



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XXXVII, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1998



have even made it a cottage-industry. Elma (r) and Leona (l) Legendre, at their dining table, along with their next-door neighbor, Rita Tucker (m), place envelopes in the mailing piece. God bless them all.

## THE FATHER SEELOS VOLUNTEERS

For nearly 40 years a group of women and men have been generous with their time and talent and have volunteered to help the Father Seelos Center with its operations. Helping with the mailing of this bulletin each month is really a never-ending task and volunteers are never lacking. We are most grateful to all these good people. Some

## SOME THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

Modern man seems to have a craving for instant communication. Not satisfied with the great invention of the telephone, modern man has gone on to invent FAX machines and computers with E-MAIL and INTERNET. We now have pagers and cellular phones, federal express and priority mail.

And yet, none of all these compare with the swiftest communication possible, and that is PRAYER. Prayer is absolutely instantaneous communication with God. Prayer happens in the blink of an eye. As soon as I think or I say: "My God...I love you...I need you...help me..." I am praying! And, I don't have to go to any particular place to pray. Prayer happens anywhere! I don't have to wait for any particular time to pray. Prayer happens anytime! Prayer is so simple and easy, even small children pray. They know how to ask and seek help. In fact, the Lord tells us we should be like children when we pray, full of humility with a keen sense of complete dependency on God yet at the same time fully confident that God will listen and respond to my prayer. Prayer, you see, is talking with SOMEONE who loves you!!

As a son of St. Alphonsus, Fr. Seelos learned from his holy Founder's teachings that prayer is first of all very necessary for us to gain salvation. St. Alphonsus believed and taught that those who pray will be saved and those who do not pray will be lost. He wanted his Redemptorist missionaries to stress prayer in their preaching because we need to pray to persevere in God's grace. Frequent prayer will constantly prepare our souls for that awesome moment of our entrance into eternity.

*(Continued on next page)*

One of the most practical and down-to-earth works ever written on prayer is St. Alphonsus' **THE WAY TO CONVERSE ALWAYS AND FAMILIARLY WITH GOD**. Here the learned saint goes to the heart of what prayer is. St. Alphonsus describes prayer simply as 'intimate conversation with God'.

A big help to praying well and experiencing something very special when we pray is to start quietly, and before we allow any words on our lips or thoughts on our minds, we simply try to realize that we are in God's presence. Whether we recognize it or not, God is present to us at all times — 24 hours a day! There is no where we can go to hide from His presence. This is a comforting reality that should start us praying with, as St. Alphonsus says, "that confidence, that freedom and tenderness which children use toward their mothers." A child's security lies in sensing that his mother is 'always there' for him.

One modern spiritual writer describes prayer as 'the end of loneliness'. The idea here is that if you pray frequently you are always aware that a certain **SOMEONE** is always with you, always near you, always loving you, never leaving you alone.

The Lord Jesus said: "You ought always to pray and never grow weary of praying." It is not that He needs our prayers. We are the ones who need prayer to keep us constantly reminded of His presence, His love, His power to help us.

Father Seelos is a model for us in many things, — patience in suffering, devotion to Mary, charity toward others especially the sick and the poor, and certainly a model of prayer. During this month of November we ask the Lord Jesus as His Apostles did: "Lord, teach us to pray." We can ask the same of saintly Fr. Seelos!

Fr. Albert Babin, C.S.S.R.

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#### SPECIAL NOTES

1. The Father Seelos Center offers the following:
  - a. "The Cheerful Ascetic," a biography of Father Seelos. Price \$10.00.
  - b. "Seelos: A Cause to Rejoice," a TV documentary of the life of Father Seelos - one half hour long. VHS cassette: \$20.00 (includes postage).
  - c. "Nothing Short of A Miracle," a book on the healing power of the saints, by Patricia Treece. Two of the chapters are on Father Seelos. Price: \$8.95 plus postage.
  - d. Pamphlets, prayer-cards, mementos.
  - e. Blessings of the sick with the mission crucifix of Father Seelos. Call: Yvonne Sevin, 888-1250, Gerry Heigle, 482-4404, Jack Pitkin, 524-6591, Teresa LaCour, 887-0214, Rita Kaul, 271-4520, Thad and Ethel Kuhn, 837-3957, Rosary Stoltman, 393-9423, Jim Howard, 277-7949 or Marie Callahan, 525-1775.
  - f. A daily spiritual message: dial (504) 586-1803.
  - g. Pilgrimages to St. Mary's Church, the tomb and museum of Father Seelos. For further details and appointments, call the Center (504) 525-2495.
  - h. Veneration of the mission crucifix every Sunday after the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Assumption Church.
  - i. Every week a Mass is celebrated for the intention of the Father Seelos Center.
2. A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY BULLETIN IS FOUR DOLLARS PER YEAR. Please let us know you want to continue receiving this bulletin. Please use the form below for changes of address, corrections, duplications and renewals. Return the lower portion of this page to us. Include your old address.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# SPECIAL LETTERS

## Anonymous

I am writing to tell you of a prayer answered after I prayed to Father Seelos. I have been having a problem with drinking too much for the last year and a half after leaving my last job.

