



VOLUME 83

## SEELOS CENTER NEWS

JANUARY 2022

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

Dear Devotees of Blessed Seelos,

A very happy 2022 to all of you. I suppose, if you are like me, it will take some time to remember to write the correct year on everything until we get used to the new date.

The New Year is always a time to think about the progression of our lives. Things never remain the same. Events of our world, our family, our health, our employment, and many other circumstances change things for us. We also normally give at least a passing glance at a possible New Year's resolution, most of which never happen. In all of this, the new year is a reminder that we continue on our pilgrimage toward heaven.



*"The new year is a reminder that we continue on our pilgrimage toward heaven."*

For Blessed Seelos, that pilgrimage is completed. We know he did well and now is in heaven just by the title he carries – Blessed. In this month, however, we also remember something more about him. We celebrate his birthday on January 11 and thank God that He created such a lovely soul for our world. For us at the Shrine, we mark the birthday by scheduling a healing Mass on the Sunday closest to the date we are celebrating. This year that means we will gather at St. Mary's Assumption Church and on Facebook Live on January 9 at 1:00 PM. Fr. Maurice Nutt, C.Ss.R. will be our presider and preacher, and we look forward to a marvelous sermon. Please celebrate with us and be blessed by the intercession of Blessed Seelos and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for the healings that we need.

I look forward to celebrating Mass with you. This is a good way to enter even more fully into our new year of life.



Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.

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

*Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R.*

### JOIN US FOR AN IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL HEALING MASS



**Sunday, January 9, 2022**  
**St. Mary's Assumption Church**  
**and on Facebook Live**



# Feeling the keen sting of separation: A letter from *Your Franz Xavier*

*Letter of December 31, 1842 to the sister of Seelos, Antonia, shortly before he left for America*

Dearest Sister,

Actually, I want to write to you again for the many letters I received from you; want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sisterly love, want again to send you a letter, because I know it will make you happy.

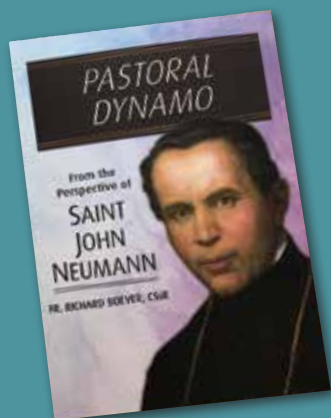
Dearest sister, the year is over, an important year, for me, for you, for our whole family, because in it the ground was laid and preparations made for a new way of life, for a vocation that is calling a loving member to part his loving family. Love has united us, love does not mean parting, love will always remain, *love will unite us again in the beyond.*

*Parting brings us pain and sorrow.  
We feel it raging fiercely in our deepest soul,  
For flesh and blood do not like  
To empty the chalice of sorrow on earth,  
And to honor thereby the will of God.  
Yet, heavenly fervor steels our courage,  
And will also refresh the sorrowing heart,  
Will console the sister with joy and elation.*

Yes, dearest sister, when peace and tranquility have returned to your heart; when, standing higher, you can look beyond the first agitation of the natural man; when you consider that my yearning can only find true peace in doing this, and that you yourself, once I have attained my purpose, will certainly see fulfilled my deepest longing, then your heart will only be able to express joy, and your mouth, gratitude to God.

Again, dear sister, farewell. I wish all of you a real Happy New Year. Dear mother, dear father, dear brothers and sisters - to all a very Happy New Year. God will give me that too.

Goodbye. I am ever  
*Your Franz Xavier*



## Pastoral Dynamo From the Perspective of Saint John Neumann



A NEW book by Fr. Rich!

\$15 in the Gift Shop

Imagined in the first person and accompanied by excerpts from letters written by Saint John Neumann, Fr. Richard Boever, C.Ss.R., tells the story of a poor immigrant who reaches worlds beyond his Bohemian birthplace.

**Call (504) 525-2495 or order your copy online!**

### Celebrate St. John Neumann's Feast Day Jan 5 with this Novena

St. John Neumann, acknowledging our dependence upon Almighty God and recognizing the power of your intercession, we come to you because many prayers have been answered through your intercession. You were an inspiration to all who knew you. You went wherever the care of souls required your presence. You were always an example of charity and sacrifice. It was your life of virtue which merited a place in heaven. As we submit to the will of God in heaven, we pray that our petitions be granted for His honor and glory and for the salvation of souls. St. John Neumann, pray for us.

