



Seelos and Sanctity

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DO YOU LOVE GOD?

When God made marriage he modelled it after His love for your soul and the love of the devout human soul for Him. Let us, therefore, analyze human love and see how it applies to our love for God.

Love implies four things:

1. WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEBODY YOU LIKE TO STAY NEAR HIM.

Once there was a wife who went home to her family in a distant city for a two week visit. Her husband was jokingly telling everyone on the block how much fun he was going to have while his wife was gone. But after the first week he was very dejected. "It surely is lonely around the house!" he moaned.

You see, love creates a desire to be with the person we love.

If you truly love Jesus, you will **REALIZE** that he is present wherever you go. Once you **REALIZE** this, (note that I did not merely say "know", but "**REALIZE**") it will make a big difference in your life. After all, no one is going to commit any really big sins if his parents are present. Thus if you truly **REALIZE** that God is always present, you will try to do your every action in such a way that it will be pleasing to Him.

2. PEOPLE who are in LOVE ALWAYS SPEND MUCH TIME TALKING to EACH OTHER.

The surest sign we have that people are angry with us is when they refuse to speak to us. Judging many people by this standard, I fear they are quite angry with Almighty God. They speak to Him so seldom. Many people average a few minutes of prayer a day, plus praying when sickness or financial crisis strikes their home.

If you talked to your wife only a few minutes a day, you would soon be holding the divorce papers in your hand!

TALK TO GOD. Say little prayers to him each day. You need not interrupt your regular work to do so. While you are at the plant or office, simply stop what you are doing long enough to say, "Jesus, I love you." Then continue what you were doing. While reading the evening paper stop long enough to say: "All for Thee, most Sacred Heart of Jesus." Then continue reading your newspaper. It is so easy to talk to God, if you **REALIZE** that He is always present.

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In conformity with the decree of Pope Urban VIII all statements contained herein are unreservedly submitted to the judgment of the Holy See and to the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

IMPRIMATUR † Archbishop John P. Cody, June 25, 1963, New Orleans, Louisiana

THE ELEVENTH HOUR

This is a tale of a T. V. program, a nun, an old woman, and a steak dinner.

Several weeks ago Father Vaughn received a telephone call from a woman who had been ill for some time. She asked that he visit her

Last May, as you may recall, a Mass of petition for the early canonization of Father Seelos, was televised from St. Mary's Church. Mary (as we will call the sick woman) was viewing TV at the time. When she saw the beautiful altar of St. Mary's Church and heard Father Vaughn talk about Father Seelos, suddenly it came back to her. She burst into tears.

Memories buried for over sixty years flooded back before her mind Her childhood days at St. Catherine's School (a school of the Sisters of Mercy, then located on Constance and St. Andrew Streets) Her teacher the saintly Sister Ignatius "Children, there is a very holy man buried in St. Mary's Church" she said ever so solemnly. "Some day he will be declared a saint. Pray to him."

Immediately she wrote for information about Father Seelos, joined the Seelos Guild and began praying to this holy priest to beg God to give her grace to return to Him. — You see, it had been fifty years since she had been to Mass and Communion!

Nearly a year passed when finally Mary telephoned the Seelos Center. "Father, please come to see me" she pleaded. By this time she was desperately ill and wanted to talk to a priest. While Father Vaughn was on his way to see Mary, a priest of her own parish dropped by. She immediately unburdened her heart and soul. Seeing her grave condition, he heard her confession and then returned to Church for Holy Communion and the holy oils. Father Vaughn witnessed her receiving her first Holy Communion in more than 50 years and receiving Extreme Unction. He then heard her expressions of great joy and thanksgiving to Father Seelos for his help.

Several days later she died.

Just a few days ago Father Vaughn received a note Mary had written to him before her death. In the envelope was a \$10.00 bill and a note which read, "Have a steak dinner on me."

For Seelos Guild Members

We recommend to your prayers the soul of MISS MAMIE B. FAGG, who passed away during the past month.

Thanks again for your help, for your prayers, for your words of encouragement.

Our group has grown quite a bit in the last few months. What a consoling thought to know so many are united in praying with you for your intentions!

GOD BLESS YOU!

THANKS!

"I received a favor from Father Seelos. Before my parents were married they went to confession and were married at a nuptial Mass. This was the last time that we know of that my father went to confession and Communion. My mother was praying for his return to the Sacraments and when I came to the seminary I started praying to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Augustine and St. Monica. When I heard about Father Seelos I added him to the list.

"Just recently my father came back to the sacraments, after twenty years. It seems that ever since I started praying to Father Seelos everything has been going all right. I am continually praying to him for the recovery of my uncle who has cancer and is dying. I have a lot of faith that Father Seelos will help me again.

"Thanks Father, for letting me know about Father Seelos."

"My son took his entrance exam for Redemptorist High School. Due to the overcrowded situation he was not accepted but put on the waiting list.

Though she arrived only at the "eleventh hour," we feel convinced that Father Seelos was there as he joyfully beheld the Divine Master reward her with her celestial "denarius."

Josie M. Becker

"Every day and night I prayed to Father Seelos for my son to be able to go to a Catholic High School.

