



NOVENA OF GRACE

In honor of
St. Francis Xavier

THE NOVENA OF GRACE

St. Francis Xavier evangelized the Indies and Japan during ten years of extraordinary missionary activity beginning in 1542. A second St. Paul, he was canonized March 12, 1622, and named patron of all foreign missions by Pope Pius X in 1904.

The Novena of Grace was prompted by the cure of Father Marcellus Mastrilli in 1634. At the point of death from a brain injury, he was cured instantaneously through the intercession of St. Francis Xavier, and afterward died a martyr in Japan.

The wonderful favors, both spiritual and temporal, which have been obtained through this novena have caused it to become known as the Novena of Grace. It is celebrated in many churches in all parts of the world from March 4 to March 12, the anniversary of the canonization of St. Francis Xavier. *It may, however, be made at other times also.*

St. Francis Xavier is the World Patron of the Apostleship of Prayer and League of the Sacred Heart.

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Designed for insertion into the Eucharistic Liturgy.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Cel. We have come together to worship the Lord our God and to honor the memory of His great-souled missionary, St. Francis Xavier. Through his powerful intercession let us pray for ourselves, for the missionary efforts of the Church, and for all People of God.

Lec. For missions and missionaries throughout the world, that through the proclamation of the Good News of salvation, all may come to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent: let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lec. For the Church, that renewed by the Holy Spirit, she may show forth to the world the mystery of the Lord and be an instrument of redemption for all: let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lec. For Christian unity, that the Spirit of Christ, dwelling in all who believe, may bring us to that fullness of unity which Jesus desires — one Lord, one faith, one baptism: let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lec. For the unrepentant, that moved by

God's loving mercy revealed in Jesus, they may turn away from their sins and open their hearts to the divine life of grace: let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lec. For ourselves, that we may be ever faithful to our baptismal commitment to Christ, and bring Christ's word and Christ's love to the world in which we live: let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.

CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE:

Lord God, our Father, we honor the memory of the Apostle of the Indies and Japan, St. Francis Xavier. The remembrance of the favors with which You blessed him during life and of his glory after death fills us with joy; and we unite with him in offering to You our sincere tribute of thanksgiving and praise.

We ask You to grant us, through his powerful intercession, the inestimable blessing of living and dying in the state of grace. We also ask You to grant us the favors we seek in this novena. (Pause.)

But if what we ask is not for the glory of God and the good of our souls, grant us, we pray, what is more conducive to both. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(after Communion)

CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE:

We give you thanks, O Lord
for all your wondrous gifts.
We thank you for the gift of life:
you called us into being
that we might be your children
and live with you forever.
We thank you for our baptism:
you sealed us with the Holy Spirit,
gifted us with your own life,
grafted us into the mystical body
of your divine Son.
We thank you for our vocation
to join with the risen Christ
in working to save and sanctify
the world in which we live.
We thank you for this Eucharist:
you have fed us on the
Bread of Life,
strengthened our faith,
renewed our hope,
deepened our love,
made us one with one another
in the Body of Christ our Lord.
We give you thanks, O Lord,
for all your wondrous gifts.

With Ecclesiastical Approval

GOD, I LOVE THEE

O God, I love Thee, I love Thee –
Not out of hope of heaven for me
Nor fearing not to love and be
In the everlasting burning.
Thou, Thou, my Jesus, after me
Didst reach thine arms out dying,
For my sake sufferedst nails and lance,
Mocked and marred countenance,
Sorrows passing number,
Sweat and care and number,
Yea and death, and this for me,
And Thou couldst see me sinning;
Then I, why should not I love Thee,
Jesus, so much in love with me?
Not for heaven's sake; not to be
Out of hell by loving Thee;
Not for any gains I see:
But just the way that Thou didst me
I do love and I will love Thee:
What must I love Thee, Lord, for then?
For being my king and God. Amen

St. Francis Xavier

Translated by Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.