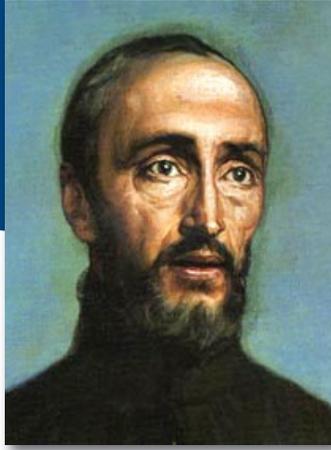


Novena of Grace Day 5



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 am named Francis after my father, not because of a saint. My mother tells me that when I was a child, I insisted that my patron saint was not Francis of Assisi (though I was actually baptized in St Francis of Assisi Church in New Orleans). I barely remember saying this, and don't remember why I said it, except that possibly every Francis seemed to choose Francis of Assisi, and I wanted to be different. At the time, however, I don't think I knew about Francis de Sales, Francis Borgia, John Francis Regis, Francis Jerome, and all the others, though I possibly knew about Francis Xavier.

As an adult I have warmed up to the idea of Francis of Assisi as my "official" patron saint. I like the idea of his love of Creation and his simplicity. Francis Xavier was a great man, but I have never felt the slightest inclination to work in the foreign missions!

Fr. Billy Huete, SJ