

Something Special from India

It is always sad to hear of the untimely death of a dear friend. I always keep thinking of Father Xavier as a very young man. About 30 years ago I was 42 years and he must have been about 36 and, since I have not met him in the intervening years, I picture him now as he was then. We have been corresponding during those years however.

I remember Father Xavier as a scholar and a gentleman. In those past years I was moderator of our diocesan council of Catholic women and attended many meetings in many parishes. He went with me on his "Promotional tour" and I always billed him as "something special from India". I taught him to say the "Philosophy of India" and not "Indian Philosophy"—to these Americans the latter always means "American Indian". He always did his work well and completely.

Being this far from India and not many of our people being world travellers, we always listened intently; he gave a clear picture of the Church in your country. He was famous for his scholarly and gentlemanly presentation. It made one feel proud to be a member of the Church to which such a scholar belonged. His talks were never loaded with humor but enough lighthearted to be delightful as well as informative.

Requiescat in Pace!

— Fr Leo Neudecker