Indulgence

- **What is an Indulgence**? An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven (Sacrament of Confession), which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. (can. 992, CCC 1471)
- **How does this relate to my relationship with Jesus?** This is another sign of Jesus' great desire for us to be with Him in heaven! Not only does He forgive us our sins (Baptism/Confession) to save us from the fires of Hell, but He also takes away all time in Purgatory (Plenary Indulgence)! Jesus so desires you to be with Him, that He doesn't want you to go to Purgatory temporarily, but straight to Heaven!
- **What is Purgatory?** The state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied the punishment due to their sins. You can think of Purgatory as the "Entryway" to Heaven. A soul in Purgatory is only there temporarily and will only end up in Heaven! Simple logic - If I am imperfect (not the psychological illness of perfectionism, but being perfected in love) and I enter the perfect place (Heaven), I would make Heaven imperfect. So God, in His mercy, instead of sending me to hell because of these imperfections or to satisfy any temporal punishment due to sin, gives me time (Purgatory) to remove the imperfections. Once perfected in love, I enter heaven.
- **What does an Indulgence do?** An Indulgence either removes some (Partial Indulgence) or all (Plenary Indulgence) time in Purgatory (temporal punishment due to sin)
- **Can I give it to someone else?** Plenary indulgence may be applied to the recipient or a deceased soul, unless otherwise stated.
- **How do I get a Plenary Indulgence?** In order to obtain one, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:
    1. Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin
    2. Have sacramentally confessed their sins
    3. Receive the Holy Eucharist
    4. Pray for the intentions of the The Pope (Our Father & Hail Mary)
    5. Do the Prescribed Work for the plenary indulgence
- **What are some of the Prescribed Works (# 5 above) to receive a plenary indulgence?**
    - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least half an hour
    - Devout reading of the Sacred Scriptures for at least half an hour
    - The devout performance of the Stations of the Cross
    - The recitation of the Rosary in a group at a church or oratory with family, religious Community, or pious association
    - Devoutly visiting a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the dead from November 1-8 (May only be applied to one deceased person)

- **Further Instructions:** “It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions (#’s 2-4 above) take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.”[1]
- **How often can I get one?** A partial indulgence may be gained several times a day, unless otherwise stated; A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day.
- **Is it hard to obtain a Plenary Indulgence?** It's being free from all attachment to sin (# 1 above) that's hard and it's quite possible that even evidently good people, who seek plenary indulgences regularly, never, in their whole lives, obtain one, because they are unwilling to relinquish their favorite little sins.
- **What if I don’t complete all the steps for a Plenary Indulgence?** If one is not free from all attachment to sin (# 1 above), the indulgence will only be partial. If a person doesn’t complete #’s 2-4 above, then an otherwise plenary indulgence becomes only partial.

[1] Taken From: https://www.ewtn.com/expert/answers/indulgences_conditions.htm