

## **INDULGENCES FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY DURING NOVEMBER 2021 – THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS**

As you may know, every year, from November 1 to November 8 (the Octave of All Saints Day), the Church grants a plenary indulgence that can be applied to the souls in purgatory. Normally, we can receive one such indulgence on each of the eight days for a soul in purgatory. This year, however, just as in 2020, due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, Pope Francis has again extended these opportunities throughout the *entire month* of November!

This means:

- **All Souls Day Plenary Indulgence:** this plenary indulgence which one can normally receive only on November 2 for one's own soul by visiting a church and reciting the "Our Father" and the "Creed" there, may now be done on any other day in November.
- **Plenary Indulgences from November 1 to 8:** these plenary indulgences (one per day) that can normally be obtained by the faithful who visit a cemetery and pray for souls in Purgatory during those eight days may now be transferred to any or all of the days of November.

When you visit a cemetery to obtain this indulgence for a deceased person, you should also recite these prayers:

1. Our Father
2. The Creed
3. The Eternal Rest Prayer (*"Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."*)

Note: The cemetery you visit does *not* have to be the cemetery in which the person for whom you are praying is buried!

In addition, **the elderly, sick and housebound** who are unable to visit a cemetery this November will still be able to obtain a Plenary Indulgence as long as, in front of an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, they join spiritually with all the other faithful, completely detached from sin and with the intention of complying as soon as possible with the usual conditions for plenary indulgences (*see below*), recite pious prayers for the deceased (*e.g. the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, other appropriate prayers*) or perform a work of mercy by offering to God the sorrows and hardships of their own lives.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A PLENARY INDULGENCE:**

1. Do the work while in a state of grace.
2. Receive Sacramental confession within 20 days (several plenary indulgences may be earned per reception. i.e. If you want to earn one plenary indulgence for souls in purgatory each day for the Month of November, you need only to go to confession once, but you must fulfill the other requirements listed each day).
3. Receive Holy Communion (one plenary indulgence may be earned per reception).
4. Pray for the Pope's intentions (one Our Father and one Hail Mary are enough).
5. Have no attachment to sin (even venial). Make an act of will to love God and despise sin.

*Even if you are not able to fulfill all these requirements  
but can only accomplish them in part, it is worth doing:  
you can still receive a **partial indulgence** for the soul for whom you are praying!*