

WHAT EVERY
CATHOLIC SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT
PURGATORY AND
INDULGENCES

- † The existence of Purgatory is a dogma of the Catholic Church.
- † Death is proof of the temporal penalty due for sin, since we are still liable to die, even after we've been redeemed, baptized, and had our sins forgiven.
- † Souls in Purgatory undergo intense, purifying suffering.
- † The poor souls there are unable to do anything to help themselves.
- † Catholics are called to act with charity toward the poor souls, obtaining indulgences to help secure their prompt release.



It is a divinely revealed truth that sins bring punishments inflicted by God's sanctity and justice. These must be expiated either on this earth through the sorrows, miseries and calamities of this life and above all through death, or else in the life beyond through fire and torments or "purifying" punishments. — **Pope Paul VI, INDULGENTIARUM DOCTRINA, 1967**

Just Another Faithful Catholic

DOUG LAWRENCE'S CATHOLIC NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2010

Sin, death, Purgatory and you

Even after God has forgiven venial sin, and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, absolved us of mortal sin and remitted the corresponding eternal punishment, certain (limited/reparative/remedial) penalties, known as **Temporal Punishment** may still remain.

If this matter has not been satisfactorily resolved or completely remitted during life, or through the ultimate experience of death, a person who dies a friend of God, in a state of grace, might necessarily require **final purification in Purgatory, after which Heaven is always absolutely guaranteed.**

The souls in Purgatory are **holy**, because all their sins have been forgiven and they have already been assured by God, of their eternal salvation.



The souls are **poor** because they are unable to help themselves, and must rely only on the charity of others, and on the mercy of God, for release.

Without our help, some poor souls might even be there until the end of time!

Members of the Church, the Body of Christ, are called to act with charity on behalf of these souls **... who are our dearly departed friends, neighbors, classmates and relatives ...**

obtaining Indulgences for them, through the authority of the Church, by the grace of God, according to the superabundant merits of Jesus and the Saints.

Partial indulgences have the power to *reduce* or *minimize* a soul's stay in Purgatory, while **plenary indulgences** may totally *eliminate* the need for purgation, or serve to obtain the *immediate* release of a soul who is already there.

The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Poor Souls

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the Official Consolation of the Poor Souls

According to the grace and power of her divine son Jesus, the Blessed Virgin knows precisely to which souls the indulgences we obtain might best be applied.



Based on the estimated huge number of poor souls in Purgatory, there's typically always a holy soul who is just one Indulgence away from Heaven!

Take the pledge...



Only baptized Catholics in good standing, in a state of grace, may obtain indulgences.

Indulgences do not have the power to get a soul out of Hell. All souls in Purgatory have already been assured of their eternal salvation.

The existence of Purgatory is an infallible dogma of the Catholic Church.

In order to receive indulgences, it's first necessary to have at least a general intention of obtaining them. Proper spiritual disposition is also critical.

This resolution will declare your continuing intention of obtaining indulgences.

Henceforth, all of your satisfactory indulgenced work and prayer will accrue to the benefit of the poor souls in Purgatory!

Continuing Spiritual Resolution

In Jesus' name I hereby make a continuing resolution of my general intention to obtain all available indulgences, and to place the fruits of my satisfactory indulgenced work into the loving and capable hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary, primarily for the benefit of the holy souls in Purgatory, to be applied as she alone determines, according to the will and the grace of God. Amen.

Complete the resolution by **making the sign of the cross** and you will have **received your first indulgence!**
Feel free to **reaffirm** this resolution as often as you like!

and get busy!

- Praying the Rosary
- Making the sign of the cross
- Giving alms (helping the poor or homeless)
- Adoring Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, even for a moment
- Raising one's thoughts to God in a pious invocation
- Praying the "Way of the Cross" (Stations)
- Praying the "Hail Holy Queen" prayer
- Praying the "Come Holy Spirit" prayer
- Participating in a three-day spiritual retreat
- Veneration/kissing the cross at Easter time
- Receiving First Holy Communion
- Attending a First Holy Communion Mass
- Praying the "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord" prayer

- Teaching a Catechism class
- Attending a Catechism Class
- Reading the Bible
- Fasting/Foregoing licit pleasures or privileges
- Using a blessed crucifix, cross, rosary, scapular, medal
- Praying for the Pope
- Making any approved "Act of Contrition"
- Receiving a Papal Blessing, even by radio or television
- Praying for religious vocations using any approved form
- Taking time out for mental prayer
- Attending a mission/listening to Catholic preaching
- Properly venerating a Saint on his/her feast day
- Visiting a church on All Souls Day, to pray
- Visiting cathedrals and churches on specified days
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises
- Praying the "Glory be"

"... It would be a mistake to think that we can receive this gift by simply performing certain outward acts. On the contrary, they are required as the expression and support of our progress in conversion."
- Pope John Paul II

Every one of these acts and prayers qualifies for at least a partial indulgence. Every indulgence has the potential of getting a soul released from Purgatory.

Indulgences obtained may be applied only to our own personal soul, or to the soul of someone who has died. Indulgences may not be sold or otherwise transferred.

You'll find links to all pertinent official Church documents and more at: www.askmeaboutgod.org
There are many more indulgences and there's much more to learn!



A special plenary indulgence for the moment of death.



The Apostolic Pardon must be administered by a priest. Ask for it!

The Apostolic Pardon is applicable only to a Catholic who is considered to be very close to death, and it is **given at the priest's option**, along with the sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation and Holy Communion.

