

Instructions for the Diocese of Sacramento regarding the Special Indulgences to the Faithful during the current pandemic.

On March 19, 2020, the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See issued a decree, *ex auctoritate Summi Pontificis*, granting special indulgences to the Faithful who are suffering from COVID-19, commonly known as coronavirus, and are subject to quarantine by the health authorities in hospitals or in their own homes. The granting of special indulgences also includes those who are health workers, first-responders, family members, all those who in any capacity -- including prayer -- care for them, as well as all members of the Faithful who join with the Church in imploring from our merciful God the end of the epidemic and relief for all afflicted.

Hoping to slow the rate of infection caused by COVID-19 and protect vulnerable members of our community, government officials have enacted necessary and prudent measures. I have cooperated with these measures for the good of the Faithful and clergy as well as the common good of all. The decree from the Apostolic Penitentiary serves the mission of the Church to provide care for the afflicted and the salvation of souls.

An indulgence is “the expression of the Church’s confidence of being heard by the Father when in view of Christ’s merits and, by His gift, Our Lady and the saints, she asks Him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through the channels of grace.” (*John Paul II, General Audience, September 29, 1999*) A plenary indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment for sin whose guilt is already forgiven. (c. 992) It removes all the temporal punishment due to sin. (*CCC 1471*)

In order to obtain the plenary indulgence, individuals, with a spirit detached from any sin, unite spiritually through media to one of the following ways:

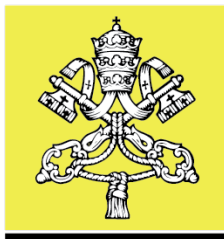
- The celebration of the Holy Mass
- The recitation of the Holy Rosary
- The pious practice of the Way of the Cross and other forms of devotion
- At least recite the Creed, the Lord’s prayer, and a pious invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters

These are to be done with the willful intention to fulfill the usual conditions of receiving a plenary indulgence (sacramental confessions, Eucharistic communion, and prayer according to the Holy Father’s intention) as soon as possible.

Please provide catechesis and counseling to the Faithful regarding obtaining the benefits of this special indulgence. More resources regarding this and other pastoral assistance will be available on the diocesan website.

Join me in prayer as we journey in Faith through the dark valley of this global pandemic. We place our trust in the divine, tender mercy of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. May the intercession of the Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Joseph and all the Saints bring healing to the afflicted, patient perseverance and protection to those who care for them, eternal rest to our beloved deceased, and comfort to all those who mourn.

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BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 200320c

Friday 20.03.2020

Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic

The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (*Rom* 12: 12). The words written by Saint Paul to the Church of Rome resonate throughout the entire history of the Church and guide the judgment of the faithful in the face of all suffering, sickness and calamity.

The present moment in which the whole of humanity, threatened by an invisible and insidious disease, which for some time now has become part of all our lives, is marked day after day by anguished fears, new uncertainties and above all widespread physical and moral suffering.

The Church, following the example of her Divine Master, has always had the care of the sick at heart. As Saint John Paul II points out, the value of human suffering is twofold: “It is supernatural because it is rooted in the divine mystery of the Redemption of the world, and it is likewise deeply human, because in it the person discovers himself, his own humanity, his own dignity, his own mission” (Apostolic Letter *Salvifici Doloris*, 31).

Pope Francis, too, in these recent days, has shown his paternal closeness and renewed his invitation to pray incessantly for those who are sick with the Coronavirus.

So that all those who suffer because of COVID-19, precisely in the mystery of this suffering, may rediscover “the same redemptive suffering of Christ” (*ibid.*, 30), this Apostolic Penitentiary, *ex auctoritate Summi Pontificis*, trusting in the word of Christ the Lord and considering with a spirit of faith the epidemic currently underway, to be lived in a spirit of personal conversion, grants the gift of Indulgences in accordance with the following disposition.

The *Plenary Indulgence* is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious

practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.

Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (*Jn 15: 13*), will obtain the same gift of the *Plenary Indulgence* under the same conditions.

This Apostolic Penitentiary also willingly grants a *Plenary Indulgence* under the same conditions on the occasion of the current world epidemic, also to those faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.

The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and of the *Viaticum*, entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and granting the faithful a *Plenary Indulgence* on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime (in this case the Church makes up for the three usual conditions required). For the attainment of this indulgence the use of the crucifix or the cross is recommended (cf. *Enchiridion indulgentiarum*, no.12).

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of the Church, Health of the Sick and Help of Christians, our Advocate, help suffering humanity, saving us from the evil of this pandemic and obtaining for us every good necessary for our salvation and sanctification.

The present Decree is valid notwithstanding any provision to the contrary.

Given in Rome, from the seat of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on 19 March 2020.

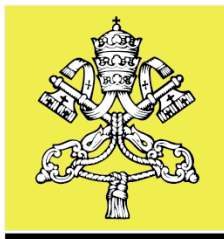
Mauro Cardinal Piacenza

Major Penitentiary

Krzysztof Nykiel

Regent

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BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. pande

Viernes 20.03.2020

Decreto de la Penitenciaría Apostólica relativo a la concesión de indulgencias especiales a los fieles en la actual situación de pandemia

PENITENCIARÍA APOSTÓLICA

DECRETO

Se concede el don de Indulgencias especiales a los fieles que sufren la enfermedad de Covid-19, comúnmente conocida como Coronavirus, así como a los trabajadores de la salud, a los familiares y a todos aquellos que, en cualquier calidad, los cuidan.

