



VOLUME 138

SEELOS CENTER NEWS

AUGUST 2026

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

Dear Friends of Blessed Seelos:

While summer heat often reminds us of “earthly hell,” Blessed Mother Mary’s Assumption (August 15) invites us to heavenly glory with gratitude and hope. A prayer on her Solemnity reads:

*“Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise,
for all life and all holiness come from you.
In the plan of your wisdom she who bore Christ in her womb
was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness
and join in her hymn of endless life and praise.”*

Eternal union in God is our destiny! Gearing our desire toward heavenly glory doesn’t mean ignoring earthly reality. On the contrary, focusing on eternity helps us see human conditions with God’s eyes, then live each day with intentional love and commitment.

Blessed Seelos lived this truth well. He viewed heavenly glory as God’s ultimate gift. Seelos, during childhood, frequently got sick. His mom often comforted him with stories of heaven. This early familiarity influenced how Seelos guided his students and cared for the poor, the sick, the abandoned, immigrants, etc., with cheerful mercy.

Seelos was also keen in helping others prepare for eternity. He advised his sister Josepha: “...if you see things of this world only as a means to eternity, if, free from self-interest, you seek only the Kingdom of God and his justice, then everything else will be given besides ... [meaning] a better and an everlasting life in eternity.”

Dear good Fr. Seelos, help us live cheerful mercy and devotion, with our heart gazing on God’s eternal glory! Let’s come together with Blessed Seelos to thank God for our Mother Mary’s Assumption – all are welcome to join us on August 14 for a Day of Prayer.



Fr. Binh T. Ta, C.Ss.R.

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

AUGUST DAY OF PRAYER THE ASSUMPTION



Friday, August 14, 2026

St. Mary’s Assumption Church

Join us on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary for a day of prayer, reconciliation and fellowship.

**10:30 am - Exposition
of the Blessed Sacrament**

10:45 am - Confession & Rosary

11:20 am - Benediction

11:30 am - Mass

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

A Guide to Alphonsian Meditation

Courtesy Redemptorist Conference of North America Partners in Mission



“Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends. Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears—of everything that concerns you. Converse with Him confidently and frankly; for God is not wont to speak to a soul that does not speak to Him.” – ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

St Alphonsus Liguori is known as the “Doctor of Prayer.” He developed his whole teaching on morality, holiness, and Christian living around his understanding of prayer. It can be summed up simply in his famous statement: “The person who prays is saved, the person who does not pray is lost.” In other words, the ultimate success or failure of life centers on prayer.

Here is a simple method of prayer St. Alphonsus taught that anyone can follow.

BEGINNING: Make an act of faith and humility, and a petition for light and strength.
Say a brief prayer to Mary, Joseph, your Guardian Angel and Patron Saint.

MEDITATION: Read a few verses from Scripture or a spiritual book. Think about what you read and what it means, or what it teaches you. Ask yourself: *What have I done about this in the past? What shall I do about this now?*

ACT OF LOVE: Pray for the grace to love God. Tell God that you love Him.

PRAYER OF PETITION: Pray for the graces that you need both for your daily living and for your spiritual journey.

RESOLUTION: Make one practical resolution that you can do something about today.

CONCLUSION: Thank God for whatever grace you have received. Renew your resolution.
Ask for the love of Jesus and Mary to keep your resolution.

August 1 is the feast day of St. Alphonsus Liguori, the beloved founder of the Redemptorist Congregation and patron saint of arthritis sufferers and lawyers. To learn more about this great saint, visit RedemptoristsDenver.org/St-Alphonsus-Liguori.



“Pray earnestly, because a prayer full of confidence can obtain everything from God. No, no one needs to doubt about the salvation of a loved one if we approach the throne of grace perseveringly and with great confidence and bring our problems to our dear Mother of God with childlike confidence.” – BL. FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS

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
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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

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

I had a little ball removed from above my upper lip. After running many tests, the doctors said it was cancerous and recommended removing a lot more tissue around it, in addition to further treatment. The extra skin to be removed meant losing my upper right lip, significantly altering my face and my smile... not to mention further tests to figure out if it had spread to some other place, and the follow-up treatment. I was very worried.

On the anniversary of Blessed Seelos' death (4th of October), I was at a retreat. I received intercession prayer, asking for health. I felt a lot of heat coming out of me and started having visions of ordered

patterns. I knew the patterns in my cells were healing. I also asked for the cells in the lab to be healed, so that the doctors may be moved to believe in miracles, and so that I could be sure no further action was needed.

A couple of days later, the diagnostic was completely changed to "There's nothing." Multiple doctors had participated in the first round of tests/diagnostics. Now, they couldn't believe their eyes. I told them we had prayed a lot and believe everything is possible for God... and it was. One of the doctors said "I am a man of faith." Praise to God for the healing I have experienced! Thank you Blessed Father Seelos for your intercession!!

HARAHAN, LA

I believe Father Seelos' intercession in 2021 helped me overcome a stage 3b cancer diagnosis. When I was initially blessed with his relic at the Shrine, my tumor completely disappeared and my intense pain subsided for a few days.

In 2025, my cancer recurred, and I immediately called the Seelos Welcome Center to see if I could be blessed with his relic. Reverend Tim blessed me with the relic, and I immediately felt at peace.

I had surgery on Ash Wednesday. The recovery was painful, but I kept the faith in the Holy Spirit and Father Seelos to give me strength.

At my most recent oncology appointment, my surgeon said that I am completely healed. In fact, there's no evidence of a scar or anything that would indicate a resection.

Just as the Healing Mass prayer states, Father Seelos has showed me how to overcome a five-year illness, the trials, and tribulations. I proudly wear my Father Seelos bracelet every day, put my blessed salt in my water every morning, give Holy Oil as gifts, spray the Holy Water on myself morning and night, and pray for Father Seelos's canonization.

I am a huge advocate for Father Seelos and will continue to spread the good news about him. I truly believe that I have overcome so many odds because of my family's support, incredible care team, the Holy Spirit, and Father Seelos.

Thank you to our dedicated chaplains, staff, volunteers, and donors who provide our community with a beautiful Shrine to Father Seelos.

SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS
Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm ~ Check seelos.org/calendar for closures

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PUBLISHED BY THE REDEMPTORISTS



AUGUST SHRINE CLOSURE

The Shrine will be closed for an in-service week Monday, August 3 thru Saturday, August 8, 2026.

HOT IN THE SHOP



#6317

STUDENT'S PRAYER GIFT SET – \$15

Includes laminated "Student's Prayer" card, a colorful braided bracelet and an enamel & pewter prayer token.



#6320

CHURCH NOTES DESK SET – \$27

This set includes a notepad with gilded edges, gold or rose gold pen, and pack of 20 bible study highlighters.



#6386

"PRAYING THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY" CD – \$16

Join Redemptorist Fr. Pablo Straub at the St. Alphonsus Monastery as he recites the Seven Sorrows of Mary.



#6319

ST. JOHN NEUMANN ROSARY BOX SET – \$21

Includes a small wooden box with an image of St. John Neumann and a green knotted cord rosary.



#6318

ST. ALPHONSUS HOLY SPIRIT NOVENA SET – \$10

Features "Novena to the Holy Spirit with St. Alphonsus" booklet and a wood Redemptorist cross panel.



#5220

ST. ALPHONSUS ARTHRITIS GIFT SET – \$11

Includes arthritis novena to St. Alphonsus and a laminated arthritis prayer card with a holy medal.

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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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: _____

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