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.

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

Xavier gave his life to imitate his Savior and Lord, fulfilling the words of Jesus:

I have come that they may have life, life in abundance. - John 10, 10

The early Jesuit Companions called themselves ‘friends in the Lord’. Francis was also a dear friend to countless people in his lifetime. I offer two quotes from his letters to Ignatius which can encourage us to be friends to one another and to be grateful for our friends. They offer us a deeper insight into the depths of Xavier’s loving heart.

1. “Among many other holy words and consolations of your letter I read the concluding one, ‘Entirely yours, without power or possibility of ever forgetting you, Ignatio’. I read them with tears, and with tears now write them, remembering the past and the great love which you always bore towards me and still bear.”

2. “Though Our Lord has put us so far apart, yet, if I am not mistaken, the sundering miles cause no lessening of love, no forgetfulness in those who love one another in Him, and are united in charity. In my opinion, we see one another all the time, though we are no longer able to have the old companionable relations... “

If Xavier wrote these words when he was 12,000 earthly miles away, how much more could he speak them to us now when he is with God? There is no lessening of his love as he responds to his countless friends today who seek his help.

Fr. Francis X. Reese, SJ
Quotes taken from The Power of Friendship by Gerry Bourke, SJ