehending now, he screamed. His hands were like claws, his face contorted into horrible grimaces. The doomed souls of hell looked like this... the forgotten and the damned!

Father Francis Xavier Seelos knelt beside Augustus Krebs, his eyes wet with tears. He began the prayers of Exorcism. In the name of the Church he commanded that the powers of hell release Augustus Krebs.

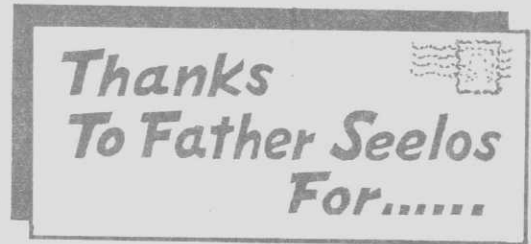
Something black fell to the floor. It moved like a snake to the fireplace and slithered up the chimney. The sound of chains clanging together like wierd and deafening screams grew so loud that the

people in the room grabbed at their ears to shut it out. Then suddenly silence! Silence so profound and complete that they seemed cut off even from the noise of the world outside.

Augustus Krebs began to cry, the normal sound of a sorrowful man. His body uncurled itself, relaxed and straightened. On his forehead he felt the cool touch of the priest's hand. He opened his eyes. The compassion in the eyes of the black-robed pastor steadied him. "Thank God," said Augustus Krebs.

"Satan has been driven out," said Father Seelos. "He did these things. He screamed in your throat, Augustus Krebs. It was not you. Now go in peace. Thank God."

The air was clean all at once in the room, and bright. It seemed to be filled with the sound of hosannahs.



... The return of my husband who is an alcoholic. He had been missing for eight days. I feel that this may be the turning point for him and will continue begging Father Seelos to intercede for me for this great favor.

... Although my husband passed away, I feel that my prayers were answered. This was a source of consolation. Father Seelos has helped me.

... A friend of mine regained use of his limbs. A neurosurgeon was called. He told my friend that the third vertebrae of the spine was affected and that an operation was necessary. The operation was scheduled for the following morning. I begged Father Seelos to intercede for him. That night the pain left him completely and he regained the use of his limbs. No operation was necessary. He is now very active and back at work.

... For the return of my son and his children to our home and to the Catholic Church after two years absence. My grandchildren seem so happy to go to the Catholic Church.

... My daughter receiving a scholarship to high school. This meant very much to both of us. We will do all we can to spread devotion to Father Seelos.