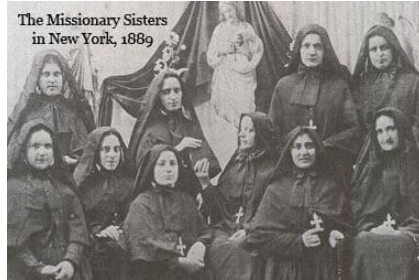


## Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini (Mother Cabrini)

Feast Day: November 13

Patron Saint: Hospital Administrators, Immigrants,  
Impossible Causes



Francesca Cabrini was born in Italy in 1850. During her childhood she loved to hear about missionaries who brought the message of Jesus to faraway places. She dreamed about going to China as a missionary one day.

As a young woman, Francesca taught for a while in the village school. She felt God calling her to be a nun, but was refused permission to enter the convent because of her poor health. Then a bishop invited her to come and work at an orphanage in his diocese. Some of these young women, like Francesca, wanted to enter the convent. The bishop allowed them to make vows and live as sisters, and he asked Francesca to become their superior. Francesca took the name of her favorite missionary saint, Saint Francis Xavier. From that time on she was known as Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, or simply Mother Cabrini.

Eventually the bishop suggested that Mother Cabrini begin a community of missionary sisters. She was overjoyed. The new sisters were called the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Little by little, more young women joined the group. The sisters opened schools and orphanages in the local towns and cities. But Mother Cabrini had bigger dreams. She still wanted to be a missionary and reach people beyond Italy. So she went to Pope Leo XIII and asked if she and some of her sisters could go to China. Instead, the Pope asked if she would be willing to go as a missionary to America, where many Italian immigrants were living in poverty and hardship. After much thought and prayer, Mother Cabrini realized that was what Jesus wanted. Following an exhausting journey across the ocean, Mother Cabrini and some of her sisters landed at New York on March 31, 1889. They began caring for and teaching orphaned and disadvantaged children. They brought food, comfort, and hope to poor immigrant families. Later, Mother Cabrini opened hospitals in various parts of the United States. She also

founded convents in Nicaragua, Panama, Argentina, Spain, France, and England. Although she never did travel to China, Mother Cabrini certainly fulfilled her dream of becoming a missionary. She died on December 22, 1917 in Chicago and is the first United States citizen to be canonized a saint.

### Praying the Chaplet of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

*This Chaplet has 25 beads, 5 sets of 5 beads, and a medal of Mother Cabrini.*

**Opening Prayer (On the Medal)** Saint Frances Cabrini – woman of God, woman of spirit and vision. You crossed the oceans many times to bring the love of Christ to many nations. You offered the people you met the gift of life and love by responding to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in practical and creative ways. Against great odds you achieved what was thought to be impossible. Inspired by your sense of justice, and your love and compassion, I come to you now to intercede for me through the Heart of Jesus. *(Pause ..... name petition)* Watch over me this day and those I love. Strengthen me in my weakness, sustain me in my struggles and bring me a deep and lasting peace and make me whole again. May I always recognize Christ in the people I meet and respond to them with respect and sensitivity as you did. I ask this through our one God, for your God is my God, now and forever. Amen.

**On each of the beads, say the "Hail Mary".** *For increase in Humility, Love of Neighbor, Mercy, Charity, Peace*

**At the end of each set of 5 beads, say the following prayer:**

"O My Saviour, hear Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini plead for me."

### **Closing Prayer (On the Medal)**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, thank you for the gift of life, thank you for this day, and thank you for Your servant, Saint Frances Cabrini.

Fill us, O Lord, with the fire of Your love that our minds and hearts may be open to Your will for us today and every day. Root in us, her spirit, that we may represent the passion of Mother Cabrini to everyone we meet this day. Renew us that we may live as she lived, faithful to You and open to Your every prompting.

Through the intercession of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

<https://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/chaplets/chap34.htm>

<https://www.cabriniworld.org/novena-to-mother-cabrini/>

## Saint Francis Xavier (Founder of the Jesuits)

Feast Day: December 3

Patron Saint: African Missions, Foreign Missions, Missionaries, Navigators, Parish Missions, Plague Epidemics



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.

On April 7, 1506, Francis Xavier was born in Xavier Castle, located near Sangüesa, in the kingdom of Navarre (part of present-day Spain). He was a member of a noble family, and his childhood was one of privilege; however, it was disrupted by his father's death, as well as by outside efforts to take control of Navarre.

In 1525, Xavier went to study at the University of Paris. There, he encountered Ignatius of Loyola, who had experienced a religious conversion while recovering from a war wound. Loyola did his utmost to convince Xavier to join him on the same path of devotion.

Though at first hesitant, Xavier was eventually inspired by his friend's example. On August 15, 1534, in the Montmartre section of Paris, Xavier, Loyola and five others pledged themselves to the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). In addition to vows of celibacy and poverty, they also promised to visit the Holy Land.

While waiting in Venice, Italy, to depart for the Holy Land, Xavier worked in a hospital, aiding those in need. He also became a priest, on June 24, 1537. When fighting between Venice and the Ottoman Empire made a trip to Jerusalem impossible, Xavier instead went to Rome, where he and others in the society offered their services to the pope.

Impressed by the Jesuits, King John III of Portugal asked the order for missionaries to work in his empire. Though Loyola initially selected others for the task, Xavier stepped in when a fellow priest became ill. He left Rome on March 15, 1540.

Xavier arrived in Goa, India, on May 6, 1542. He came to be admired in that country for his ability to live and work side by side with the poor. Seeking more converts, Xavier continued to travel; his stops included Ceylon,

the Molucca Islands, the Banda Islands and the Malay Peninsula.

On August 15, 1549, Xavier landed at Kagoshima, Japan. As he had at his other missions, Xavier adapted to local mores and arranged for the translation of religious texts. These steps helped him reach more converts in the year and a half he spent in Japan.

Xavier's next focus for missionary work was China. He traveled to Sancian (Shangchuan) Island, near Canton, but was not able to access the mainland because borders had been closed to foreigners. Before he could find a way inside the country, illness incapacitated Xavier. He died on the island on December 13, 1552, at the age of 46. His body was then taken to Goa.

### Praying the Chaplet of Saint Francis Xavier

*This Chaplet has 25 beads, 5 sets of 5 beads, and a medal of St. Francis Xavier.*

#### **Opening Prayer (On the Medal)**

O St. 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 heart's 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 (*mention your intention here*). 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.

**On each of the beads, say the "Hail Mary".** *For increase in Humility, Love of Neighbor, Mercy, Charity, Peace*

**At the end of each set of 5 beads, say the following prayer:**

Pray for us, St. Francis Xavier, That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

#### **Closing Prayer (On the Medal)**

O God, Who didst vouchsafe, by the preaching and miracles of Saint Francis Xavier, to join unto Thy Church the nations of the Indies, grant, we beseech Thee, that we who reverence his glorious merits may also imitate his example, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

<https://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/novenas/p00068.htm>

<https://www.blessedbeadsrosaries.com/saint-francis-xavier>