"Last Thursday night my prayers were answered. The principal called and told me that they would accept my son. We completed his application and sent it in.

"Thanks to dear Father Seelos, our son will go to a good Catholic High School."

"For several years my child was afflicted with a skin disease. All efforts to remedy the situation failed. One night while praying I decided to ask Father Seelos' help. In three weeks time all traces of the disease were gone.

"I pray often to Father Seelos and have come to love him dearly. Before writing to you I reread the story of his death and cried. I would like to be able to live as Father Seelos did, but I'm afraid that it would take a lot of prayers to even make me a little holy. Please pray for me and my family. We are now having financial difficulties and I am storming heaven for help. We also have a child who is not doing well in history in school. I have been praying to Father Seelos to help her and already have seen im-

provement, but she still needs more prayers. Please remember her in your prayers."

"For years I have been asking God to give my husband the grace to appreciate Holy Communion. He has a habit of receiving Holy Communion only when he had been to confession, consequently this would be about once a month. I began saying the prayer for Father Seelos' canonization and made a sacrifice of something of which I was very fond. God must have heard Father Seelos' prayers right away. I knew this favor could not be granted over night, but in a few months my husband was receiving Communion more and more without having to go to Confession first. It is a real joy to me now that we can receive Communion together at Mass.

"I will continue to say the prayer and add three Hail Mary's for Father Seelos' canonization."

Due to the death of Pope John XXIII it has been necessary to postpone the beatification ceremonies for Bishop Neumann. Consequently Father Vaughn's journey to Rome has also been postponed. We are sorry he was unable to make the trip at this time, however, we know he will enjoy it none the less when the time comes.

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3. PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER ALWAYS TRY TO IMITATE EACH OTHER.

That is how children learn. They love their parents and so they learn how to live by imitating their parents. "Like father, like son" is a commonly heard saying. I am sure you have noticed how two people in married life **gradually** take on the characteristics of the other partner.

So too, people who truly love God try to imitate Him. Before their every action they ask themselves: "How would Christ have done this?" **Then they try to do whatever they are doing in exactly the same way they figure Christ would have done it.**

4. PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER SEEK TO SHARE THINGS.

That is why family life is so beautiful — the members of the family are able to **share** things with each other. There is pleasure in sharing. Our Lord said "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

Those in love desire to share not only the joys but also the sorrows of their loved ones. **Are you willing to share the sorrows of Christ's cross?** You can do so by accepting uncomplainingly the unkind word a friend said to you, the limited amount of money that comes into your home, the sickness with which you are afflicted, or the emotional disturbance which faces you. All of us have our crosses to bear in life. If you view that cross as sharing in the cross of Christ, it can become so much easier to bear. Yes, **it can even transform you into a Saint.**

This was the secret of the Sanctity of Father Seelos. **HE LOVED GOD!**

DO YOU LOVE HIM?

FATHER VAUGHN

PLEASE!

"Father, please pray for me as I am so sick. In fact since last June when I underwent surgery, I have never gotten to feel right. Now I am very nervous and in a state of deep depression. I continue under the doctor's care, but I am beginning to lose all hope. May God forgive me, Father, but I just can't help it. Please, please pray for me and all other people who are suffering a similar illness."

"My husband has taken up with some men who are heavy drinkers and forget they have families. He has been missing Mass on Sunday and drinking heavily. He comes home late at night. Please help me to pray. Every morning I offer up my Mass, asking Father Seelos to help me. I know he will."

"A friend of mine, apparently healthy, has just been informed he has cancer. The doctor told his family it is the fatal type and there is nothing to be done for him. He has about two years to live. During that time the doctor wants him to live as normal a life as possible. I ask your prayers not that a miracle be performed in his behalf, but rather that in these two years he will come back to God and to the practice of his religion. He is such a fine person I hate to see him depriving himself of the most important thing in his life."

For your own intentions, the intentions mentioned above, and all the petitions placed before the tomb of Father Seelos, let us pause and say -

O MY GOD, I TRULY BELIEVE YOU ARE PRESENT WITH ME. I ADORE YOUR LIMITLESS PERFECTIONS. I THANK YOU FOR THE GRACES AND GIFTS YOU GAVE TO FATHER SEELOS. IF IT IS YOUR HOLY WILL, PLEASE LET HIM BE DECLARED A SAINT OF THE CHURCH SO THAT OTHERS MAY KNOW AND IMITATE HIS HOLY LIFE. THROUGH HIS PRAYERS PLEASE GIVE ME THIS FAVOR. . .

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No article published thus far in SEELOS & SANCTITY has evoked as many comments as Father Vaughn's "SPIRITUAL CONFESSION AND SPIRITUAL COMMUNION." Several people have requested extra copies of that issue of our paper.

We are always glad to have your reactions to our little publication.

Our Perpetual Adoration program in St. Mary's Church has begun. If you have indicated your wish to spend an hour each month in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in St. Mary's Church and have not heard from us, please write us again. **If you have not yet signed up, it is not too late.** Write and we will be happy to send you literature explaining this devotion.

WHEN YOU HAVE READ THIS PAPER,
PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND!