

Liturgy Alive of St Francis Xavier, Priest

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, Missionary

Memorial

Introduction

One of the original group of followers of Ignatius, Francis Xavier (1506-1552) became the first and perhaps the greatest missionary of the Jesuits. After sowing the seeds of the Gospel in many parts of Southeast Asia, he began the work of the evangelization in Japan, the fruits of which were so cruelly destroyed later. He died on the way to China.

It is good to remember today a person who took the word of Christ literally: Go out and preach the Gospel to the whole world.

Opening Prayer

Lord God,
the feast of St. Francis Xavier,
patron saint of missionaries, prompts us to pray
for all those who commit themselves
to sow the seeds of your Good News
all over the world:
Give us many of these dedicated men and women
and make them not only people
who zealously proclaim your word
not only by what they say
but especially by the way they live it.
We ask you this through Christ, our Lord.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord God,
you have enriched our lives
with the message and the very life
of your Son, Jesus Christ.
May we show our loving gratitude
by doing all we can to share these gifts
with people far and near,
that one day we may all sit together
at the same table of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Our God and Father,
in this Eucharistic celebration
you have let us enjoy the light
of the word of Jesus, your Son.
May people from all cultures
live one day in this light
and become aware that they are all
your sons and daughters
whom you love in Jesus Christ, our Lord.