



In the Company of Francis Xavier

O God, come to my aid.
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen**

1. Let us come before God, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.
A mighty God is the Lord,
a great king above all gods. *Venite, adoremus...*
2. In God's hands are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains as well.
The sea belongs to God, who made it
and the dry land shaped by his hands. *Venite, adoremus...*
3. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for this is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,
we are the flock that is led by God's hand. *Venite, adoremus...*
4. Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah,
as on the day of Massah in the desert.
There your ancestors tested me;
they tried me though they had seen my works. *Venite, adoremus...*

Reading from the Gospel according to John

Este es el mandamiento mío: que os améis los unos a los otros como yo os he amado. Nadie tiene mayor amor que el que da su vida por sus amigos. Vosotros sois mis amigos, si hacéis lo que yo os mando. No os llamo ya siervos, porque el siervo no sabe lo que hace su amo; a vosotros os he llamado amigos, porque todo lo que he oído a mi Padre os lo he dado a conocer. No me habéis elegido vosotros a mí, sino que yo os he elegido a vosotros, y os he destinado para que vayáis y deis fruto, y que vuestro fruto permanezca; de modo que todo lo que pidáis al Padre en mi nombre os lo conceda. Lo que os mando es que os améis los unos a los otros». (John 15,12-17)

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. My command to you is to love one another. (John 15:12-17)

Letters of Francis Xavier to Ignatius are never ordinary business letters. The Saint does report about progress and activities, but he can't help convey his love for the Society and gratitude to the trusted friend he calls 'Your Charity' or 'Father of my Soul'. Xavier never saw the text of the Constitutions but certainly lived by its spirit.

"Up until now I have been of the opinion that no one should be retained by force against his will in the Society, unless it be by the force of love and charity. Because it seems to me that 'Society of Jesus' means to say 'Society of love and conformity of minds', and not 'of severity and servile fear'. Your Charity, I am giving you this account of these regions so that you may appoint a suitable person to this office for the coming year, one who knows how to command without giving the impression of being eager to command or to compel obedience, but rather to be commanded" (...) "I thus bring this to a close, asking you, most reverend Father of my soul, as I kneel upon the ground while writing this as if I were in your presence, to commend me much to God our Lord in your holy and devout sacrifices and prayers."

Prayer in silence

Intercessions

Il Cristo ci guida alla salvezza per fare di noi una umanità nuova in un mondo pienamente rinnovato. Affascinati da questa meravigliosa vocazione preghiamo:

Signore, rinnova nel tuo Spirito il Santo Padre che è entrato nel silenzio degli Esercizi Spirituali. **Signore...**

Signore, che hai promesso cieli nuovi e terra nuova, rinnovaci profondamente,
- perché possiamo unirvi a te nella nuova Gerusalemme. **Signore...**

Donaci di collaborare con te per trasformare il mondo con il tuo amore,
- perché la nostra città terrena progredisca nella giustizia, nella fraternità e nella pace. **Signore...**

Aiutaci a vincere ogni forma di pigrizia, di mollezza e di egoismo,
- donaci il gusto del lavoro assiduo e serio per il premio celeste. **Signore...**

Liberaci dal male,
- perché niente oscuri in noi il senso cristiano della vita. **Signore...**

Pater noster (in latin)

Father, give us the ardent zeal of Francis Xavier, his readiness to take on ever new risks and challenges to spread the love of your Son Jesus, and bring the light of the Gospel on new shores, in new situations. May we also kindle it at the heart of our people's struggle in the face of injustice and poverty. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

May the Lord bless us and keep us from all harm;
and may he lead us to eternal life. **A M E N**