

How to receive a Plenary Indulgence

What is a Plenary Indulgence?

In the Sacrament of Penance the guilt of sin is removed, and with it the eternal punishment we incur by mortal sin. There remains, however, the temporal punishment required by Divine justice which must be fulfilled either in the present life or in the world to come, i.e. in Purgatory. A plenary indulgence offers the penitent the means of eliminating all the debt during life on earth.

A Plenary Indulgence is offered to Catholics who participate attentively and piously in a sacred function. For a complete list of possible activities, go to www.ourladyswarriors.org/indulge/plenary.htm.

However, these customary conditions established to receive a plenary indulgence must be fulfilled.

- 1) *Be baptized, Catholic and in the State of Grace.*
- 2) *Sacramental Confession* seven days before or after the indulgenced work - in this case, any one of the list of activities found at the “our Lady” website.
- 3) *Participation in the Eucharist*, preferably on the same day the prescribed work is performed, although the allowable time is considered to be “about 20 days.” This will automatically occur if you receive the Eucharist during your indulgence activity.
- 4) *Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father* such as an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be, though no particular prayer is prescribed. These prayers may be made several days before or after, but are most fittingly made on the day the indulgenced work is done.
- 5) *Performance of the prescribed work* - e.g. attending a First Communion Mass.
- 6) *Renunciation of all sin.* It is this disposition to renounce all attachment to our sins which opens our heart to the reception of the full remission of the temporal guilt of sin, which God desires to grant us through the Church. This can be accomplished as a part of our Confession.
- 7) *Have at least a General Intention to gain the indulgence.* This can be fulfilled by making a general intention at the beginning of the day to gain the indulgence for which one is eligible that day, or by making a specific intention at the time of doing the indulgenced work.

The Church does not presume on the mercy of God, nor claim she allows the sinner to repudiate his debt. Rather, an indulgence provides the repentant sinner the means of paying his debt. In this way, the Church neither leaves the penitent helplessly in debt for his sins nor acquits the sinner of all further accounting; she enables him to meet his obligation.

If you have any questions about this amazing and merciful gift from God, please contact Anne Fackler at 345-1658. Please prayerfully consider taking full advantage of this important opportunity.