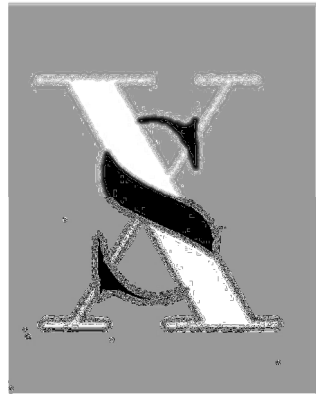


Xavier Society for the Blind



**The National Catholic Press and Lending Library
For the Visually Impaired**

An Apostolate in the Jesuit Tradition

Serving God and the Blind Since 1900

www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org

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OUR HISTORY: The Xavier “Free Publication” Society began on 16th Street in Manhattan, in a single room at the College (later the High School) of St. Francis Xavier, from which the Society derived its name. Its mission was a simple one: to make writings on religion and spirituality available to the blind. At its founding in 1900, inspired by a group of dedicated lay women and aided by a Jesuit priest, Rev. Joseph Stadelman, SJ, Xavier Society was the only Catholic publishing house to make such writings available to the blind, and all services were provided free of charge, a tradition that continues to the present.

OUR PATRON SAINT: The patron saint of our work is St. Francis Xavier, one of the first Jesuits, who spent his life helping to spread the teachings of Christ throughout the world. He is the patron of missionaries, and ours is very much a missionary venture, taking the word of God to those who need assistance in whatever form best helps them to hear it.

OUR SERVICES:

Magazine Periodicals Now Available as Downloads for Our Clients. The Xavier Society for the Blind has a long history of making the best in Catholic literature and information available. We survey the best of Catholic periodicals, and regularly add the outstanding articles to our website, where they are available for download as digital audio via our secure website. We are no longer able to send CD versions of the periodicals to clients. Among the periodicals currently available are: *America* magazine, *Bible Today*, *Catholic Digest*, *One* (formerly *Catholic Near East*), *Liguorian*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, and *St. Anthony Messenger*.

We also provide: **The Catholic Review:** *The Catholic Review* is a quarterly digest of some of the best and most important articles that have appeared in Catholic publications during the period. It is available for download as braille and digital audio via our secure website.

The Xavier Review: *The Xavier Review* is an in-house newsletter for clients to keep them abreast of the latest publications available and of new services being added. We also try to inform them of the latest technical developments and of particular services they can obtain from other agencies. It is sent out four times a year in braille, and is also available as a download as braille and digital audio via our secure website.

Mass Propers: One of the most important services we offer our clients is the Mass Propers. Those are the prayers and the readings for Mass. Some of our clients are Lectors in their churches; without this service, they would not be able to take that active role in their communities. Propers are mailed to clients in braille, and are available for direct download as braille and digital audio via our secure website. Large print Propers are also available at the secure web site for downloading.

Library: XSB founded and continues to manage the National Catholic Lending Library for the Blind, a member of the National Library Service of the Library of Congress. Library holdings are available in braille both as books that may be kept or returned, and audio formats. Some audio editions may be downloaded from the website as well as borrowed on disks.

Children's Books in Braille: We have a special interest in helping develop young braille readers, and through the work of the Columbiettes, we provide the FUNNY ALPHABET book for beginning braille readers. Through a program with the Anna B. Foundation, we provide story books in print and in braille, so parents and children can read together when one or another is blind. We also have a growing library of books for older children and teens.

Special Services: We cannot always anticipate the specific needs of our clients, and so we welcome and encourage special requests as they arise. For instance, each year we regularly braille selected catechetical texts (especially as needed for young people in catechism classes), major Vatican documents and prayers and devotions for specific celebrations or religious groups. Recently we added several books from the Orthodox tradition to our holdings, and in the near future we are hoping to be able to start a Spanish-language division.

Veterans Outreach Project: We are currently involved in a special outreach project to make veterans aware of what we have available and the ways in which we can serve those who have served our country. We have special materials in our library specifically aimed at veterans, and we are coordinating with veterans groups, chaplaincy organizations and government and military offices to find ways we can better serve those veterans who have lost their sight or who have limited vision.

SUPPORT OUR MISSION: The Xavier Society for the Blind provides all of our services free-of-charge, and our work is supported solely by the generosity of private donations. We receive no direct financial assistance from any federal, state, or city agency. To meet our annual operating budget, we rely upon the individual donations of many loyal benefactors, corporate participation in matching-gifts programs, grants from some charitable foundations and the contributed services of devoted volunteers. Much of our revenue is also obtained through bequests and estate plans, living memorials of support to the Xavier Society. There are several ways you can help the Xavier Society continue our mission into our second century:

- *Donate securely online at xaviersocietyfortheblind.org*
- *Mail a check or money order payable to Xavier Society for the Blind*

- *Consult your human resources office about your company's Matching Gift Programs.*
- *Gifts of appreciated securities may provide certain additional tax benefits.*
- *Please consider the Xavier Society when preparing or revising your estate planning.*

All donations to XSB are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by the law.

Thank You!

