



VOLUME 131

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JANUARY 2026

from the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, C.Ss.R.

In honor of St. John Neumann's feast day on January 5, we welcome this letter from Very Rev. John Kingsbury, C.Ss.R., D.Min., Director of the National Shrine of St. John Neumann.

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos:

In the Gospel of Mark, we read that the Lord sent the disciples out two by two (Mk 6:7). I see in this passage a call to support each other in ministry. One of the values of being called to Religious Life as a Redemptorist is that you are constantly supported by others in the community. Sometimes that support comes from a member of the community where you are assigned, and at other times, you are in contact with a Redemptorist stationed elsewhere but who wants to know how things are going.

What I am speaking about was lived out especially between St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos. For a time, St. John Neumann not only lived in the same Redemptorist community with Blessed Seelos, but also served as his Spiritual Director. During this time, St. John Neumann encouraged Blessed Seelos to become involved with mission preaching, a special form of extraordinary preaching for which our Redemptorist congregation is known. Later, when they were assigned to different ministries, they kept in touch and continued to support each other. Blessed Seelos greatly appreciated St. John Neumann's support and dreamed of being paired with him to undertake missions, but the pastoral commitments of both confreres prevented this.

***Supporting one another in ministry is not just for vowed religious or for saints!
It is also part of what it means to be a baptized member of the People of God.***

Support can be as simple as a gentle acknowledgment whenever you see a person or being there as a listening ear as they unfold some aspect of their life before you. It does not have to be as formal as "Spiritual Direction," but can be a simple interaction that seems so lost in today's busy world.

The Lord continues to send us out two by two, as he did with the disciples and with St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos. This week, look around to see who God wants you to spend some quality time with.

Father John Kingsbury, C.Ss.R.

Director, National Shrine of St. John Neumann

JANUARY SEELOS HEALING MASS



**Sunday, January 11, 2026
10:30 am CDT**

St. Mary's Assumption Church
and on Facebook Live
facebook.com/SeelosShrine

Celebrant
Rev. Stephen Rehrauer, C.Ss.R.
Vice Postulator for the Cause of Blessed Seelos



★ To learn how you can ★
volunteer from home or at
the Shrine, call (504) 525-2495.

A Sainly Friendship: Saint John Neumann and Blessed Seelos

By Rev. Aaron Meszaros, C.Ss.R.

Every January, as the Church celebrates the feast of Saint John Neumann, our hearts naturally turn toward his legacy of humble service and steadfast faith. Yet here at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, his feast day carries another layer of meaning, because Saint John Neumann was not simply a canonized figure in our history. He was a mentor, a companion in ministry, and a true friend to Father Francis Xavier Seelos.

Their friendship began in 1845, when the newly ordained Father Seelos was assigned to St. Philomena Parish in Pittsburgh where Fr. Seelos would remain for nine years. During the first six years he lived and worked closely with Father Neumann.

The parish, then known as the “Factory Church,” was small, overcrowded, and served an immigrant population struggling to find footing in a rapidly changing America. The rectory was no



better. At one point, Seelos recalled, rain poured through the ceiling so heavily that he and Neumann had to abandon their beds and find drier ground in the middle of the night.

Yet in the midst of these humble surroundings, a deep spiritual friendship formed. Seelos later wrote with affection, “He loved me as his own son,” and he remembered Neumann’s “constant modesty, his great humility, and his all conquering long suffering.” Another reflection reveals how significant this mentorship was. Seelos said simply, “He introduced me to the active life” and “guided me as spiritual director and confessor.”

Together they heard confessions, visited the sick, preached parish missions, and

walked muddy roads to reach isolated Catholic families. Seelos, who became known for hearing confessions in multiple languages, grew into the pastor of mercy we now know because someone walked beside him with patience and faith.

The story of these two men reminds us that holiness grows through friendship. Saints are not formed in isolation, but in the quiet encouragement between people who challenge one another to love God more generously.

