



St. Francis Xavier Icon

By: Transcendentia Designs

Saint Francis Xavier's legacy is one of unparalleled missionary zeal and devotion to spreading the Christian faith. He is credited with converting over 30,000 people during his lifetime and is revered as one of the greatest missionaries in the history of the Catholic Church.

In our St. Francis Xavier Icon, he is holding out the cross, which symbolizes Christianity and his missionary work. His inner garment is blue, representing his goodness, peace, and zeal, all of which he exhibited throughout his extraordinary and adventurous life. His outer garment is brown, representing his humility and poverty, as well as the danger he faced while traveling to foreign and hostile territories to spread the Christian faith.

The Red line around his halo is called the Alpha line and represents the purified clay found under the gold. In the process of writing an icon, there's a brownish/red clay under the gold halo, and it represents God's breath (gold) being breathed into Adam (red clay). The name Adam is closely related to the Hebrew word adamah, which means "red clay" or "red ground." The White line is the last one to be written and is called the Omega line. It symbolizes the icon's beginning as a pure white board. As the Alpha line "opens" the icon, the Omega line "closes" it.

In 1622, Francis Xavier was canonized alongside Ignatius of Loyola by Pope Gregory XV. He is the patron saint of missionaries and Catholic missions and is celebrated for his commitment to evangelization and his love for humanity.