

THE PICTURE

The woodcut by Judith D. Saba portrays the meeting of Francis Xavier and Ignatius Loyola. The monogram of Jesus, "IHS," surrounded by rays, is the chief part of the seal of the Society of Jesus. The artist's proof of the woodcut, 11 x 24 inches, hangs in the sacristy of St. Xavier Church, Cincinnati — the church which can be seen over Xavier's right shoulder.



NOVENA OF GRACE

Saint Xavier Church, Cincinnati

Saint Francis Xavier, S.J.

Francis Xavier was born in Navarre, a part of Spain, in 1506. At the age of nineteen, he entered the University of Paris and earned a doctoral degree there. He began to teach philosophy and to nourish ambitious designs for his future. Then he fell under the influence of another Spaniard, Ignatius Loyola, who was also a student at the University. Ignatius induced Francis to ponder the words of the gospel: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his soul?" Touched by grace, Francis turned away from his worldly ambitions and devoted himself instead to the service of God and His people. In 1534 he joined Ignatius and his other companions in consecration to the apostolic life in poverty and chastity — the beginning of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits. Sent to India in 1540, he preached the gospel there, in the islands of the South Pacific, and in Japan. Francis burned with desire to bring the gospel also to the people of China. But before he could fulfill that desire, he died on an island off the Chinese coast in the early hours of December 3, 1552. On March 12, 1622, he and his dearest friend, Ignatius Loyola, were declared saints of God. With St. Therese of Lisieux, Francis Xavier is patron of the missions.

Novena Prayer

St. Francis Xavier, in union with you I adore the divine majesty. I praise God for the gifts of grace and glory He gave you in this life and after death. I ask through your intercession, the grace of living a holy life and dying a holy death. I ask also that you pray for me to receive this special gift from God: **(here mention your special novena petition)**. But if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God and the good of my soul, please obtain for me what is more conducive to both. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory