



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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A MONTH FOR PLEASURE AND THEN PENANCE

As we start February things in New Orleans, and the suburban area are in 'high gear', with the Carnival season in full swing.

Mardi Gras day is February 15 and we go all out for feasting and fun until sundown, and then on February 16 Ash Wednesday ushers in the holy season of Lent.

May I ask that as you pray during Lent that you remember in your prayers the sick, those who are known to you, and those who are not. At this time there are members of the families of our workers and also friends of our workers at the Center who are very ill and we would surely like you to include them in your prayers. (I am writing this in November, so as you read this paper, I hope their conditions will be greatly improved.)

HAPPY VALENTINE TO ALL OF YOU!

Josie M. Becker

Excerpt from THE CHEERFUL ASCETIC:

Seelos' messages to his family were both consoling and encouraging. He wrote in one letter: Dearest mother, when your thoughts turn in my direction and our separation saddens you, fall back on prayer. In it you will always find light and consolation. From it you will draw infinite profit for yourself, for me and for the entire family, both for time and eternity...I will never forget you! On feast days and other similar occasions which remind me especially of your maternal love, I will have you in my heart and in my prayers in a most special manner.

'BE A SAINT' — DESIRE IT!

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

The Virtue for February: HOPE

Patron for Hope: St. Andrew, Apostle

Text: Because he hoped in Me, I will deliver him: I will protect him because he hath known My name. (Ps. 90/14)

Father Seelos became a great Saint because he faithfully followed the ASCETICAL SYSTEM OF THE TWELVE MONTHLY VIRTUES.

We saw in a former conference how he put the twelve virtues in the twelve stations of the Way of the Cross. He made the Stations daily, and day after day, year after year, he advanced in perfection in the love and service of God.

The first station was FAITH — resignation to the will of God in everything. In the second station he put the virtue of HOPE. The outstanding petition was: I hope to be a SAINT To be a saint he had to practice the virtues of the following stations as we shall see he did. He gave the Blessed Mother the thirteenth and fourteenth stations.

As a young novice, he read that St. Alphonsus Ligouri taught, we must all become saints. Let no one say this is impossible for simple me. The saint answers that objection by saying: 'I must not be diffident of becoming a saint.' Perish the thought! He quotes St. Bernard as teaching: God does not attend to what we have done, but what we desire to be. St. Augustine taught: 'Forget the past and desire to be from NOW ON the GREATEST saint who ever lived.' 'Desire is the first step in becoming a saint.' Recite the ACT OF HOPE often during the day. Do you know it?

Desire and Hope are twin virtues.

ASK THE BLESSED MOTHER TO HELP YOU IN THIS GREAT DESIRE.

HEALING SERVICE EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 3:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS AT 4:00 P.M.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Metairie, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos to assist me in passing a difficult education examination. I was informed that I passed. Many thanks."

From Houston, Texas

"Through Father Seelos' intercession, my prayers for a favorable report on my daughter's tests were answered. Everything turned out fine."

From Mt. Air, N. Mex.

"My son serving with the U.S.A.F. in Illinois had what they called a "block test". He said this was very hard and asked me to pray. I started praying all day for him, made a nine hour novena for him. He called me that night and said he passed the test, which made him very happy. Many thanks for the intercession of Father Seelos."

From Zachary, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos to get a good job as a teacher after having been out of the profession for eleven years. My prayers were answered, as I received a call from the local principal that a position was open."

From Pierre Part, La.

"For eight months I did not walk so I started to pray the Father Seelos' prayer. I did not give up but continued to pray and now I am walking and can do my cooking and walk with a cane. Thank God for answering my prayers through Father Seelos' intercession."

From Plaquemine, La.

"I prayed to Father Seelos that a growth on my neck would heal. Then one day I discovered it was gone. Thanks to Father Seelos."

From Thibodaux, La.

"I prayed for months for my son with his drinking habits. He recently married a fine lady and now, while he drinks a little at home, he does not go to the bars."

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2030 CONSTANCE ST.

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SPECIAL NOTES

Spread devotion to Father Seelos. Tell everybody about him. If they send new names and addresses, be sure to use the ZIP. The Zip Code on a letter is essential. Without it, our letters are not delivered or they are put aside for later attention. If the mail man cannot find the correct name or address or zip on FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY MAIL, the mail is returned and we are charged 25 cents for each piece returned. Some months our returned mail amounts to as much as \$30.00. Staggering!!!

Read this: If you are praying for a cure or employment for your husband or son, he must pray too.

If you receive a favor, thank God for it and write to use about it.

Teach the children how to ask for favors and how to thank God!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 16. Get into the spirit of the Holy Season. Talk about it at home. Your penance could be:

1. Rising early and going to Holy Mass.
2. No intoxicants, no smoking, on certain days of Lent.
3. Keep smiling.

Thank you for supporting the Center! Thanks for using the Small gold envelopes monthly.

God love and bless you for this.

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

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Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulator and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.