



Saints of the Season

First Week of Advent

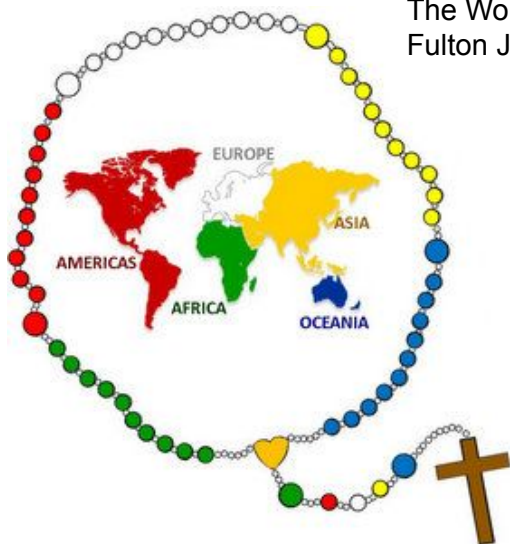
December 3 - Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier

St. Francis Xavier is the patron saint of missionaries and one of the founders of the Jesuit order, Saint Francis Xavier sought religious converts throughout Asia during the 1500s. With encouragement from his friend Ignatius of Loyola, Saint Francis Xavier devoted himself to religious service and became one of the founders of the Jesuit order. Much of his life was spent tending to missions in areas such as India and Japan. He was 46 when he died on China's Shangchuan Island on December 3, 1552. St. Francis Xavier was called to help the poorest of poor and to care for the sick. All of us are called to “go and preach to all nations—see Matthew 28:19. Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis Xavier gave his to others.

Family Activity

One way to celebrate St. Francis Xavier is to pray the World Mission Rosary. Each decade of the Rosary is prayed for a different area of the world where missionaries serve. Catholic Relief Service has many countries that are served by missionaries. Or you may want to pray for missionaries in each continent.

The World Mission Rosary was envisioned by Archbishop Fulton John Sheen in 1951.



Create a World Mission rosary with 5 different colors of beads.



Enjoy a warm bowl of Xaver Suppe

More Information

portlanddiocese.org - World Mission Rosary

catholiccuisine.blogspot.com - Xaver Suppe (Soup for St. Francis Xavier's Day)

