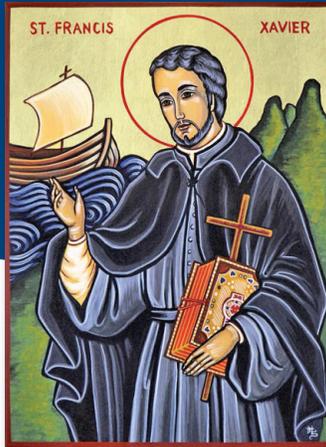


Novena of Grace Day 8



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

Francis Xavier spent his life spreading the gospel where it had never been before. He opened new doors and walked on new paths and spoke with new languages. It was the same message that the Church always preaches but with new energy and willingness to adapt. He lived in an age of change. New continents were discovered and new peoples contacted and new realms opened for action.

Our age is very much like what Saint Francis experienced. We have so many new things before us that it is hard to keep track of them all. It is a wonder to realize that smart phones did not even exist a few years ago and now there are billions of them.

Our challenge is to draw on the spirit of St. Francis to speak to our age. It will not be easy. No one knows how to talk to Moslem extremists. It is not easy to deal with modern atheists and agnostics. We need that same energy and willingness to try new things that St. Francis showed. We have to always remember that the word of God cannot be chained. It is a force that flows naturally in our world. It is wonderful to be in its service whatever our situation in life may actually be.

Fr. Frank R. Haig, SJ