THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE

Excerpts from the Letter of the Holy Father Pope Francis according to which an Indulgence is granted to the faithful on the occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy:

“My thought first of all goes to all the faithful who, whether in individual Dioceses or as pilgrims to Rome, will experience the grace of the Jubilee. I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed.”

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Cathedral

“To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral ... as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion... It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.”

On Behalf of the Deceased

“Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.”

For the Sick and Homebound

“Additionally, I am thinking of those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, often confined to the home. For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence.”

For the Incarcerated

“My thoughts also turn to those incarcerated, whose freedom is limited. The Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty, which is intended to include the many people who, despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they worked and sincerely wish to re-enter society and make their honest contribution to it. May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

Performing Works of Mercy

“I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the
witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one. The Jubilee Indulgence is thus full, the fruit of the very event which is to be celebrated and experienced with faith, hope and charity.”

**Conditions for Obtaining an Indulgence**

1. In order to be capable of gaining indulgences one must be baptized, not excommunicated, and in the state of grace at least at the completion of the prescribed work (*the paragraphs above indicate those specific to the Jubilee of Mercy*).

2. A **plenary indulgence** can be gained only *once a day*. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

   — have the interior disposition of *complete detachment from sin, even venial sin*;

   — *have sacramentially confessed* their sins;

   — *receive the Holy Eucharist* (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required);

   — *pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff*.

3. It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope’s intentions 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.

4. For the sake of those legitimately impeded, *confessors* can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).

5. Indulgences can *always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased*, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE
AT SAINT MARY’S CATHEDRAL, LANSING

1. Make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Cathedral as a sign of your deep desire for true conversion. The Holy Door is located inside the Cathedral to the left on entering from the main doors on Seymour Avenue. It is the southernmost in the series of interior doors on that side, near the former baptistry and the Saint Joseph shrine. A Divine Mercy image has been placed just inside the entrance from the Holy Door. Also, an exhibit reflective of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy is on display in the former baptistry.

2. Say the Profession of Faith. Either the Apostles’ Creed or the Nicene Creed may be said. The first "profession of faith" is made at Baptism. The profession of faith is first and foremost the baptismal creed. In saying the profession of faith, we renew our baptismal promises. “To say the Creed with faith is to enter into communion with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst we believe.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 197). The text of the Apostles’ Creed follows:

   I believe in God,
   the Father almighty,
   Creator of heaven and earth,
   and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
   who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
   born of the Virgin Mary,
   suffered under Pontius Pilate,
   was crucified, died and was buried;
   he descended into hell;
   on the third day he rose again from the dead;
   he ascended into heaven,
   and is seated at the right hand
   of God the Father almighty;
   from there he will come to judge
   the living and the dead.
   I believe in the Holy Spirit,
   the holy catholic Church,
   the communion of saints,
   the forgiveness of sins,
   the resurrection of the body,
   and life everlasting. Amen.

3. Confess your sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation within about twenty days before or after your pilgrimage to the Holy Door.

4. Receive Holy Communion, reflecting on God’s mercy.

5. Pray for the Pope and for the intentions that he bears in his heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world. Any prayer may be said, according to personal devotion, but the Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

6. The Indulgence can be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

7. A Plenary Indulgence can be gained only once per day.

Diocese of Lansing – Office of Worship