

# NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

## (December 2)

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### DAY 9

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All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO PRAYER

**Leader:** As we worship our God and honor the memory of His great missionary, St. Francis Xavier, let us beg the Lord to gift us with Francis Xavier's passion for spreading the gospel, his simple obedience, and humble disregard for himself.

#### OPENING PRAYER

**Leader:** Let us pray.

Lord God, loving Father, you are rich in mercy and compassion. We honor the memory of St. Francis Xavier during this novena. We ask you to hear our prayers. Above all, send to us your Holy Spirit that by His power we may be inspired, guided, and protected as St. Francis Xavier was. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

#### REFLECTION AND PRAYER FOR THE DAY

**Reader:** Let us listen to an excerpt from St. Francis Xavier's letter to the Jesuits of Goa from Kagoshima in Japan, written on the 5th of November 1549.

"I therefore ask you to base all that you do entirely upon God and not to trust your own abilities, knowledge or reputation; and in this way I shall know that you are ready for all the great trials spiritual as well as worldly, which can afflict you, for God raises up and supports the humble, especially those who in small and lowly matters have seen, as in a polished mirror, their own weaknesses and have conquered them."

**Reader:** Let us momentarily pause to consider this invitation:

Do you trust your own abilities and judgments more than you trust God?

**Leader:** Let us pray.

All: God our Father, St Francis Xavier travelled to the ends of the earth, impelled by love of Christ and afire with his good news. Give us, also, the trust and the grace to base all that we do entirely on you, safe in the knowledge that you raise up the lowly and fill them with good things. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

**Leader:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Leader:** St Francis Xavier

All: Pray for us.

**Leader:** Jesus, Light of the World.

All: Let our light shine.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.