



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

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MAKE US GROW IN LOVE



Happy Valentine!.

Somehow we all have the idea that Valentine Day is the time when Dan Cupid gets into the act and sweet-hearts express their love for each other with gifts, such as flowers, candy, etc. That is what the significance is today.

But there is another love that can be expressed on Valentine Day and every day of the year. That is love of neighbor. When have you taken time out to be a neighbor, to help a neighbor or friend in need? When have you taken time out to comfort one suffering pain, physical or mental?

The Kiss of Peace as shown on the picture should extend into our lives

outside the church. Acknowledge the people you meet on the street as your neighbors. Remember the Good Samaritan — he gave of himself and his money to help the poor unfortunate one. He is one to be imitated.

Also express your love for your friends and neighbors in your prayers. Ask God to bless them and keep them in his care.

BE MY VALENTINE! God bless you.

Josie M. Becker

FATHER SEELOS PRACTICED THE VIRTUE OF HOPE ADMIRABLY

(Father Grangell's Monthly Conference)

Virtue for the month of February: HOPE

Patron Saint: St. Andrew, Apostle

Text: Because he clings to me, I will deliver him. (Psalm 90/14)

The month of February is the Redemptorist way of living in the Virtue of HOPE. That means every Redemptorist in the month of February, in all his daily meditations and soul examinations, checks his practice of this virtue.

One day a man asked Father Seelos why he was always so happy, relaxed, smiling, pleasant. He said he lived the virtue of HOPE always. The man then asked Father to give him a clear, understandable definition of the virtue of HOPE. He answered: Do you know the ACT OF HOPE, do you ever make it? If you do, then you know what the virtue of HOPE is.

The act of Hope which we learned as small children, never changes. "O my God, relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope for the pardon of my sins, for Thy Grace and for life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord."

We read the Gospels. We see our Lord always so kind and merciful to all who went to Him. He promises so much to all who had Faith in Him.

Like all great Saints, Father Seelos thought he was the greatest of sinners. But he hoped for the forgiveness of his sins. He saw Christ's kindness to Mary Magdalen, to the good thief, to the prodigal son. He never worried about his sins. He was sorry for them. He was not scrupulous. (Scrupulosity means lacking hope and confidence in God, selfishly worrying.) He obeyed his confessor. In turn he was an understanding confessor. As a spiritual advisor he instilled confidence in the lives of people, reminding them of Christ's goodness and all the promises He made to help all.

The second thing we hope for in the simple Act of Hope, is God's grace. That means God's help. God reminds us in Holy Scripture — WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING and yet, ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE and more IF YOU ASK THE FATHER ANYTHING IN MY NAME IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. Notice: ASK FOR ANYTHING, notice too: ASK IN MY NAME. That's the reason you hear re-echoing all through Holy Mass, THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD.

If we have hope, we pray. People who do not pray sin by presumption. They are proud! They do not need God's help. They are self-sufficient! Those who pray little, have little HOPE. Those who pray with doubt, with hesitation, without perseverance, sin against hope.

The trade mark of the Blue Cross Insurance is: NISI DEUS, FRUSTRA, which means unless you trust in God, you fail. These words were inspired doubtlessly by Psalm 126: Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it. Unless The Lord guard the city, in vain does the guard keep vigil.

The founding Fathers of our country gave us as our motto — and it is on the coins we carry in our pockets and purses — IN GOD WE TRUST. Americans should be praying people. Are we?

We are a restless people.. Youth, in particular, is looking for something. They are looking for God. St. Augustine many centuries ago prayed: Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee! Pray that Americans and the world find God. As Alphonsus, a Doctor of the Church, in his great book on THE GREAT MEANS OF SALVATION teaches Pray and you shall be saved! Neglect prayer and you shall be lost.

That brings us to the last thing we want in the ACT OF HOPE: LIFE EVER-LASTING. Father Seelos was a home missionary, and the theme of all his sermons was: SAVE YOUR SOUL! GET TO HEAVEN! For our consolation, our Lord has promises: If any man shall eat of My Flesh, and drink My Blood he shall live forever: Assure your ETERNAL SALVATION by being a daily recipient of Holy Communion.

SPECIAL LETTERS

From Bay St. Louis, Miss.

"My nephew was very discouraged for quite a long time, as he has worked long and hard and never received a promotion. Last year he wrote and asked me to pray for him. As we have received many favors through the intercession of Father Seelos, I started praying every night asking for help in this case. Last month my nephew received a marvelous promotion. Many thanks.

From Raceland, La.

"Our son has been in the Air Force for 24 years. He is our only son. He had 16 years overseas duty in Germany, Thailand and Spain. We did not see him for five years. He is now in California and we saw him twice. My husband is a heart patient and we cannot travel much. We have asked Father Seelos' intercession to have him stationed closer. He is now being transferred to Oklahoma. It is a little closer. Hope Father Seelos has him closer at the next move. Thanks."

From New Orleans, La.

"I had an accident in January and developed terrible back and leg pains. I was hospitalized and my doctor wanted to perform surgery. I decided against surgery and started to pray to Father Seelos. My prayers were answered and I am now back to normal health. Many thanks."

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SPECIAL NOTES

On February 11 we celebrate the feast of our Lady of Lourdes. On this feast day of Mary, our Mother, offer special prayers for your own intentions and also pray for the furtherance of the cause of Father Seelos. Remember Father Seelos' dedication to Mary.

When praying daily the prayer on the picture prayer card of Father Seelos remember to include the intentions of all those who are asking his intercession and for the petitions placed at the tomb of Father Seelos.

Also offer prayers that Father Joseph Buhler, one of the Vice-Postulators of the cause of Father Seelos, will be successful in obtaining the documentation of the various events, etc. in the life of Father Seelos, so that he may send it to Rome and they may be in a position to proceed with the cause.

Thanks again for your physical and financial assistance with our work. All is appreciated. Thanks also to the volunteers who work at the Center. They are priceless.

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

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