



Indulgence

Participation in the Consecration of the Diocese

What is an indulgence?

An **indulgence** is an act of faith by which a person may obtain release from the temporal punishment associated with sins committed, either for oneself or on behalf of another (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1471).

In observance of the [consecration of the Diocese of Austin](#) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary a *plenary indulgence* may be received.

For able-bodied Catholics

- Who participate in their parish Mass on December 10 (or the anticipatory Mass on December 9) where, united with Bishop Vásquez, the priests of the diocese will pray the Prayer of Consecration.

For the elderly, confined, ill or those otherwise unable to participate in Mass:

- Offer their sufferings to the Lord living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial;
 - **OR** they may also receive the plenary indulgence by completing a [Corporal Work of Mercy](#) or [Spiritual Work of Mercy](#), especially prayers for the souls in purgatory.

In addition to one of the above, the faithful must:

- **Have no attachment to sin (even venial)** one may make an act of the will to love God and despise sin.
- **Go to confession.**
- **Receive Communion** while reflecting on God's mercy, preferably within Mass.
- **Make a profession of faith** (Nicene Creed or Apostles' Creed).
- **Pray for the pope and for his intentions**, which may be satisfied by praying one Our Father and one Hail Mary.

It is *appropriate* that the sacramental confession especially Communion and the prayer for the pope's intentions take place on the same day of the pilgrimage, **but it is not necessary**. The sacramental rites and prayers may be carried out over several days (about three weeks) and at a place other than the pilgrimage site. A plenary indulgence may be gained only once each day.