

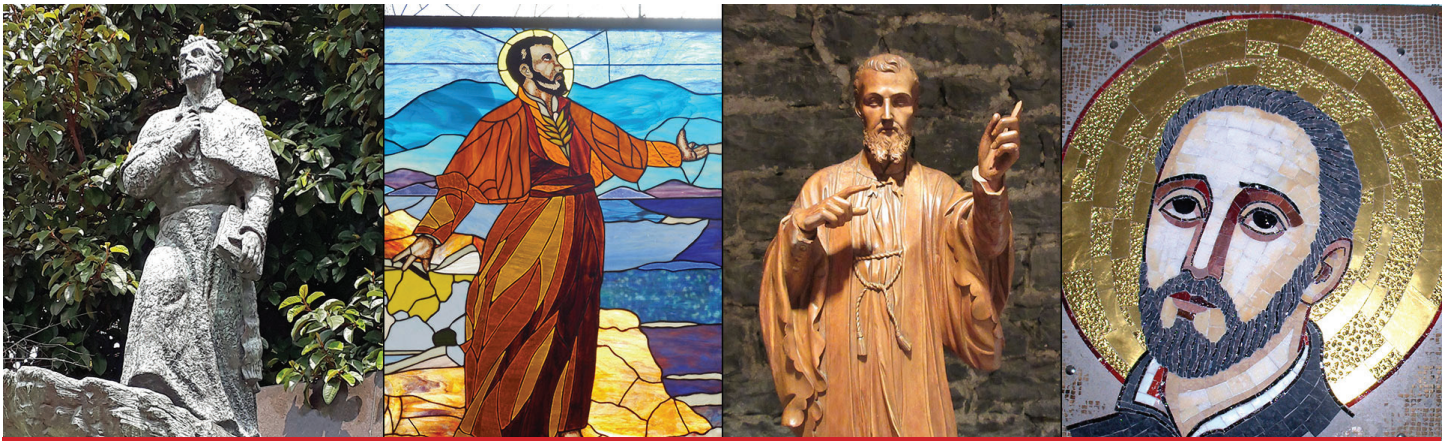


A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States  
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio



DECEMBER 2022

**ITE MISSA EST**



## Missionary— St. Francis Xavier

On December 3rd is the Feast day of St. Francis Xavier. We honor St. Francis Xavier as the patron of the Missions, While the Church has sent out many good and holy missionaries into the world, Francis Xavier is generally considered the greatest after St. Paul the Apostle.

He was known for his long hours of hard work. He loved the poor and sick and showed great joy in their service. He had given his life to bringing the Good News to people who had never known Christ. His ultimate mission was to make known Jesus Christ, and his proclamation was: “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.”

Francis Xavier, born in Navarre, Spain, in 1506, to a noble family, he eventually went to Paris to study philosophy. He began a promising academic career and tended to be focused on the things of this world. But Francis’ plans changed after he met Ignatius Loyola who guided him into more spiritual interests.

In 1534 Francis Xavier became one of the founding members of the Society of Jesus (better known as the Jesuits) and was ordained two years later. Within a few

years, he had set sail for India with the title of Papal Nuncio. He spent almost a decade bringing Christ’s message to the people of Goa, Malacca and other areas before going to Japan in 1549.

St. Francis Xavier did everything



**“In Thee, O Lord, have I put my hope. Let me never be confounded.”**

he could to obey Almighty God and help His people, body and soul. He evangelized people of India. He baptized thousands of them, taught them catechism of the Catholic Church, taught them all the basic prayers. Practiced with

them spiritual works of mercy and corporal works of mercy. He taught them to pray such as, “I adore Thee, O God; and I implore Thy help for ever.”

St. Francis Xavier’s letter from India, to the Society of Jesus at Rome, in 1543, “Every Sunday I collected them all, men and women, boys and girls, in the church. They came with great readiness and with a great desire for instruction. Then, in the hearing of all, I began by calling on the name of the most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and I recited aloud the Lord’s Prayer, the Hail Mary, and the Creed in the language of the country: they all followed me in the same words, and delighted in it wonderfully. Then I repeated the Creed by myself, dwelling upon each article singly. Then I asked them as to each article, whether they believed it unhesitatingly; and all, with a loud voice and their hands crossed over their breasts, professed aloud that they truly believed it. I take care to make them repeat the Creed often than the other prayers; and I tell them that those who believe all that is contained therein are called

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!

On behalf of His Excellency Earl Fernandes, the Bishop of Columbus, and Monsignor Kieran Harrington, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.



Christians. After explaining the Creed I go on to the Commandments, teaching them that the Christian law is contained in those ten precepts, and that every one

We, too, can make an effort to do what our Lord wants us each day for His greater glory. who observes them all faithfully is a good and true Christian and is certain of eternal salvation, and that, on the other hand, whoever neglects a single one of them is a bad Christian, and will be cast into hell unless he is truly penitent for his sin.”

Francis Xavier died of a fever on an island off the coast of China on this date in 1552. He was canonized in 1622.

In the Gospel, we hear, “Jesus said to His disciples: ‘Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven’” (Matthew 7:21).

In addition, the disciples of Jesus Christ, obliged to practice His mandate, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:18). Even though, we may not able to go all nations to proclaim Gospel of Jesus Christ but we can help missionaries, the work they do in the behalf of the Church in the remote places of the earth.

Let our minds and hearts lifted up by the spirit of prayer and the assistance of St. Francis Xavier, let us reach and connect more deeply with overseas ministries and across the country. Let us serve the Universal Church joyfully. St. Francis Xavier pray for us!

## Christ the Savior is born for us!

Christmas is the celebration of joy, peace, and love. The first Christmas night, multitude of angels were singing, “Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will” (Luke 2:12). The heavenly choir came on earth to sing for the king of the heaven and earth. To let people on earth know the savior is born for us to save us from sin and death. On this Christmas season let us give glory and praise to God the Father for sending His only Son to save mankind and give them entry into paradise and eternal happiness. As we are the sons and daughters of God, who created us in His image and likeness, want us to be with Him forever, eternally in heaven. God do not want us to perish in this present life. Jesus is the prince of peace, who came on earth as a baby and lived among us as a human with out sin. On this special season let us adore, love, and praise Him for being with us now and forever!

**MERRY**  
*Christmas*



**Sr. Zephрина Mary, FIH, Missions Director**



**Kimberly S. Colston, Program Coordinator**