As we honor Saint John Neumann this month, we also give thanks for his friendship with Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos. Their bond continues to inspire the Church today, showing us that God works powerfully through relationships grounded in faith, humility, and love.

Mark Your Calendars! *2026 Events at the Shrine**



** Dates subject to change. Check
www.SEELOS.org for the latest.*

JANUARY 11: Blessed Seelos Healing Mass

FEBRUARY 18: Day of Prayer - Ash Wednesday

MARCH 19: Solemnity of St. Joseph, St. Joseph Altar

MARCH 25: Day of Prayer - The Annunciation of the Lord

APRIL 3: Walk of Nine Churches

APRIL 12: Blessed Seelos Healing Masses (English & Spanish)

MAY 15: Day of Prayer - May Crowning

AUGUST 15: Day of Prayer - The Assumption of Mary

SEPTEMBER 15: Day of Prayer - Our Mother of Sorrows

OCTOBER 3: Blessed Seelos Healing Mass

NOVEMBER 2: Day of Prayer - All Soul’s Day

DECEMBER 8: Day of Prayer - Immaculate Conception

Blessings for the Sick

*Hospital visits with a Seelos Crucifix
(Only family members may request)*

JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL
Anne Batt (504) 458-0310
Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961

OCHSNER (JEFFERSON)
Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Norris Plaisance (504) 235-1961
Monica Surprenant (401) 207-5521

OCHSNER (KENNER)
Linda DiMaggio (504) 287-8732
Wendy Whittaker (504) 722-0089

ORLEANS PARISH
Amy Morel (504) 416-5018
Matt Morel (504) 416-6073
Dennis Waldron (504) 442-6336

WESTBANK
Elaine Freeman (504) 341-2213

LOUISIANA

ALEXANDRIA
Mary Ann Reddoch (318) 277-0545
Deacon Bill & Joan Travis (318) 664-7069

BALDWIN / FRANKLIN
Patti Ibert (337) 828-0141

BATON ROUGE
Gloria Bacqué (225) 753-3800

COVINGTON
Dr. Ann Logarbo (985) 886-0218

HOUMA / THIBODAU
Debbie Badeaux (985) 438-4096
Margo Battaglia Clement (985) 637-6056

IOTA
Anne Ritter (337) 254-8451

LAFAYETTE / ABBEVILLE / ERATH
Boniface "Boni" Suire (337) 937-5675

LAKE CHARLES
Lisa Verrette (337) 274-4810

LULING & SURROUNDING AREA
David Fauchaux (504) 908-4120

MANDEVILLE / SLIDELL
David Brumfield (985) 234-9355
Lisa and Eric Johnsen (985) 640-1677
Kathy Newcomb (225) 978-9284

NEW IBERIA / ABBEVILLE / JEANERETTE
Rachel Gonsoulin (337) 224-7855

OPELOUSAS
Suzanne Pitre (337) 351-8489

PONCHATOU
David and Joan Diaz (504) 715-6642

PRAIRIEVILLE / GONZALES
Deacon Claude Bourgeois (225) 337-0945

SHREVEPORT / BOSSIER CITY
Tom and Marjorie Rivers (318) 797-3116

OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST
Deacon Rod Fonseca (504) 320-7450
Sheila Fonseca (504) 320-9807
Elena Guida (228) 596-3085

KATY, TEXAS
Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191
Lauren Johnson (281) 851-1321

GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

ORANGE, CA

My 54-year-old niece was on life support and was not expected to live. A friend of our family brought a relic of Blessed Seelos and placed it on her hospital bed.

Slowly, she made progress and was able to be released to go home. She is doing well, learning to walk again and is getting better. Thank you Blessed Seelos.

FISHERS, IN

My 4-year-old son has an eye condition called amblyopia. His left eye was beginning to get weaker and was in danger of turning in. The doctor increased his glasses prescription, but was not sure if the change would help, and he would have to patch his eye.

for intercession and touched his relic to my son's glasses and eyes.

At his next appointment, his eye was improved and no longer showing signs of muscle weakness. He will be able to keep his same glasses prescription and not need to patch his eye. Thank you, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos!

