

75th Anniversary Series

Faith into Action

Sponsored by the
Diocese of Joliet

Podcast

The first episode of the 75th Anniversary podcast series will launch November 6, 2023. Episodes will be released the first Monday of each month. Watch on YouTube or listen on your favorite podcast platform:



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Blessing of St. Francis Xavier Statue

**DECEMBER 3, 2023
1 P.M.**

Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd., Crest Hill

On the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, and the final day of the Novena of Grace, a statue of the saint will be blessed at the BCC. The statue will serve as a constant reminder of the patron saint of our diocese. Bishop Hicks will bless the statue at 1 p.m. that day, in an open ceremony so that all may witness this moving event.

COMMEMORATING 75 YEARS OF CATECHESIS,
EVANGELIZATION AND SERVICE

Novena of Grace with St. Francis Xavier

From November 25 through December 3, 2023, members of our diocese will have the opportunity to participate in a nine-day novena of prayer to St. Francis Xavier, the patron of the Diocese of Joliet.

DAY 1 — NOVEMBER 25

Lord, each day you give me new life, new graces, new opportunities to feel your presence. Give me the gift of attentiveness to notice you in the people and your creation which surround my life; that I may grow in faith, and hope, and love. Amen.

DAY 2 — NOVEMBER 26

Father, each day you show me the love of a parent for its child: watchful of my every step, eager for me to thrive; you delight in my happiness and console me in my sadness. May the constant love in which you enfold me give me the confidence to show that same love to friend and foe, family and stranger, alike. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY 3 — NOVEMBER 27

Father, you speak to me in the silence and in the empty spaces of my life. Give me ears to hear your voice in stillness and in the gentle breeze; eyes to see your presence in things that seem so insignificant at the time. Free me from the relentless whirl of activity, from the obsessions which limit me and snatch away my freedom to answer your call. Like St Francis, may I too become a pilgrim, called to walk the path you set before me, wherever it may lead but always safe in the knowledge that Christ walks beside me unseen. Amen.

DAY 4 — NOVEMBER 28

Lord, before I ever came into being you knew me and loved me. You have knit me together the way I am, and given me life and laughter, friends and the faces of kind strangers, and a world of wonder and new discovery. Grant me the freedom and the courage to discover you anew each day in the people I meet, in the places I go, in the sounds I hear and the things I see. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY 5 — NOVEMBER 29

Lord Jesus, it is so easy to be tempted as you were tempted in the desert; to make poor decisions for quick gains and satisfaction; to turn the wonderful gifts of your generosity towards unworthy and selfish ends. Give me, day by day, the same Spirit of strength with which you faced down those desert temptations of power, wealth and honour; that my desires and motives, my words and actions, may always be for the greater glory of God, my Lord. Amen.

DAY 6 — NOVEMBER 30

Father, as I look back on this day, there are so many teeming thoughts, such a babble of words, and such a blur of activity, that it is difficult to see your gentle and faithful presence amid it all. Show yourself to me today, and every day. Amen.

DAY 7 — DECEMBER 1

God our Father, praise to you! I am surrounded by so many good people, if only I take the time to notice: people who speak your word of compassion and kindness; people who act to give reality to your justice and reconciliation; people whose lives are good seed growing in rich soil. Give me, too, the grace to live in your Spirit, and to be your presence for those I meet as I go about the business of my day. Amen.

DAY 8 — DECEMBER 2

Father, you are entire goodness and you are goodness for me. Creator of all things, who hold all things in being for me, give me faith in you and in myself, your creation. Amen.

DAY 9 — DECEMBER 3

God our Father, as St Francis Xavier travelled to the ends of the earth, impelled by love of Christ and afire with his good news, give me the trust and the grace to base all that I do entirely on you, safe in the knowledge that you raise up the lowly and fill them with good things. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Praying with Saint Francis Xavier
The Novena of Grace

Visit diojoliet.org/75th
for the full novena, which
includes excerpts from the
letters of St. Francis Xavier