

The vision vanished and Fr. Mastrilli arose entirely cured. Faithful to his vow, he led a band of thirty-three Jesuits to Japan. He had hardly landed in Japan when he was seized and condemned to the “Pit” where he suffered from October 5 to 17, 1637 and died a glorious martyr.

Before leaving for Japan, Fr. Mastrilli widely published the news of his cure and the promises of Saint Francis Xavier. The Saint himself kept his words and very many experienced his protection after making this “Novena of Grace.”

Thus the devotion spread far and wide and it has been instrumental in obtaining many favors, both spiritual and temporal. Though St. Francis Xavier mentioned the time when the Novena should be made, its efficacy is not restricted to those days, but it may be made at any time, and forms a fitting preparation for the feast of the saint, November 24 to December 2 the feast day of the Saint’s **death on December 3rd.**

***(excerpted from://en.wikipedia.org)

*****The Novena prayers may also be said between March 3-March 11 and marks the anniversary of the Canonization of St. Francis Xavier by Pope Gregory XV in 1622 on March 12.**

***(excerpted from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

Keep in mind that you don’t need to be a famous missionary to receive God’s grace. Just follow our Lord with faith, devotion, and humility. Also, show others God’s love in how you treat them. This is what St. Francis Xavier did and that is why it is fitting that his novena should be called **The Novena of Grace.**



**St. Francis Xavier,
Patron of the Missions,
Pray for us.**

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinspire.com

The Miraculous Novena of Grace To Saint Francis Xavier Born April 7, 1506 - Spain Died December 3, 1552 - China

**NOVENA: March 3-11 FEAST DAY March 12 (Anniv. of Canonization)
NOVENA: Nov. 24– Dec. 2nd FEAST DAY Dec. 3rd (FEAST DAY)**



*Lord God of compassion and mercy,
You opened a door in the East for
Saint Francis Xavier when you sent him
to preach your Gospel.
Send us in our day over the face
of the earth, so that the joy of our Mother,
the Church, may be made perfect.
Amen.*

PRAYERS FOR THE NOVENA

PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

TO BE SAID FROM MARCH 3RD TO MARCH 11TH (FEAST DAY MARCH 12TH)

AND/OR

CAN BE SAID FROM NOVEMBER 24TH TO DECEMBER 2ND (FEAST DAY DEC. 3RD)

***O SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER, well beloved and full of charity, in union with thee, I reverently adore the Majesty of God; and since I rejoice with exceeding joy in the singular gifts of grace bestowed upon thee during thy life, and thy gifts of glory after death, I give Him hearty thanks therefore; I beseech thee with all my hearts' devotion to be pleased to obtain for me, by thy effectual intercession, above all things, the grace of a holy life and a happy death. Moreover, I beg of thee to obtain for me...(here mention the spiritual or temporal favor to be prayed for). But if what I ask of thee so earnestly doth not tend to the glory of God and the greater good of my soul, do thou, I pray obtain for me what is more profitable to both these ends. Amen.**

1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, and 1 Glory Be

If, for any reason, the above prayer cannot be said, it will suffice to say: 5 Our Fathers; 5 Hail Mary's and 5 Glory Be's

S.C. Ind., March 23 1904

**(excerpted from: www.catholictradition.org)*

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SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER - HIS MISSIONARY ZEAL FOR SOULS

****The Novena of Grace, printed above, is addressed to one of the Church's most famous missionaries, Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552), who was also one of the first members, along with Saint Ignatius Loyola and five others, of the society of Jesus (better known today as the Jesuits). This celebrated religious order was founded in the 16th century to serve the Pope and the Church through education and missionary work.**

Saint Francis Xavier helped to convert thousands of people to Christianity throughout parts of India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and even Japan. According to one account, he baptized as many as 10,000 in a single month. The saint had a unique ability to convey God's word with great charity and grace. Most astonishingly, he did all this in ten years between his arrival in India until his untimely death from an illness while en route to mainland China. Is it any wonder then that he is revered today as a Patron Saint of missionaries? *** (excerpted from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)*

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HISTORY OF THE NOVENA OF GRACE

*****The Novena of Grace (the Prayer to St. Francis Xavier) is attributed to Father Marcello Mastrilli, S.J.. In 1633, Fr. Mastrilli was living in Naples, Italy. He had taken the vow to ask to be assigned to the Japan Mission, then a very difficult assignment; for at that time the Buddhist persecution was most cruel against the Catholic religion and the new form of martyrdom introduced was most excruciating. It was known as the "pit" for the martyrs were kept hung, head downwards over a volcanic pit from which sulphurous gases and waters welled up. At times the martyrdom was protracted for several days before the victim expired. The torture was so horrible that in 1633 the Provincial of the Japan Mission, Fr. Ferrara, after five days of agony over the "Pit" apostatized. But hundreds of others, priests and laymen, Europeans and Japanese in holy emulation reached the martyr's crown through the terrible "Pit". When the news of the unfortunate Ferraras' apostasy reached Europe, many Jesuits vowed themselves to the Japan Mission to replace their martyred brethren and to atone for the apostate. Fr. Marcello Mastrilli was one of them. Fr. Ferrara was subsequently reconverted and atoned for his fall by dying a martyr's death over the "Pit" in 1652.**

While waiting for the passage to Japan, Fr. Mastrilli organized a grand scale feast of the Immaculate Conception in the College of Naples, putting up for the occasion an elaborate structure that drew the admiration of the whole town. The feast was a stupendous success that helped so much to bring home to the faithful the great privilege of Our Lady, which then was not yet defined as a dogma of the faith.

The feast over, Fr. Mastrilli was supervising the removal of the temporary structure when a heavy hammer slipped from the hands of a worker and fell with deadly precision on Fr. Mastrilli's head. The injury was very severe, and he was on the verge of death. Just when the crisis was on, St. Francis Xavier appeared to Fr. Mastrilli and bidding him renew the vow to go to Japan, said to him:

"All those who implore my help daily for nine consecutive days, from the fourth to the twelfth of March inclusive and worthily receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion on one of the nine days will experience my protection and may hope with entire assurance to obtain from God any Grace they ask that is for the good of their souls and the glory of God."

