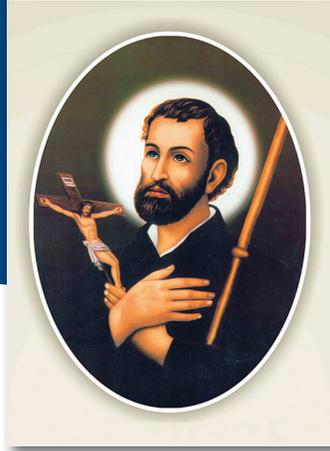


# Novena of Grace Day 4



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

In Sr. Laureena' fourth grade, she asked me "Who was my patron saint?" I knew I was named Francis for my uncle, Fran, but neither my mom nor my dad knew who my patron saint was. My grandmother assured me, she named my uncle for St. Francis Assisi. In the course of my Jesuit life, at different times I have spent nearly twenty years at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati where I have taught students, faculty, and staff about our patron St. Francis Xavier. A few years ago I discovered an essay of Archbishop Goodier, SJ about St. Francis Xavier entitled The "Failure." Most of his life he encountered frustration; he did not become the canon of Pamplona that his family desired, he did not become a professor at the University of Paris that the faculty hoped would happen, he became a secretary to Ignatius Loyola instead of a preacher and teacher, and his missions in India, Malacca and Japan frustrated him. He died looking at China where he longed to preach the Good News.

Archbishop Goodier, SJ writes "And in that very failure, more than in all his triumphs, is the real greatness of the saint to be found, for, through it all, he never once flinched or surrendered... He saw in all his failures proof of his own incompetence; but he strove with might and main to give without reserve the little he had to give. Xavier was great, not so much because of what he did as because of what he failed to do. This is the other side of the life of one of the most successful of the chosen servants of God. There is a greater greatness than the greatness of success; and that is the greatness of failure. For that is the greatness of being, without the encouragement of doing; the greatness of sacrifice, of which others less great may reap the fruits." [Saints for Sinners, Archbishop Alban Goodier]

St. Francis Xavier be with us in our failures and help us to persevere in our serving the people of God.

*Fr. Francis Daly, SJ*