



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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FEBRUARY, 1985

February, a month of loving and caring



The picture, while not in any way descriptive of our subject for February, shows Lilly Neimeier Achenbrenner, great, great niece of Father Seelos during a meeting in Fussen in 1982 in front of her house, with the first President of Germany and the Mayor of Fussen, because they are the oldest family which lived always in Fussen.

February traditionally is a month in which we show love on Valentine Day, which is the 14th of the month. This love should not only include love between girls and boys, sweethearts, but love of neighbor and particularly love of God.

Recently in our archdiocese of New Orleans we completed the first phase of RENEW, a program to bring us closer together as a parish family and closer to God. It stressed God's love for us and the love we should have for God. We will begin the second phase of our program with the beginning of Lent. Each phase lasts six weeks. I personally feel I have benefitted much through these weekly sessions and have made new friends. I also feel a greater appreciation of scripture and what it should mean in my daily life. Please pray with us for the continued success of the program.

Happy Valentine to all and God bless you much.

Josie M. Becker

Virtue: HOPE

Patron: St. Andrew, Apostle

Text: Because he has hope in me, I will deliver him, I will protect him, because he has known my name. (Psalm 110/4)

Faith points out the purpose of our life on earth, hope give us the assurance that we can achieve that goal. The object of hope, then, is heaven, and Jesus assures us that, with His grace, we can be certain of arriving there. Hope looks for two things from God, happiness with Him forever in heaven, and all the helps necessary to achieve it.

Of ourselves we are weak and powerless. With God's grace we can do all things. St. Paul was witness to the power of God's grace; he could do all things in Him who strengthened him. Jesus said: "Without Me you can do nothing." (John 15/5)

Of Father Seelos, Father Curley writes "From the lively faith in the heart of Francis Seelos came a firm confidence in God. He never had any doubts that he was going to heaven and that he would enjoy a happy hereafter. The virtue of hope was so engrained in him that, like his faith, it constantly came out in his sermons and letters."

Especially to those who were assailed by doubts because of their past sinful lives and when they were perhaps despairing of God's pardon, he begged them to trust in God, to remember that God did not wish the death of a sinner, but that he be converted and live, that Jesus came to seek the sinner rather than the just. The woman taken in adultery He forgave, the thief on the cross He pardoned. He asked His Father to forgive those who nailed Him to the cross.

This is what hope, trust, confidence in God should mean to us. Despite our human frailty, our sinfulness, we should place our confidence in the Redeemer who loved us so much He became one of us, who died for us on the cross, and still promised us eternal life with Him. If only we would believe in Him, beg His forgiveness and rely on His faithfulness to the promises He made us!

On God's part, heaven is a sure thing, should we have any doubts?

Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Carrollton, Texas

"In 1983 I was laid off from my job. I prayed to Father Seelos and five months later I found a better job. My husband's company was losing money and we were fearing he would lose his job. Again I asked Father Seelos prayers. The company is doing better and my husband still has his job. My son's marriage was in trouble and I prayed for this also. Now he and his wife are getting along better. He was also out of a job for three months. He has now found a job and seems to be happy with it. I am grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession in our behalf."

From Wichita, Kansas

"Good Father Seelos has helped us many times. Two of our sisters had open sores on their legs for years and both are now healed. Another sister broke her leg and her bones would not knit for almost a year. Now she is up and can walk. We now have peace of mind. All of these favors which we received are due to the intercession of Father Seelos."

From Thibodaux, La.

"I dreaded the wedding of my granddaughter for weeks, because my son had married twice. This daughter was from the first marriage and the family from his second marriage were invited to the wedding. I was sure there would be big trouble. I asked Father Seelos prayers for help and on the day of the wedding everything went smoothly and there was no trouble. I am grateful to Father Seelos."

From New Orleans, La.

"I particularly want to publicly thank Father Seelos for the rapid recovery of my husband who recently had an esophagus attack and had to be taken to the hospital. He returned home in three days completely recovered and returned to work the next day. Thanks to Father Seelos for his prayers."

"I promised a note of thanks if my prayers were answered. My husband became seriously ill. The medical bills were high, my home needed major repairs, I lost my job, my children were still school age and I was faced with going to court over a legal technicality. I begged Father Seelos to show me what to do. Immediately things started to look better. My husband began to recover, I received some money unexpectedly and I won the court decision. Now I thank God and Father Seelos."

During October 1984 we received 161 letters of thanks and 262 petitions to Father Seelos. Wish we could print all letters of thanks, but it is impossible.

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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.

SPECIAL NOTES

In Feb. 5, 1967 in St. Mary's Church, Father Seelos witnessed the marriage of Otto Suberbier and Anna Maria Guttuny. He was the son of Julius and Caroline Suberbier of Hanover. She the daughter of Bernard Guttuny and Anna Maria Bins Guttuny. J. Neumin and H. Hierum were witnesses.

There is a world-wide shortage of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pray every day that our young people will choose a life of service for God and His people.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 20. Lent is a time of and for penance. So much of the penance is left to our discretion and piety. Getting to Mass daily during the weekdays of Lent is a beautiful way of getting closer to the Lord. Making the Way of the Cross publicly or privately once a week is an excellent meditation on the price Jesus paid for our redemption: His blood, His life.

We were very much saddened on November 14 on being informed of the death of one of our volunteer workers for the cause of Father Seelos. Virginia Miranda died after about two years on dialysis and finally of a heart attack. We will miss her very much and extend our sympathy to her family. Please remember her in your prayers.

We also ask a remembrance in your prayers for the soul of the mother of Ruby Hebert, who is also a volunteer worker at the Center. Our sympathy to Ruby and her family.

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

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