

NOVENA OF GRACE TO ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



The Novena of Grace takes place from the 4th to the 12th of March. The first Novena of Grace of Francis Xavier, nine days of prayer, is said to have taken place in Goa, India, in 1615, when a boy, crippled from birth, was cured. After Francis Xavier was named a Saint on 12th of March, 1622, the Novena of Grace grew in popularity around the world. The novena is often celebrated in a church, where a preacher gives a sermon, traditionally on the life of the Jesuit missionary, St Francis Xavier. There is a set prayer (see below) and a hymn that the congregation sings. It is traditional to pray the Novena for a particular intention; to ask for what you desire from God. Pray for your own needs, those of your loved ones, or the needs of the world.

Grace can be seen as the power within us that gives us the strength to reach out to others in generosity, care and love. Grace is a traditional term used in the Catholic Church for a favor or gift from God. Christians often ask God for favors, or graces. In doing this we acknowledge that God is the giver of all gifts.

NOVENA OF GRACE PRAYER

Most lovable and loving St. Francis Xavier, in union with you, I adore the Divine Majesty. The remembrance of the favors with which God blessed you during life, and of your glory after death, fills me with joy. I unite with you in offering to God my humble tribute of thanksgiving and praise. I ask you to secure for me, through your powerful intercession, the inestimable blessing of living and dying in the state of grace. I also pray to you that I obtain the favors I ask in this novena.

(recall intentions)

But if what I ask is not for the glory of God or for the good of my soul, obtain for me what is most conducive for both. Amen.

Our Father.... Hail Mary.... Glory be....

V. Pray for us, St. Francis Xavier.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, who by the preaching and miracles of St. Francis Xavier, joined to the Church the nations of the Indies, grant, we beg you, that we who reverence his glorious merits may also imitate his example, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from www.sacredspace.ie, the website of the Irish Jesuits.)