

FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

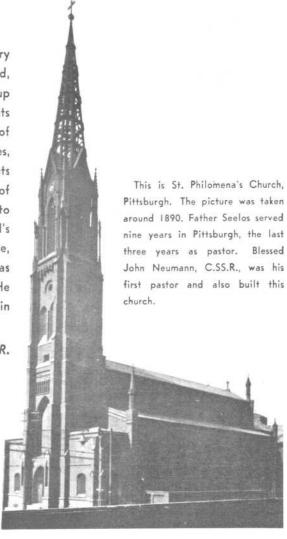
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SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM

Throughout the long history of the Church our Good Lord, by His grace, has raised up men and women to the heights of sanctity. In the best of times, in the worst of times, there have always been Saints who, through the sanctity of their lives, have thus spoken to us of the reality of God's kingdom. The Saints, therefore, are the signs of what God has in store for them whom He loves and who love Him in return.

Joseph Elworthy, C.SS.R.



FATHER SEELOS LOVED EVERYBODY BECAUSE HE LOVED GOD

by Father Grangell

Virtue for the month of April: LOVE EVERBODY.

Patron: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

Text: This is My Commandment that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15/12) (At Last Supper)

April is the month of effective love of God — the love of God and myself and everybody. It's effective love of God in action. Our eternal salvation depends on our keeping the Ten Commandments of God. The first three have direct reference to God—the other seven concern our neighbor. Christ reduced the ten to two — Love of God and love of neighbor. At the Judgment, Christ will mention just one as He invites us to spend our eternity with Him. Come! As often as you were charitable to your neighbor, you were charitable to Me. Read Deuteronomy, again—Ch. 6: 4 to 9. There isn't a word about loving the neighbor. Christ added that in the New Law, the Christian Religion. Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. Chapters 5, 6, 7.) "By this shall men know that you are My disciple that you love one another. Love those who hate you and pray for those who persecute you." This is quite different from "a life for a life and an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." In our Lord's Farewell Sermon on the Cross, He summed it all up in "Father forgive them." To forgive offenses, slights, insults, abuse, everything — and to forget, is fundamental charity.

Father Seelos met daily at noon before the Blessed Sacrament with his Redemptorist Community for the exercise of the Particular Examination of Conscience. It was to check on how all were practicing the respective Monthly Virtue. In the days of April it was Fraternal Charity, Brotherly Love. Father Seelos must have graded himself 100%.

You are following the asceticism of the monthly virtue. You must check daily on how you are practicing Charity in April. This might be a helpful glimpse at Charity.

- 1. Is my Charity sincere the same at home and abroad?
- 2. Is it supernatural do I see Christ in everybody?
- 3. Is it disinterested I want nothing in return.
- 4. Beareth all things (Read I Cor. all of Chapter 13, the gem of the Epistles.)

We can't change people — temperaments and characters are as different as finger prints. Don't get angry or impatient when others do not agree with you. Be kind and forebearing with the old and the sick. Shouting and ridicule are not arguments. Be cheerful — it is a virtue. Some people can't laugh; all can smile. So, "smile a while, and as you smile, another smiles and then there are miles and miles of smiles and smiles and life's worthwhile because you smile." Be sure to say "Good Morning" to everybody. It means "God be with you." Ask the Blessed Mother and Father Seelos to make you charitable.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"Please publish this letter in thanksgiving for me. About a year and a half ago, my daugher, a nun, was operated on for cancer of the colon. She was very sick and developed a heart condition from blood transfusions after the operation. I pinned a cloth memento of Father Seelos on her and his picture never left my hands. My husband and son prayed constantly asking Father Seelos to intercede for her. We prayed to our Lord and His Blessed Mother to cure her Well, she came out of it all—no more cancer. She did not even have to take treatments and the heart condition also cleared. She is fine now and working in the hospital as a registered nurse. Father Seelos has helped me out in all sorts of problems."

C. V.

New Orleans, La.

"I would like to publicly thank Father Seelos for a special favor granted. Our baby daughter was born with a congenital heart defect. By the time she was 18 months old she had had many examinations—heart catherization. We were informed that by the age of five she would require open heart surgery to correct the condition. A friend with whom I work brought some prayers and mementoes of Father Seelos and suggested that I place the mementoes on her crib and clothing. This past summer her doctors were amazed. They could not believe her problem had corrected itself without surgery. We were told that she was the 11th case in medical history where this had occurred. We are very grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession."

E. M.

Metairie, La.

"I would like to express my gratitude to Father Seelos for his intercession. Shortly after my son was born, his doctor suspected the possibility of Hydrocephalus. He is now three months old and a normal healthy baby. I prayed the Father Seelos prayer daily and continue to do so. I would like to thank him for his prayers."

D. W.

Seminole, Fla.

"Thanks to God and Father Seelos. I recently asked God to grant me a very special favor, that the growth in my left breast would not be malignant and would not require surgery. I wore the cloth memento of Father Seelos and this special favor was granted by Almighty God through the intercession of Father Seelos. I am sincerely grateful."

M. N.

Jefferson, La.

"Enclosed find offering for favor granted and for many favors received through the intercession of Father Seelos. I want to thank him for letting us find the diamond my daughter lost out of her engagement ring."

SPECIAL NOTES

You should receive this letter in the middle of Holy Week. Go to daily Mass, and make the Way of the Cross.

I don't have a pretty Easter Greeting Card with lilies and bunnies but I send my greetings to you and yours in these lines. I shall pray for you and your intentions in my Easter Masses and through the week.

Father Grangell

If you receive two or more of these monthly letters, if we misspell your name or have your wrong address, please inform us of our mistakes. Thanks.

We send you the little gold envelope monthly as an all-service help for you when writing to the Center. Use it for your letters, for petitions, for thanksgivings, for gifts to Father Seelos. — You name it. Keep them on hand.

Pray for a sense of humor. Life is easier with it. Your breath of life must be: MY GOD I LOVE YOU.

To have your sick blessed with the Crucifix of Father Seelos, call Miss Addie Buhler, 895-6176.

Father Seelos has not yet been canonized. We are praying for that.

If you still have some carnival beads, send them to Sister M. Basil, R.S.M., 1015 N. Main Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65802. She makes Rosaries for the Missions. She is an invalid in a wheel chair.

For copies of the CHEERFUL ASCETIC by Father Michael Curley, C.SS.R., write the Father Seelos Center, 2030 Constance Street. They are \$4.95 per copy.

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