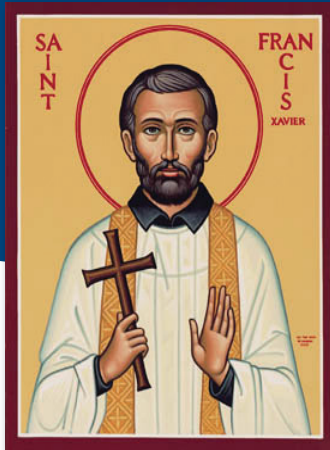


# Novena of Grace Day 3



O most kind and loving Saint Francis Xavier, in union with you I adore the most divine majesty. The memory of the favors with which God blessed you during life, and of your glory after death, fills me with joy. And I unite with you in offering to him my humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise. I implore of you to secure for me, through your powerful intercession, the all-important blessing of living and dying in a state of grace. I also ask you to obtain the favor I ask in this novena. (*Mention your petitions.*) But if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God, or the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive to both. Amen.

**Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.**

**V.** Pray for us, Saint Francis Xavier    **R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

O God, who was pleased to gather to your Church the peoples of the East by the preaching and miracles of Saint Francis Xavier, mercifully grant that we, who honour his glorious merits, may also imitate the example of his virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Reflections from Jesuits who share the name Francis

I grew up in a parish in Baltimore, Maryland where the Novena of Grace was a yearly occurrence even though the parish was not a Jesuit parish. In those days the Novena was preached in many parishes throughout the city. And at St. Ignatius Church, the Jesuit parish, so many novena services were offered during those nine days that a large billboard reminded drivers of the services while radio announcements kept those at home informed of the devotions. From St. Ignatius, a priest carried a relic of St. Francis Xavier to shut-ins.

How different the 21st century is from the 20th. Television, smart phones and computers have radically

changed the way we live. Just as we can communicate with one another so quickly and so directly, we sense we can do the same in our private devotions. Fortunately we can use these new means of communication to remind Catholics to include the novena prayers in their daily lives. The novena is as effective as it has always been. St Francis Xavier is still listening, still prodding God to answer the prayers of those devoted to him through the Novena of Grace. Please join the throng of devoted novena makers.

*Fr. Francis X. Moan, SJ*