



FATHER SEELOS AND SANCTITY

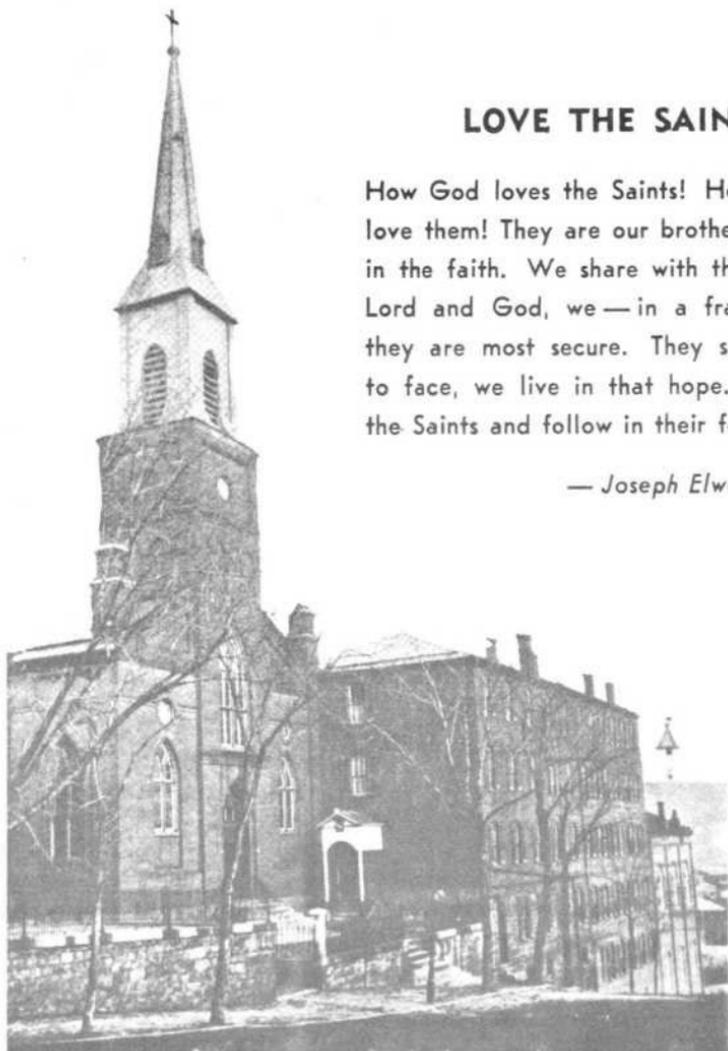
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LOVE THE SAINTS!

How God loves the Saints! How we should love them! They are our brothers and sisters in the faith. We share with them the same Lord and God, we—in a fragile manner, they are most secure. They see God face to face, we live in that hope. Let us love the Saints and follow in their footsteps.

— Joseph Elworthy, C.S.S.R.



This is another view of the church in Cumberland where Father Seelos was pastor from 1857 to 1862.

FATHER SEELOS WAS ALWAYS CHEERFULLY OBEDIENT

by Father Grangell

Monthly Virtue — Obedience

Patron — St. Philip, the Apostle

Text — You are my friends, if you do the things I command you. (John 5/14)

Father Seelos used to say that the vow of Obedience was the hardest thing in his life, because it took away from him the use of his free will. By this vow he made himself the subject of a Rule. His whole day was lived answering a big community bell calling him to another Rule Exercise. That bell was the voice of God for him. He rose promptly every morning at a given time. Then, there was the early morning meditation in the Chapel with his Confreres; at noon was the Particular Examination on the monthly virtue; in the evening, another Community meditation, and finally, the Community night prayers. He never missed an exercise, except for parochial work. If a confrere asked him why he was always so faithfully present, he would answer: I have no choice — my Rule commands it. If anyone asked him why he did not choose to go to church to assist at the Infinite Sacrifice of the Holy Mass instead of going to the chapel for a finite creature prayer, he would answer: Obedience is more acceptable to God than sacrifice.

An organization is as strong and healthy as the members obey its Rules and Constitutions. Obedience makes for unity and happiness. The Catholic Church with its 500,000,000 members is a perfect proof of that. Good Catholics are happy in doing their duty and are united among all the nations of the world, all obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Father speaks on Faith and Morals and all obey. Christ says to him, "He who hears you hears Me, and he who despises you despises Me." Alas! Alack! not all obey — from some proud self-opinionated, stubborn theologians to the many immature vain teen-agers of today. Somebody told these last they have no obligation to go to Mass on Sunday. The Holy Father did not tell them.

Some people want the Church to come down to their level of thinking and doing, rather than be elevated to the beautiful heights of holiness and security of the Church, the voice of Christ on earth.

All authority comes from God. Christ taught: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's!" All must obey lawful civic leaders. The violence and crime of America come from disobedience to law.

If we only had more people like Father Seelos — Mature, God-fearing, God-loving, which means obedience.

Ask the Blessed Mother to pray for us that we live as she did — BE IT DONE UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD.

SPECIAL LETTERS

New Orleans, La.

"My daughter has recently undergone breast surgery and thanks to Father Seelos' intercession is back home and performing her household duties. I prayed that the pathology report after surgery would be negative and I am happy to say that she is on the road to complete recovery. I shall continue to pray for the canonization of Father Seelos and feel confident that this will be a reality in the not too distant future."

Mrs. Caroline Dempsey

Gretna, La.

"When my granddaughter was born she could not keep down the formula prescribed for her. After the doctor put her on the sixth formula she began to respond. We prayed very hard and asked Father Seelos to intercede for us and are happy to say that she no longer has to take medication. She weighs 21 pounds and we cannot thank Father Seelos enough for his prayers for this great favor."

S. A.

New Orleans, La.

"I would like to thank Father Seelos for a very special favor. I needed financial help and prayed to Father Seelos. My request was granted within 10 days. I am sincerely grateful to Father Seelos for his intercession."

N. W.

IN MEMORY OF A DEAR FRIEND

On May 2 God called one of our very ardent and capable volunteer workers, Oner Mae Barrere. Oner Mae was ill for a very short time and prayed that she would be one of Father Seelos' miracles, but God did not will it that way. We miss her very much and ask a remembrance of her in your prayers.

"The Night Crew Volunteers"

On May 23 Father Grangell was honored as outstanding religious male senior citizen. Congratulations to Father. It is a well deserved honor.

SPECIAL NOTES

July is the month of the Precious Blood of Jesus. The best way to show your gratitude for the great work of the Redemption is to go to Holy Mass as often as you can (daily?) and offer the Precious Blood to the Heavenly Father, through Christ, with Christ, in Christ. Don't be ashamed to be pious and devout.

Big news! We are opening the renovated St. Mary Assumption Church, the church of Father Seelos, on August 15 with a Holy Mass by Archbishop Hannan at 5:30 P.M. More details next month. August 15 is a Holy Day of Obligation, the feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven.

We thank you for sending us so many new names and addresses for "Father Seelos and Sanctity." Continue sending them.

When you wish to have your sick blessed with Father Seelos' Crucifix, call 895-6176. Bring crocheted mementoes to the hospitals—sick people want them.

Are you an Apostle of the Love of God? Teach everybody—the old, sick, children, to say ceaselessly: MY GOD, I LOVE YOU.

Make your faith strong by daily Mass and Holy Communion. Don't argue about religion, just believe.

Don't destroy this little paper. Give it to your neighbor or keep all of them for annual reading. If the meditation on the monthly virtue is too long for one reading, break it down to five parts for the five weeks of the month.

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