Background: The job I left was a job which I had worked my way up to for the last ten years (I was 40 at the time). A young woman (age 23) who worked for me was quite aggressive/assertive. The bottom line is her relationship with my boss created an environment that eventually forced me out of my job. Though the decision to leave was my choice, I felt I had no choice. Subsequently that young woman became manager of the department. I went on my own as a self-employed marketing consultant. Though I am doing okay and grateful God has sustained me, I have remained bitter over the loss of that job I worked so hard for. The business developments of that company have meant that the department is finally developed into what I hoped it would. Yet I am not there to enjoy the fruits of that growth. I shouldn't be bitter. Life and business bring curves and ultimately I was the one who chose to leave. I also have a hard time being self-employed because you can't count on a paycheck. I have prayed and prayed for God to heal me of my bitterness. I pray for my ex-boss (who was the best boss I ever had), and that young woman (whom I considered a friend), but the feeling just gnaws at me. There's no excuse for drinking too much but the depression over this whole thing has been hard to handle. Also, my husband is a wonderful man but often negative and condemning. His words are often abusive. These two things had driven me to drink and caused a weight gain of 20 pounds.

Long story short – last month we traveled to San Francisco. I knew we would be out every night and making a visit to Napa Valley. I asked Fr. Seelos to help me stay in control and be "normal" during that time. The prayer was answered. I then asked him to help me with this the rest of my life so I can return to a normal, healthy lifestyle. But I have had a couple of problems since our return. However, I did commit to write your center to tell you of what I believe to be a miracle. Even my husband noticed the change on our trip. I need to leave my past behind and embrace my future. But I don't know what God is leading me to do in my future. Please pray that God will reveal what I should do with my life. I want to serve Him in every way...by being a good wife and through my occupation. I just need to know what He wants that occupation to be. I pray Fr. Seelos will watch over me and through his intercession the miraculous healing which I experienced in San Francisco will continue the rest of my life... Thank you for your prayers.

## Moreauville, LA

Father Seelos, I am writing you this letter to thank you for everything you have done for me. In September of 1997 I had surgery on my back. The surgery went well until two weeks later. I could no longer walk because of the pain I was in. I was brought back to the hospital in New Orleans by ambulance. I was diagnosed with a severe staph infection. I went through numerous tests to see if the infection was in my bones. I was in the hospital for three weeks. My family thought I was going to die. My family came to visit me one day. I was still unable to walk. When my mom was leaving she pinned a Father Seelos memento on my gown. Less than 30 minutes later I had gotten out of bed and was able to walk. After three weeks stay I was sent home with an IV for two months. I am fine now. I also prayed to Father Seelos that I'd be able to get pregnant after trying for over two years. On Mother's Day of this year I found out I was pregnant. I thank Father Seelos now and every night for these two months. I hope one day he becomes a saint. He truly deserves it. I cannot thank him enough.

P.S. This made a true believer of my husband!

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Mail: July, 1998

Petitions: 686

Thanksgivings: 232

Others: 362

Total: 1280

Dial-A-Messages: 764

Volunteer Hours: 1049

**FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY (USPS 488-660)**

is published monthly for \$4.00 per year, by

The Father Seelos Center

2030 Constance Street

New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

**Periodical postage paid at New Orleans, LA.**

**Postmaster:** send address changes to FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

2030 Constance St., New Orleans, LA 70130-5099

11/98

Published monthly by the Redemptorists at the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130. Telephone (504) 525-2495, Fax: (504) 523-3734. Internet: [www.seelos.org](http://www.seelos.org). Email: [DEworthy@aol.com](mailto:DEworthy@aol.com). Subscription is \$4.00 per year.

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 the Causes of Saints.

Published with Ecclesiastical Approbation.

Rev. Albert Babin, C.S.S.R. and Rev. John Vargas, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators, Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor, Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Mr. Melvin Boudreaux, Executive Assistants.