

# St. Francis Xavier

## Chronology and Travels

**Born** April 7, 1506 in Spain.

**Jesuit** August 15, 1534 – took private vows with seven others, including St. Ignatius of Loyola, in Paris. St. Ignatius of Loyola completed his design for the Society of Jesus in 1539. It was approved by Pope Paul III in 1540 – the same year St. Francis leaves on mission.



**Orders** In 1537, after several years of study, Francis was ordained a priest.

**Sent** Portugal had requested missionaries to help with their “new lands” in the East. The Jesuits were sent; Nicholas Bobadilla and Simao Rodrigues. Nicholas became very ill, so Francis took his place. He left Rome March 15, 1540 to go to Portugal.

**Start** Francis departed Lisbon in 1541 to begin his missionary journey. He was 35 years old.

**Trip** At first, Francis visited Goa and India. Then, he went throughout southeast Asia. He went to Japan. From Japan, he moved towards China – arriving in April 1552.

**Death** Francis never made it to the mainland of China. He died on one of the islands as he was waiting for a boat that would take him to the mainland on December 3, 1552.

**Burial** Francis was buried in several places. Eventually, his incorrupt remains were moved back to Goa, India, where his mission began. His body is now in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa.

## Additional Resources

- 1) New Advent has an article on St. Francis. <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06233b.htm>.
- 2) Wikipedia has an article on St. Francis. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis\\_Xavier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Xavier)
- 3) A classic on St. Francis is *The Life and Letters of St. Francis Xavier* (1881) by Henry James Coleridge. Read or download it to an iPhone or Kindle. <https://archive.org/details/lifelettersofstf01coleuoft>



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