FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 1989

"THE FATHER SEELOS VOLUNTEERS"

Seated, L-R: Irma Messmer, Althea Callahan, Elma Legendre, Pauline Abadie, Pearl Ducote, Lucille Swayze, Angela Boudreaux (secretary); Standing, L-R: Julia Callahan, Marie Callahan, Jackie Lehr, Lillian Moran (computer), Margaret Hooper, Cletus Stack, Melvin Boudreaux, Clare Hein, Ruby Hebert.

This bulletin, FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY, goes to more than 35,000 homes each month, in fact, to every state in the Union. As you can imagine, it is no easy task to prepare this many pieces of mail. It would be financially impossible, if it were not for the more than 50 volunteers who give us more than 700 hours of volunteer service each month. We could not begin to pay them for their labor. We owe them all a debt of gratitude. In this issue we salute them all in the persons of those pictured above. Thanks and prayers, "Father Seelos Volunteers" — for all your time and talent.

LET US PRAY:
FOR VOCATIONS

We are all familiar with the Scripture text: "Ask, and you will receive. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks, receives. The one who seeks, finds. The one who knocks, enters" (Matt. 7/7-9).

Jesus taught us in the Our Father what to pray for: the honoring of His Father's name, the coming of His kingdom, that His will be done both here and in heaven, for forgiveness of our sins as we forgive those who sin against us, and for deliverance from evil (Matt. 6/9-13).

Even before teaching them the Our Father, Jesus had said to His hearers, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him" (Matt. 6/8). The fact that the Father knows our requests even before we ask Him does not absolve us from praying.

Indeed, the Gospels are filled with examples of petitions addressed to Jesus. A leper approached Him and said, "Sir, if You will do so, You can cure me" (Matt. 8/2). A centurion requested Him to come and cure his sick serving boy (Matt. 8/6). A synagogue leader said, "My daughter just died. Please come and lay Your hand on her and she will come back to life" (Matt. 9/18). Two blind men followed Him crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" (Matt. 9/27). A man with a son possessed with a mute spirit, begged Jesus, "If out of the kindness of Your heart You can do anything to help us, please do" (Mark, 9/22). When He was in the boat with His disciples and a violent storm arose and He remained asleep, His companions awakened Him with the cry, "Lord, save us. We are lost" (Matt. 8/25). At the home of Martha and Mary, when their brother, Lazarus, had died and was already four days in the grave, Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would never have died. Even now, I am sure that God will give You whatever You ask of Him" (John 11/21, 22).

In this day and age, when we see a decline in the number of priests and religious in our country, it may be well to call attention to the fact that Jesus, outside the context of the Our Father, asked us to pray for only one more thing. "At the sight of the crowds, His heart was moved with pity. They were lying prostrate from exhaustion, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is good but laborers are scarce. Beg the harvest master to send out laborers to gather his harvest'" (Matt. 9/36-38).

Pray, then, always for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

Arabi, LA

On June 12th my daughter-in-law was taken into surgery to have a large mass removed from her abdomen. Before she left her room I pinned a memento of Father Seelos on her gown. I am happy to report that the mass turned out to be a large cyst filled with fluid. There was no malignancy. I am so grateful to Father Seelos I wanted to share this experience with others.

Slidell, LA

I had breast cancer two years ago. February I had my sixteenth month checkup, and a spot showed up on my lungs. I did have a cold at the time and the doctor thought that that could have been the cause. He told me to wait another six months and have another x-ray. In the middle of June I went to him and asked if I could please take the x-ray now. The report was "free of cancer." At that moment my love for Jesus surged through me and I thanked Father Seelos for his intercession. I have prayed to Father Seelos for over five years and have had many favors through his intercession. I have read the book, *Nothing Short of A Miracle,* and it has brought a whole new meaning to my life.

Baton Rouge, LA

A year ago my grandson became ill with an ailment that baffled doctors. We were not sure that he would survive from day to day. He spent months in the hospital, 35 days in intensive care. For years I had been carrying a memento of Father Seelos. In my desperation I prayed without ceasing to Father Seelos. He has helped us endure by giving us hope and strength. Now my grandson's daily improvements of bending a finger, laughing out loud and so many little things that we take for granted and were taken away from him in his illness are all miracles for us. He is learning to walk again, and, we hope, with Father Seelos' prayers, his ability to speak will return. I always start the day with my special prayer of thanks to Father Seelos.

Cottonport, LA

I prayed to Father Seelos for my sister who was diagnosed as having hydro-cephalus and cortical atrophy. She is in a nursing home. She was in a wheel chair, couldn't walk, hardly ate. Now she is eating, has gained weight and is walking. I want to make this known. I thank Father Seelos for his intercession.

Mail for July, 1989:
Petitions: 577 Thanksgivings: 336 Other: 567 Total: 1480
Volunteer hours: 714 Dial-a-message: 765

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Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.SS.R., Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R., Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Cletus Stack, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
   a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography. Price: $10.00
   b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos. VHS cassette only: $45.00
   c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, written by Patricia Treece. In it there are two chapters on Father Seelos. Price: $7.95 plus postage. Available at the Center.
   d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
   e. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
   f. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
   g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and the museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center: (504) 525-2495.
   h. PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER SEELOS: every Sunday morning at 11 A.M. in St. Mary's Church. It is followed by the 11:30 parish Mass.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY IS TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR. We do appreciate your letting us know you want to continue to receive the bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Please return the lower portion of this page to us.

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