



GENERAL INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY.

*Named by the Cardinal Protector and blessed by the
Pope for all Associates.*

AN EVER-INCREASING LOVE FOR OUR NEIGHBOR.

There is nothing at all to be surprised at in the matchless efficacy of love for our neighbor for one who is endowed with a lively faith, for he knows well the potency of that love for God whose increase among men we prayed for during the month which has just elapsed. In fact, the love of God and the love of our neighbor are so thoroughly blended together, that divines tell us that they are, as it were, "contained one in the other" and are absolutely inseparable. "To love our neighbor for God's sake is," says St. Francis Sales, "to love God in our fellow-man, and our fellow-man in God." And for this reason these two great virtues are not only inseparable, but, inasmuch as they are a divine virtue, they are identical. They do not indeed constitute two theological virtues, but one only. Much more, in these two aspects of a single virtue, Christ the Saviour, and after Him the Disciple of His love, have striven in every way to bring out boldly the second phase of this sovereign virtue and soul of all other virtues in their injunction: "Love ye one and other."

What *reason* can be given for this love, the increase of which we are to pray for during this present month? What is its *measure* and what the *means* of intensifying it?