I prayed to Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

NEW ORLEANS, LA

On April 28, Melvin was involved in a hit and run on his scooter. He suffered traumatic brain injury and a large portion of his skull removed. He was fully sedated on life support for 22 days.

He was blessed with the Father Seelos relic and regained consciousness! Melvin is now home, walking, eating, talking and has his memory. Thank you, Blessed Seelos!

PLANO, TX

I have a lung disease called bronchiectasis. This cause excess mucus in the lungs. Last fall I started to aspirate after eating. Aspiration can cause pneumonia. I was scheduled for a barium swallow test at the hospital.

I started praying to Father Seelos to intercede for me and ask that God heal me. I now no longer have this problem.

I consider this a healing from God through the intercession of Father Seelos.



Shrine Prayer Phone Line

Call our prayer line any time at (504) 586-1803
to hear a recorded message and prayer.



SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm

REDEMPTORIST 2026 DAILY DEVOTIONAL



This leatherette book features daily scripture readings, inspirational reflections, notes on the saint of the day, prayers, psalms, the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Redemptorist novenas and devotions. This book is a collaborative effort from Redemptorists around the world which brings a unique spirituality into your everyday life.

\$35 ~ Call (504) 525-2495 or visit seelos.org/gift-shop to order

HOT IN THE SHOP ~ CELEBRATING REDEMPTORISTS



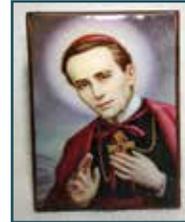
2026 OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP REDEMPTORIST DEVOTIONAL CALENDAR – \$14

Features twelve shrines and images of Our Mother of Perpetual Help found in Redemptorist houses and ministries across the United States. Each month includes Redemptorist feast days and key celebrations of the Catholic Church, making it a perfect companion for daily prayer.



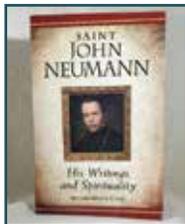
ST. JOHN NEUMANN STATUE – \$57

This 8" tall statue was hand-painted in Columbia by widows who have lost their husbands to violence.



ST. JOHN NEUMANN ROSARY BOX – \$29

This small wooden box features an image of St. John Neumann and is perfect for holding prayers and rosaries.



“ST. JOHN NEUMANN: HIS WRITINGS & SPIRITUALITY” – \$24

Fr. Rich Boever has creatively written a biography of St. John Neumann as if the saint were speaking to the reader.



“HEARTS OF HEALING” BEESWAX CANDLE – \$50

These honey-scented 100% beeswax candles burn for up to 9 days and are hand poured in Wisconsin.

Quantities are limited. Prices include shipping/handling. Prices online and in the Welcome Center Gift Shop may vary.

SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE SHRINE



LIGHT A CANDLE: A vigil candle will burn near Seelos' sacred resting place for an offering of \$3-\$5. Visit seelos.org/light-a-votive-candle.



REQUEST A RELIC: Relics are available for an offering of \$2.50 each at SEELOS.org/gift-shop.



INCLUDE US IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN: There are several options for including the Shrine in your estate plan. Visit seelos.org/charitable-giving to learn more about charitable giving.

VISIT SEELOS.ORG OR CALL (504) 525-2495 TO ORDER



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Director: Aaron L. Meszaros, C.Ss.R.
Vice-Postulator: Stephen T. Rehrauer, C.Ss.R.
Staff: Leila Benazo, Geri Bothman,
Heidi Groat, Andi Koenig, Patricia Norman,
Marilyn Olivard, Beau Perrault

Denver Provincial Superior:
Very Reverend Kevin Zubeł, C.Ss.R.

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DONATION & CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

I would like to support the Seelos cause by donating \$_____ to be used for:

The ministry and maintenance of the Shrine My 1-year newsletter subscription renewal (\$15)

Other: _____

Make checks payable to "National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos".

Please Remove from the mailing list: Change my name and address as follows:

Name: _____

Address: _____