



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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THANKS AND FAREWELL, REGINA

On August 14 Miss Regina Beck retired from her position as executive assistant of the Father Seelos Center. For fourteen years, without ever taking a vacation, Regina was the one in charge at the Center. Chances are many of you, readers, heard her soft southern accent on the telephone as she responded to your ring, "Fathah Seelos Centah." Regina was the one who gathered the volunteers for their monthly stint at preparing this bulletin for mailing. She was the contact person with the Post Office and the suppliers of the Center.

Her retirement is well deserved. She has more than earned it. We appreciate her gentleness and cheerfulness, her dedication to her work. We ask the good Lord to bless her and hers through the intercession of Father Seelos. We wish her well, good, health and peace, and the protection of heaven in the golden days ahead.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

MENTAL PRAYER

There is nothing so familiar to us in religion as the subject of prayer. It is the first thing we learn to do, as we say, at our mother's knee. It is the first conscious step in the practice of our faith. It is important because it puts us in touch with God our Father. When at prayer we withdraw in a sense from the turmoil of life to fix our thoughts on Him.

In his book on Prayer, Father Karl Rahner, the noted Jesuit theologian of our time, has a beautiful description: "A man may turn from it all (the turmoil of life); and immediately the noise of his activities sinks to silence, as, in a spirit of reverence and love, he speaks to God in prayer. . . Only in heaven can he fully achieve (the) synthesis of all his faculties, in the contemplation of the Beatific Vision. Here on earth, hedged in by the things of the senses, such synthesis is impossible to man; and, yet in prayer though "through a glass in a dark manner," man looks upon God and comes as near as he can to that unity of action and purpose for which his heart has a deep and secret longing."

St. Alphonsus is known as "the doctor of prayer" and was always most practical in his approach to prayer. He taught that we all must practice mental prayer, over and above the vocal prayers we are most accustomed to. He knew that many people would throw up their hands in mock horror in learning that they were expected to meditate. They completely underestimate their capabilities in the religious field. As they read these lines they are making informal mental prayer. They are thinking of the necessity of prayer and are applying what they read to their own individual needs.

We are making informal mental prayer whenever we listen attentively to a sermon, when we read the Bible or other spiritual book, when we devoutly make the Way of the Cross.

However, St. Alphonsus suggests we meditate even in a more formal way. We can retire to a church or a chapel or rise from bed a few minutes before the rest of the family or seek a private corner in our home. We can read from the Sacred Scriptures or other spiritual book or the lives of the saints, as St. Ignatius did. A short reflection on the matter read will lead us to a truth of our faith and how it can be applied to our everyday life. Then we can tell the Lord how we need His help, that we are sorry for the sins that have marred our life up to this point. Then we make acts of faith, hope, love, thanksgiving, adoration. We can hope for God's grace to make our life more like His, peaceful, forgiving, merciful, compassionate and loving.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R

SPECIAL LETTERS

Louisiana

At the moment I cannot remember who introduced me to Father Seelos. I have a vague memory of meeting someone in a doctor's office or in a hospital who gave me the prayer over twenty years ago.

I have prayed for favors through the intercession of Father Seelos, some of them seemingly unattainable. I believe that Father Seelos is truly a holy, saintly man.

Favors received range from a job position being opened early to accommodate me, husband successful in his business career, reinstatement in a job with back-pay, successful deliveries of two daughters' high-risk pregnancies. These are just a few of the favors granted through his prayers. Thanks be to God.

Metairie, La.

My husband had by-pass heart surgery about two years ago. Last month his tests did not appear to be normal. The doctors feared that he might have another blockage. After the angiogram the doctors said that everything was normal. Thanks to Father Seelos for bringing my petitions to God.

Gretna, La.

A while back I wrote you that my mother was living all alone and that she was advancing in age. I was concerned about her. I had convinced her to move in with my wife and me. I asked Father Seelos for the sale of her house to go through so that this could be done. Father Seelos answered our prayers and my mother was able to sell her house for a better price than she thought she could get. Many thanks to the good God and Father Seelos.

New Orleans, La.

My prayers to Father Seelos were answered. The entire family has been praying so hard that my grandson would be accepted in to a good Catholic school. We prayed for two years and finally God has seen to it that my grandson was accepted.

All of our prayers and thanks to Father Seelos for his intercession. We love him. I am a grateful grandmother.

Metairie, La.

I am publicly thanking God for a favor granted through the intercession of Father Seelos and also our Blessed Mother Mary. My husband was diagnosed as having a malignancy. After treatments the final tests showed clear.

Mail received in July, 1987

Petitions: 420 Thanksgivings: 190 Other: 563 Total: 1173
Dial-a-message calls in July: 596.

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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. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Mrs. Angela Boudreaux and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. Call every day for a spiritual message from the Father Seelos Center: (504) 586-1803.
2. The Father Seelos Center is open Monday through Friday, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. The telephone: (504) 525-2495.
3. A prayer service for the canonization of Father Seelos is held each Sunday morning at 11 in St. Mary's Church, one half-hour before the 11:30 Mass.
4. The Father Seelos Museum is open on Saturdays after the 3:00 P.M. vigil Mass; on Sundays, from 9:30 to 11 in the mornings. At other times by appointment. Call the Center.
5. The documentary on the life of Father Seelos, "Seelos- A Cause to Rejoice" is available for VCR's but in the VHS format only.
6. For blessings of the sick with the crucifix of Father Seelos (in the New Orleans area only), please call Miss Addie Buhler: 895-6176.
7. Please use the form below, should you wish to inform us that you are receiving more than one copy of the bulletin, or you are changing addresses or we have the wrong address or have misspelled your name. Please send us your name and address from a previous issue.

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