

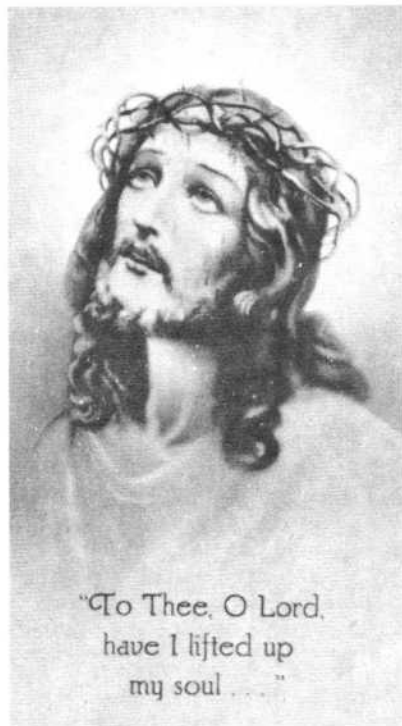


FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 1980

THE PENITENTIAL SEASON



Here in New Orleans we have entered the busy and noisy season of the Mardi Gras. The city that "care forgot" is busy with parades concluding on February 18, Carnival Day.

After all the hub-bub of the season, we enter the holy season of Lent—a time of prayer and soul searching.

Have we kept the resolutions which we made one month ago? Have we tried to improve our prayer life? Have we tried to attend Mass daily?

Well we have another chance. Why not strive to attend Mass every day this Lent? It will become a habit as much a part of daily life as eating breakfast, etc.

Before you receive this letter I hope to have had cataract surgery. May I ask a little prayer for me? Thanks a lot.

Josie Becker

TO BE HAPPY, RELY ON GOD'S INFINITE GOODNESS AND PROMISES

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

The Virtue for the month of February: HOPE

Patron Saint: St. Andrew, Apostle

Text: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him; I will set him on high because he acknowledges my name. (Psalm 90/14)

The other day I saw a simple little poem which a child can understand, which should be as popular as: "Now I lay me down to sleep."

The poem:

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish
I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me
and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me!"
He (God) answered, "You didn't ask."

Morning Prayers! I never heard a good reason for skipping them. In our November Conference we consecrated our every breath of the day as we work and every night as we sleep. Morning prayers can be as simple and as short as: "My God I offer my every thought, word and action of today as so many acts of love of you." Did you ever realize that our whole day is thinking, speaking, moving — it's all for love of God.

We use the words: "I hope"; we hear others say "I hope." The basis for hoping is, we rely on the goodness of a friend and his promises to us — he is sincere.

We ask God for so many favors all day long. We live in hope. Remember the little act of Hope of your catechism: "Oh, my God, relying on Thy Infinite goodness and promises, I hope for three big things, (1) The pardon of my sins, (2) Thy grace, (3) Life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ. Christ taught "Ask and you shall receive!" "If you ask the Father for anything in my name, He will give it to you." So pray with confidence. You will be heard. Read the act of Hope again, and over and over, till you realize what you are saying. Christ cannot deceive nor be deceived. Men can. He is infinitely Good, men are finite.

Hate sin! "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom", says the Bible. Fear to offend God. If you do, make an act of Perfect Contrition immediately. Don't worry about sin. Make the act of Hope.

Many people begin the day as you do; Maybe, say no prayers as the day begins, die suddenly and begin life everlasting in sin. The act of Hope gets us ready for a happy eternity.

Scripture says "It's a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Make the act of Hope often during the day.

Put your salvation in the hands of our Blessed Mother. She is our hope in life and at the moment of death. Hope for help through Father Seelos, have confidence, perseverance, never give up.

Pray that Americans live according to their motto: "In God we trust."

SPECIAL LETTERS

Pace, Fla.

"We were on our way to New Orleans in our truck camper. We had car trouble in Ocean Springs, Miss. (just woods) but near a hospital. I called for help and was told there was a Texaco station about 2 miles to the right. I started to pray to Father Seelos. The backfiring stopped, the truck started and we were able to have it temporarily repaired. We were in great danger of fire, the repair man said. Thanks to Father Seelos for a safe trip."

Mrs. R.A.H.

Seabrook, Texas

"My husband and I had only been married two months and then we separated. I prayed that through Father Seelos' intercession we would get back together. We remained separated and in different states until August and then went back together just before our first anniversary. We have been getting along better than before. Thanks to Father Seelos — I know it all happened through his intercession."

Mrs. J.B.

Metairie, La.

"Through my pregnancy, I prayed to Father Seelos for a safe delivery. After the birth of my baby, I was returned to my room and began to bleed more than usual. I took out my Father Seelos relic and began to pray. After a few hours, the bleeding was checked and I wish to thank Father Seelos for coming to my aid after the delivery."

Mrs. R.N.

Mexico, D.F.

"The death of my mother and my father's many health problems made it necessary for me to leave for six years the university I was attending — without a degree. I prayed to Father Seelos that I would be able to go back to school and finally I have obtained my degree. Enclosed offering is in gratefulness for the intercession of Father Seelos who made this possible."

G. de L.S.

St. Louis, Mo.

"I prayed to Father Seelos for a successful chest operation for our frail 5-year-old grandson. Also for successful surgery on our son-in-law. Both are doing fine. Through Father Seelos' intercession, these favors were received."

Mrs. J.C.D.

New Orleans, La.

"I would like to acknowledge a favor received. With Father Seelos' help I was able to find a house I could afford in a neighborhood where I wanted to live."

D.J.P.

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SPECIAL NOTES

Ash Wednesday is February 20th. Look forward to Lent. Make it mean something in your life — an extra Holy Mass — the Way of the Cross daily — the daily Rosary — pray that you have the grace to bring somebody back to the practice of his (her) Holy Religion — deny your appetite something.

A good, holy Priest sent us the names and addresses of all his CCD teachers for the monthly "Father Seelos and Sanctity" and a check to cover the postage. God bless you, Father, and reward your zeal.

Keep our mailing file correct. Please let us know of your new address and of your neighbor's. Thanks.

Every adult and teenage member of your family should be a member of the Guild of Father Seelos. Their obligation will be — to pray for his canonization and to have others do the same. Simple, eh?

Thanks for your prayers for me. I had a great jubilee celebration. You are all wonderful people! God love you. Father Grangell.

A quotation from a Monsignor's letter, November 30, 1979:

"The retreat you gave me as a seminarian was a highlight, and your short prayer 'My God, I love you' has been in my heart and on my lips thousands of times, as well as in talks I have given and counselling I have given to others."

Thanks, Monsignor!

For blessings of your sick with the Mission Crucifix of Father Seelos, please call Miss Addie Buhler. 895-6176.

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