## Blessings for the Sick

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

### JEFFERSON / ORLEANS

#### EAST JEFFERSON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Gerry Heigle (504) 482-4404  
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### OUTSIDE OF LOUISIANA

#### KATY, TEXAS

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Donna Johnson (713) 826-4191

## GRACES RECEIVED & PRAYERS ANSWERED

### ANONYMOUS

I was diagnosed with stage 4 non-hodgkin's lymphoma 10 years ago. My mother had learned about Blessed Seelos, and we prayed for his intercession. I asked for intercession from our Lady of Fatima, Saint Anthony of Padua, Saint Jude, Saint Padre Pio, Saint Peregrine, Saint Patrick, and Saint Kateri Tekawitha, and sought healing from God and Jesus, especially through devotion to the Divine Mercy. I fasted and ate only raw vegetables – I listened to Gregorian and Benedictine chants,

read the bible, focusing on the healing scriptures, and professed that through the grace of God I would be healed. A year later, I had a scan. Without medical treatment, I was tumor free! God blessed me with good health. I discerned that the illness was not God's will for me but rather a call to trust more fully in him. I am now extremely strong again, healthy and cancer free. Praise God! I believe that God healed me and the intercession of the saints helped support me through this battle. Amen!

### JENNINGS, LA

All thanks to Fr. Seelos for his intercession added to our many prayers for my husband. We have truly witnessed a miraculous healing. He was hospitalized with COVID for 98 days. When he was air medevaced to the hospital, it was by God alone that he was accepted with no chance of living a life without medical staff at his

bedside. We prayed around the clock for many months. I'm forever grateful for the intercession of Fr. Seelos and happy to say my husband has been restored to complete health!!! Mind, body and soul!!! Special thanks to the man from the Seelos Center who came to the COVID-stricken hospital to pray for my almost-lifeless husband.



### Submit Your Testimonial Online!

*Your words offer encouragement to others in need of Seelos' intercession.*

[www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor](http://www.SEELOS.org/submit-a-healing-or-favor)

## The Feast of the Epiphany ~ January 6



Epiphany, also known as "Three Kings Day," recognizes the manifestation of God in Jesus and of the risen Christ in our world. It is commonly linked with the visit of the wise men (Magi) to the Christ child. Through the Magi, Jesus revealed himself to the Gentiles. The Epiphany is a time for the faithful to consider how Jesus fulfilled his destiny and how Christians can fulfill their destiny too.

*Courtesy of learnreligions.com*

### SHRINE, MUSEUM & WELCOME CENTER HOURS

Monday-Saturday 10am-2pm | Please see [SEELOS.org](http://SEELOS.org) for visiting guidelines.





## New Year Prayer

Gracious God,

As a new year begins, we place  
our trust in you.

May the time to come bring us  
closer to recognizing our need to  
love and cherish one another.

May those in power understand  
the importance of cultivating peace  
and bringing an end to war.

May those who struggle with  
disease, loss, poverty and despair  
find light in the midst of their  
struggles and suffering.

And may we grow stronger in  
our desire to imitate the love and  
compassion of Jesus Christ, your  
Son, in whom our hope abides.

Amen.

## HOT IN THE SHOP ~ NEW YEAR, NEW ITEMS!



### SEELOS HOLY WATER SPRAY BOTTLE – \$13

*This handy spray bottle comes filled with 10 oz of holy water and makes the perfect travel companion to bring blessings to others.*



### “SWEET ANGEL SCENTS” SEELOS CANDLE – \$23

*This 8oz organic soy candle is hand-poured with holy oil, frankincense and myrrh. It features a Seelos medal and burns up to 25-30 hours.*



### “READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR PLANNER: 2022 EDITION” WITH PEN – \$22

*This daily planner features a full page for every day, highlighting holidays and observances as well as providing a daily Bible reading plan, space to write your reflections, and more.*



### MARY MOTHER OF JESUS STATUE – \$14

*This 4” tall resin statue depicts the Blessed Mother with child, holding a white dove.*

*Prices listed above 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-\$4. Please visit [SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle](http://SEELOS.org/light-a-votive-candle).



**REQUEST A RELIC:** 3rd Class Relics are available in either laminated prayer cards or as a crocheted memento for an offering of \$2.50 each. 2nd Class Relics are available in small envelopes for an offering of \$2.50 each.



**SHOP ONLINE:** Items in the Gift Shop are available at [SEELOS.org/gift-shop](http://SEELOS.org/gift-shop).

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



SEELOS CENTER NEWS (USPS 4472) is published monthly at The National Shrine of Blessed Seelos, a ministry of the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers.

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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 (\$12)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to “National Shrine of Blessed Francis Seelos”.*

Please ☐ remove ☐ change my name and address as follows:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_