



# FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

VOLUME XIX, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1985

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!



*A German New Year's Card*

Since we are always wont to make resolutions at the start of a new year, I thought that this verse contained a lot of food for thought in that direction.

### A PRAYER FOR PATIENCE

God, teach me to be patient -  
Teach me to go slow -  
Teach me how to "wait on You"  
When my way I do not know. . .

Teach me sweet forbearance  
When things do not go right  
So I remain unruffled  
When others grow up tight. . .

Teach me how to quiet  
My racing, rising heart  
So I may hear the answer  
You are trying to impart. . .

Teach me to let go, dear God,  
And pray undisturbed until  
My heart is filled with inner peace  
And I want to know Your will.

by Helen Steiner Rice

We at the Center, wish all of you the blessings of the New Year. May we all enjoy good health, good friends, and may we look always to our dearest friend, Jesus, for all our needs and daily ask His blessing on us and our families.

Josie M. Becker

## FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY – JANUARY

Virtue: FAITH

Patrons: Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Text: I am the Light of world; He who follows me, walks not in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (Jn. 8/12)

Faith, supernatural faith, is the acceptance, on the part of our mind, moved by God's word about realities that are beyond human knowledge. An act of faith is our first response to God's call. God has spoken to all of us through the patriarchs and prophets of old. He has spoken to us, last of all, through his Son. He speaks to us now through the Sacred Scripture and Tradition as transmitted to us through His Church.

It is repugnant to some people to make an act of faith in God. Somehow they think it demeaning to surrender, as it may seem their own intelligence. Such people are perhaps totally unaware how much of their daily lives is conducted resting firmly or precariously on the word of others. We have a saying "I know that as well as I know my own name". How well do we know our own name? We know it only on the testimony of our parents.

The supernatural gift of faith came to Father Seelos at the moment of his baptism into Christ in the church of St. Mang in Fussen, Bavaria. It was nourished in the simple but deeply religious environment of his home. Church was never far from home, because his father was the sacristan of St. Mang's. This setting was the backdrop of the faith that pervaded his short but strongly christian life.

It was this faith in Jesus the Lord that moved him to cross the Atlantic to help his fellow-countrymen and women who in this new-found land were left so often without the ministrations of a priest. It was his faith that inspired him to dedicate his life to Christ as a Redemptorist priest in America. It was his faith that brought him through the difficult moments of his vocation, that brought him ultimately to New Orleans where he would give his life in service to God and the victim of yellow fever.

St. Paul tell us that faith comes from hearing. The content of faith is the word of God. We have all been invited in special ways these last few years to listen, to read more and more, the Holy Scriptures. There are Bible services, Bible study circles, many popular commentaries on the books of the Bible. All to the good.

We can intensify our appreciation of God's word. We can read a chapter of the Bible each day, or a page. We can reflect on these passages as we seek the guideposts for our daily lives. We can listen attentively to the word of God, as it is proclaimed in the Masses we attend daily or weekly. As we do any and all of these, may we pray for the light and courage to make God's word the rule of our lives.

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

## SPECIAL LETTERS

From San Antonio, Texas

"My son's father-in-law was in intensive care for six months. He was terminally ill. I prayed asking Father Seelos to intercede for him. He is now home. Thanks Father Seelos. Also I had surgery and had terrible complications. I placed the cloth memento of Father Seelos on me and asked his intercession. The doctor has told me I am 85% cured. Praise to God and Father Seelos."

From Westwego, La.

"I wish to thank Father Seelos for the many times my prayers have been answered through his intercession. My son was born with a birth defect. We had him blessed with the crucifix of Father Seelos. He is now twelve and doing great. My husband would pin the Father Seelos cloth memento inside his shirt on days he would be tested on the job and would say prayers. He never once failed the test. He also had lots of trouble with his back and would wear the memento and hasn't had backache in a long time."

From New Orleans, La.

"I was very unhappy with the apartment I was in and asked Father Seelos' prayers. I am now in a nice place with friends and security."

"I had an eye test and my doctor told me it looked like I had glaucoma. I went through three tests always asking Father Seelos' intercession on my behalf. My final test proved negative. Many thanks Father Seelos."

From Lafayette, La.

"In thanksgiving to Father Seelos for a very special favor granted to me. Please publish."

From New Orleans, La.

"I am writing in thanksgiving for Father Seelos' intercession. My brother was admitted to the hospital for a series of tests which the doctor expected to show cancer. After all the tests were taken they found it was not cancer. Please put in the bulletin. All thanks to Father Seelos and the Blessed Mother."

From Baton Rouge, La.

"We wish to thank Father Seelos for his prayers which we feel helped us to sell a car. We prayed asking help for our son to find employment of a permanent nature. My son was successful in obtaining employment. Thanks to Father Seelos and all the saints in heaven for interceding for my son."

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*Rev. William Grangell, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Joseph Buhler, C.S.S.R., Vice-Postulators; Rev. Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R., Director and Editor; Miss Josie Becker, Associate Editor; Miss Regina Beck and Warren Gautreau, Executive Assistants.*

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## SPECIAL NOTES

Historical note:

On January 1, 1967, Father Seelos witnessed the marriage of Nicholas Schaff and Catherine Glasser in St. Mary's Church, New Orleans. He was the son of Michael Schaff and Magdalene Baton, of Lambert, Lorraine. She was the daughter of Nicholas Glasser and Maria Rembinger, of Enzberg, Lorraine. Michael Schaff and Peter Weil were the witnesses.

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Though it may seem belated, we wish to express our thanks to all who participated in and had anything to do with the arrangements for the memorial mass which was on October 7, 1984. A special thanks to Father Francis Litz, who came to us from Philadelphia to be the main concelebrant and homilist for the Mass. To those who decorated the church, the choir, the ushers, those who prepared and served the refreshments after the Mass, we couldn't have had such a wonderful celebration without you. For the rest who attended the Mass and crowded our church a special thanks. Please continue to come and next time bring your friends.

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We wish to extend our sympathy to Odile, Elma and Leona Legendre on the loss of their sister recently. They are all workers for the cause of Father Seelos. We ask a remembrance of their sister and also of them in your prayers.

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January 11 is Father Seeelos' birthday. Why not wish him a happy birthday by spreading devotion to him to at least one person.

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

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