



ST. PIUS X PARISH

16 Smithville Crescent
St. John's, NL
A1B 2V2
Tel: (709) 754-0170

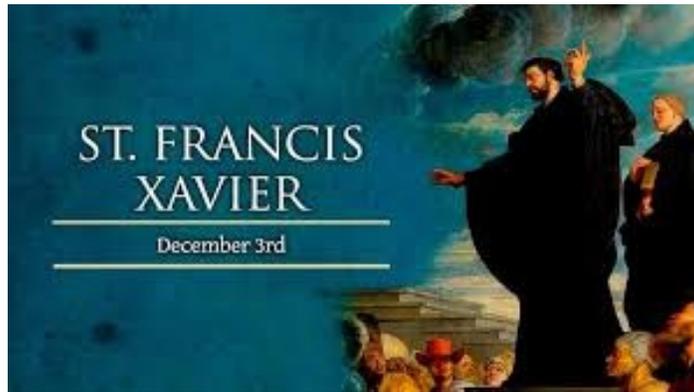


E-Mail: stpiusx@nl.rogers.com
Webpage: www.spx.ca



OUR PIUS UPDATE
December 8, 2020





EXPECTANT WAITING

“Keep awake!” Surely this can’t mean to go without sleep. (Though, in the garden, Jesus asked exactly that of his closest disciples.) Keep doing well what you were commanded to do, ready for the return of the one who commanded you. **St. Francis Xavier**, whose **Feast Day** is **December 3**, died within sight of China, spreading the Gospel as he was commanded to do. The Buddha said, *“I am awake”*, meaning actively aware of everything within me and around me. He spent his life teaching this to others.

Christians live and love and labour for the one who is returning. By doing so, they keep actively awake and aware, watching at the door. We do not know, and cannot know, the exact time of his return. Not even Jesus knew that. Salvation is not a matter of the calendar, but of expectant waiting.

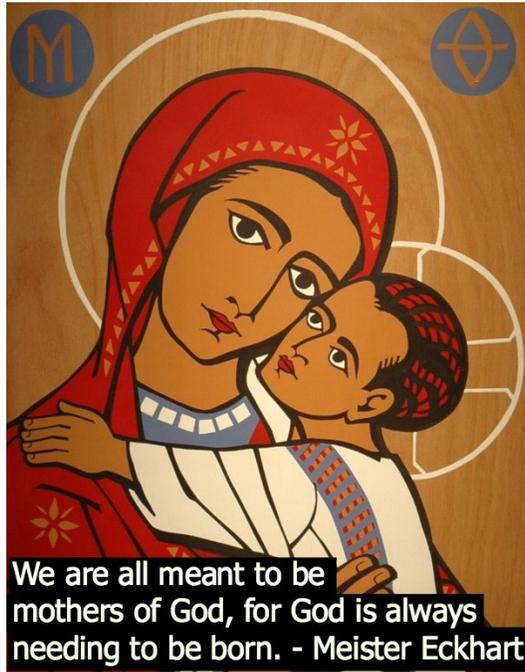
It is Advent: *“Come, Lord Jesus!”*

—**Fr. Stephen Yavorsky, SJ**, is the parochial vicar at [St Francis Xavier Parish](#) and a staff member at the [Ignatian Spirituality Center in Kansas City, MO](#). He spent six years in Rwanda, and founded the [Ignatian Spirituality Program in Denver](#).

Prayer

Longed-for Lord,
you empower us by your command
to keep the command you give us.
Command what you will!
Keep our eyes open,
our hearts alert.
May we give you the same warm welcome
that you will give us in eternity.
Amen.

—**Fr. Stephen Yavorsky, SJ**



*Pope Francis is inviting families to entrust themselves to our Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of God.
It is a fitting response to our great need and that of our human family as we struggle to well live the message of the Lord Jesus
within our family circles and beyond.
Fr. Earl Smith, SJ, Pastor,*

Entrustment of Families to Mary *(Text inspired by Evangelii Gaudium, 286)*

To You, O Mary,
Mother of the Church and Queen of the Family,
We entrust our family,
In this time of anticipation of Christmas.
You see our joys and our hopes,
Our sadness and our fears.

You, who transformed a stable for animals
Into a home for Jesus,
With some poor bands and a mountain of tenderness,
Help us to receive Him in the simplicity of our home.
You, who are the little handmaid of the Father that exult in the faith,
Help us to elevate our praise and gratitude to God
You, who are ever the attentive friend,
Let not the wine of Joy be lacking in our life.

You, who were pierced by the pain of the cross,
Understand all our sorrows. As Mother of all,
You are light of hope also in times of darkness,

You are the missionary who comes close to us
To accompany us in life,
Opening our hearts to faith with your maternal affection.
As a true Mother,
Walk with us,
Sing with us, and infuse incessantly in us
The closeness of God's love.

We entrust to You grandparents, the elderly and the sick.
We entrust to You spouses, parents and children.
We entrust to you young people, youngsters and children,
We entrust to You those in grief and mourning,
We entrust to you the poor and those that are alone.

We are certain that with your presence as Mother,
Our home will always be full of trust
And will be able to be small Church
Where to recognize always the presence of God.

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.

Amen.





'FIND HOPE IN THE BIRTH OF JESUS AMID THE COVID-19 CRISIS'

In his 2020 Christmas message, World Council of Churches (WCC) interim **General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca** has invited Christians and all people on earth to look up in hope, even if "*there are many reasons to be afraid and to live in despair*" today, reminding that "*in the most difficult days of history*", Christians have, time and time again, found consolation "*in the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ that begins with the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem*".

A Christmas in Times of Pandemic

"Celebrations of Christmas in churches and families this year will be tempered by the physical distancing and other restrictions brought on by our concern to protect each other from the Coronavirus. People will grieve for the many dead around the world", the message reads. "*The pandemic has everywhere torn the social fabric, causing massive unemployment and even hunger, rending our connections to each other, revealing and exacerbating inequalities, raising havoc and dissent, and threatening institutions of good governance*", Rev. Sauca adds, noting that: "*At the same time, violence and war continue, destroying the livelihoods of people with increasing numbers of refugees and migrants and killing so many men, women and children*".

People of Hope

However, the message stresses that, even under these circumstances, Christians can glimpse in "*the birth of the child Jesus in a desolate village at the margins of the Roman empire, the fragile beginnings of our own redemption*". "*As people of hope, we glimpse in the birth of Jesus God's 'yes' to life, and the birth of new possibility, new life triumphing over death and despair*", Rev. Sauca writes. "*The Incarnation is God's decisive 'yes' to humanity and creation*".

Sauca also lifts up in prayer the people and leadership of WCC member churches, and all people on earth: "*In a world of pain and death, the event of Christmas allows us to find consolation, lift our heads in hope, and glimpse in deep faith the triumph of life and love in the birth of Jesus,*" he concludes. "*This is good news of great joy for all people.*"

SOURCE: Lisa Zengarini www.vatican.ca



when every night is winter

Lord, you split no sky when you came
among us,
And you rose not from the sea.
A star was seen in the heavens—but only by
those who looked.
A choir of angels was heard—but only by
those who listened.
No thunder, no storm, no cataclysm
announced you,
Just the cry of a lowly refugee,
Turning to no one, turning to everyone,
Saying, "Will you let me in?"

And so, when every night is winter,
And every town is Bethlehem,
And every inn seems filled,
And on every ear those words are heard,
"Will you let me in?"
May we have eyes to see the star,
May we have ears to hear the choir,
May we have hearts that finally speak:

*Yes, yes, by all means, come in.
Come in and stay.*

Amen



Photo by Karen Kasmauski for CRS