

**Joint Statement on the Events of January 1, 2025 in New Orleans  
from the Redemptorists of the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos  
& St. Alphonsus Parish:**

*January 2, 2025*

In the wake of the tragic attack against the citizens and visitors of our beloved city of New Orleans on January 1, 2025, the Redemptorist Missionaries and staff who serve at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos and St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish, offer our condolences and prayers to all those affected by these evil acts. Our hearts are heavy with grief, and our prayers are lifted in solidarity with the victims, their families, and all who are suffering in the aftermath of this senseless act of violence. We also praise the efforts of first responders and all those who demonstrate courage and compassion as they care for the victims and their loved ones.

To the broader community of New Orleans, we extend our unwavering support and commitment to walk with you through this painful journey. We invite all people of goodwill to join us in praying for an end to violence, for peace to take root in our hearts and homes, and for the grace to heal from this wound to our city.

In this season of hope, we pray for an end to violence, for the rebuilding of trust, and for peace to reign in New Orleans and throughout the world. Firm in faith, we find comfort knowing that “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). With God's help, we will heal and emerge from this time of sorrow with renewed strength and resilience that is a hallmark of the people of this great city of New Orleans.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Pray for Us.

With prayerful solidarity,

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

Director, National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos

**Rev. Chung Tran, C.Ss.R.**

Pastor, St. Mary's Assumption Church of Alphonsus Parish