“Con la alegría de la esperanza; constantes en la tribulación; perseverantes en la oración”(Rom 12:12). Las palabras escritas por San Pablo a la Iglesia de Roma resuenan a lo largo de toda la historia de la Iglesia y orientan el juicio de los fieles ante cada sufrimiento, enfermedad y calamidad.

El momento actual que atraviesa la humanidad entera, amenazada por una enfermedad invisible e insidiosa, que desde hace tiempo ha entrado con prepotencia a formar parte de la vida de todos, está jalonado día tras día por angustiosos temores, nuevas incertidumbres y, sobre todo, por un sufrimiento físico y moral generalizado.

La Iglesia, siguiendo el ejemplo de su Divino Maestro, siempre se ha preocupado de cuidar a los enfermos. Como indicaba San Juan Pablo II, el valor del sufrimiento humano es doble: " Sobrenatural y a la vez humano. Es sobrenatural, porque se arraiga en el misterio divino de la redención del mundo, y es también profundamente humano, porque en él el hombre se encuentra a sí mismo, su propia humanidad, su propia dignidad y su propia misión." (Carta Apostólica Salvifici Doloris, 31).

También el Papa Francisco, en estos últimos días, ha manifestado su cercanía paternal y ha renovado su invitación a rezar incesantemente por los enfermos de Coronavirus.

Para que todos los que sufren a causa del Covid-19, precisamente en el misterio de este padecer, puedan redescubrir "el mismo sufrimiento redentor de Cristo" (ibíd., 30), esta Penitenciaría Apostólica, ex auctoritate Summi Pontificis, confiando en la palabra de Cristo Señor y considerando con espíritu de fe la epidemia actualmente en curso, para vivirla con espíritu de conversión personal, concede el don de las Indulgencias de acuerdo con la siguiente disposición.

Se concede la Indulgencia plenaria a los fieles enfermos de Coronavirus, sujetos a cuarentena por orden de la autoridad sanitaria en los hospitales o en sus propias casas si, con espíritu desprendido de cualquier pecado, se unen espiritualmente a través de los medios de comunicación a la celebración de la Santa Misa, al rezo del Santo Rosario, a la práctica piadosa del Vía Crucis u otras formas de devoción, o si al menos rezan el Credo, el Padrenuestro y una piadosa invocación a la Santísima Virgen María, ofreciendo esta prueba con espíritu de fe en Dios y de caridad hacia los hermanos, con la voluntad de cumplir las condiciones habituales (confesión sacramental, comunión eucarística y oración según las intenciones del Santo Padre), apenas les sea posible.

Los agentes sanitarios, los familiares y todos aquellos que, siguiendo el ejemplo del Buen Samaritano, exponiéndose al riesgo de contagio, cuidan de los enfermos de Coronavirus según las palabras del divino Redentor: "Nadie tiene mayor amor que éste: dar la vida por sus amigos" (Jn 15,13), obtendrán el mismo don de la Indulgencia Plenaria en las mismas condiciones.

Esta Penitenciaría Apostólica, además, concede de buen grado, en las mismas condiciones, la Indulgencia Plenaria con ocasión de la actual epidemia mundial, también a aquellos fieles que ofrezcan la visita al Santísimo Sacramento, o la Adoración Eucarística, o la lectura de la Sagrada Escritura durante al menos media hora, o el rezo del Santo Rosario, o el ejercicio piadoso del Vía Crucis, o el rezo de la corona de la Divina Misericordia, para implorar a Dios Todopoderoso el fin de la epidemia, el alivio de los afligidos y la salvación eterna de los que el Señor ha llamado a sí.

La Iglesia reza por los que estén imposibilitado de recibir el sacramento de la Unción de los enfermos y el Viático, encomendando a todos y cada uno de ellos a la Divina Misericordia en virtud de la comunión de los santos y concede a los fieles la Indulgencia plenaria en punto de muerte siempre que estén debidamente dispuestos y hayan rezado durante su vida algunas oraciones (en este caso la Iglesia suple a las tres condiciones habituales requeridas). Para obtener esta indulgencia se recomienda el uso del crucifijo o de la cruz (cf. Enchiridion indulgentiarum, n.12).

Que la Santísima Virgen María, Madre de Dios y de la Iglesia, Salud de los Enfermos y Auxilio de los Cristianos, Abogada nuestra, socorra a la humanidad doliente, ahuyentando de nosotros el mal de esta pandemia y obteniendo todo bien necesario para nuestra salvación y santificación.

El presente decreto es válido independientemente de cualquier disposición en contrario.

Dado en Roma, desde la sede de la Penitenciaría Apostólica, el 19 de marzo de 2020.

Mauro. Card. Piacenza

Penitenciario Mayor

Krzysztof Nykiel

Regente