The sacraments act to forgive all sins, to comfort and fortify the dying person and to infuse the soul with grace, in the fervent hope of favorable divine judgment.

The Apostolic Pardon serves to fully remit any and all temporal penalties

that might still be due from forgiven sins, eliminating the need for a stay in Purgatory.

Fully, authoritatively, and graciously prepared for death and divine judgment by the Catholic Church in this way, and assuming proper disposition of the recipient, Heaven should be the next "stop".

Because the Apostolic Pardon is optional, you may need to request it of your priest.

By the Faculty which the Apostolic See has given me, I grant you a plenary indulgence for the remission of all your sins, and I bless you in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Partial Indulgences: they're all good!

Only baptized Catholics in good standing qualify to obtain indulgences. It's also necessary to be in a state of grace, and to have at least a general intention of obtaining an indulgence.

Other than the above, all that's typically necessary to gain a **partial** indulgence is to have a contrite heart while performing the specified, indulgenced work.

Some good things about partial indulgences:

- 1) They are easy to obtain and can be obtained in many different ways.
- 2) It's permissible to obtain many partial indulgences, each and every day.
- 3) Each has the potential of getting a soul released from Purgatory.

While a partial indulgence is not as powerful as a plenary (total) indulgence, a large number of partial indulgences, entrusted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, would almost certainly be capable of freeing many poor souls.

When done in a spirit of pure charity, there's no need for us to know the identity of any of the poor souls who might subsequently be freed from Purgatory, as a result of our work.

Plenary Indulgences: powerful, tightly-structured.

A plenary indulgence might be most practically applied to the soul of a specific dear departed friend or loved one, in the hope of totally eliminating the need for any stay in Purgatory, or if already there, to obtain their immediate release.

- † Only one plenary indulgence may be obtained each day, unless in danger of death.
- † To gain a plenary (total) indulgence you must perform the work, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the Pope ... all within the specified time period.
- † The work must also be performed in a spirit that is totally detached from all sin, even venial sin. If anything is lacking a partial indulgence typically results.

Refer to the official USCCB **Manual of Indulgences: Norms and Grants (1999)** and/or seek out a knowledgeable deacon, priest, or spiritual director for specific answers to your questions about plenary and partial indulgences.

There is a lot more to know about plenary indulgences, and there is also much more to gain ... for us ... and for the whole Church.

The Confraternity of Holy Souls

The purpose and mission of The Confraternity of Holy Souls is to guide Catholics in the regular pursuit and consistent achievement of Church-authorized, indulgenced spiritual work and to build up the Body of Christ by encouraging the faithful to engage in acts of piety, charity and mercy, in order to gain the prompt release of holy souls from Purgatory, so those souls might immediately experience the joy of Heaven, ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ and serving in perfect charity as grace-empowered intercessors for all the properly ordered work and causes of the faithful on Earth.



Number _____

Date _____

A confraternity first established by The Legion of Mary, Mother of Divine Mercy/Prædium Our Lady of Peace Parish, Danvers, Illinois, Sunday, December 6, 2003, on the Feast of St. Nicholas, in honor of Father Daniel Cambra, Provincial of the Marian Priests of the Immaculate Conception.



Imperfection transformed into glory!

People no longer seem to understand or appreciate sin or wrath. All they want from God is love!

God is love, but his wrath remains real, formidable, and inescapable, since wrath is due not to a lack of love, but to the divine judgment which necessarily falls upon sin in the moral world, over which God rules.

So Purgatory, necessitated by sin, is provided for the good of the elect, out of divine love and justice. And in spite of many recent opinions to the contrary, Purgatory is not a supernatural "Club Med", but a state of intense suffering, whereby God transforms human imperfection into Heavenly glory.

Since the suffering has both a high purpose and an end, which is always Heaven, Purgatory is also full of hope, joy and gratitude.

Catholics must remain ever mindful of the suffering, and of their duty in charity towards the poor souls, since without this urgent awareness, almost no one would ever bother praying for their release, and many souls might remain there until the end of time.

Our secondary objective is to revive the widespread practice of indulgences, so we might quickly and efficiently add many strategic, Heavenly reinforcements to the ranks of the faithful on Earth, definitively transforming modern society, and re-conquering the world for Jesus Christ, the King!

Here's your membership certificate. Just cut it out and insert the name and date. There's no dues, and no one will contact you ... until Judgment Day!

Have perpetual Masses offered for your dearly departed. A free service. Go to: www.holysouls.com/enter/

Summing things up ...

We have excellent reason to believe that by the power and grace of her divine Son Jesus, and also according to her own considerable merit, the Blessed Virgin Mary is responsible for administering God's supernaturally optimized algorithm (method or process) for efficiently purifying holy souls, getting them released from Purgatory, and promptly advanced to Heaven.

For the same reason, indulgences never go to waste. If one particular soul is somehow not eligible, or is no longer in need, the indulgence will automatically be applied to another worthy soul, probably according to some sort of a hierarchical system, since that's the way God typically does things.

Of course, we usually have no way of knowing about how and when these things actually transpire, but the Blessed Virgin Mary certainly does. That's why we should always, as a matter of good faith and practice, entrust the bulk of our indulgenced work to the Mother of God.



We do the work necessary to obtain indulgences. By the power of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary supernaturally allocates and applies them.



It's worth noting that some or all of our indulgenced work may also be applied to our own personal soul.

Pray about it.

From all of this, it should be clear that regularly obtaining lots of partial indulgences is the "key" to freeing many, many holy souls from Purgatory in the shortest possible time.

Please ... Just do it!

PAGE

4