




OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

To: All Bishops

From: ✠ Cardinal Wilton Gregory 
Archbishop of Washington

Date: Thursday 21 January, 2021

Subject: Plenary Indulgence for Pilgrims Attending the March for Life
Events January 28-29, 2021

Your Eminence/Your Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you regarding the granting of a plenary indulgence surrounding this year's March for Life events.

This year's plenary indulgence provides for those pilgrims who will attend events in person and for those pilgrims who will attend events virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. Pilgrims who participate in person, or virtually due to age, sickness or other grave reasons that prevent them from leaving their homes, but who join via TV, radio or social media in the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, January 28, 2021 will obtain a plenary indulgence. The same conditions apply for pilgrims, who will attend in person or virtually the Mass for Life, which will be celebrated on Friday, January 29, 2021 at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew.

Attached to this memo, please find a copy of the decree as well as an English translation.

Thanking you for all you do to promote the dignity of all human life, and I assure you of my prayers for you, and your ministry.



Prot. N. 16/21/1

DECRETUM

PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA, ad augendam fideliū religionem animarūque salutem, vi facultatum sibi a Summo Pontifice Francisco Divina Providentia Papa tributarum, attentis precibus nuper allatis ab Em. mo Domino Wilton Daniele S. R. E. Card. Gregory, Archiepiscopo Metropolitano Washingtonensi, de caelestibus Ecclesiae thesauris benigne concedi plenariam Indulgentiam, suetis sub conditionibus (sacramentali Confessione, eucharistica Communionem et oratione ad mentem Summi Pontificis) a christifidelibus vere paenitentibus atque caritate compulsis lucrandam, quam etiam animabus fidelium in Purgatorio detentis per modum suffragii applicare possint, si sacris interfuerint celebrationibus quae, magno cum concursu populū, totum per annum eventum v. "March for Life" nuncupatum, diebus XXVIII et XXIX Ianuarii MCMXXI, in tota Washingtonensi Archiepiscopaei praesertim in Nationali Immaculae Conceptionis Beatae Mariae Virginis Sanctuario et in ipsa Cathedrali ecclesia) peragentur:


Seres, infirmi omnesque qui gravi causa domo exire nequeunt, pariter plenariam consequi poterunt Indulgentiam, concepta detestatione cuiusque peccati et intentione praestandi, ubi primum licuerit, tres consuetas condiciones, si sacris functionibus se spiritaliter adiunxerint, dum instrumentis televisivis et radiophonis propagabuntur sed etiam per nova communicationum socialium instrumenta, precibus doloribusque suis vel incommodis propriae vitae misericordī Deo oblatis.

Quo igitur accessus, ad divinam veniam per Ecclesiae claves consequendam, facilior pro pastoralī caritate evadat, haec Paenitentiarīa enixe rogat ut Parochi et sacerdotes, opportunis facultatibus ad confessiones excipiendas praediti, prompto et generoso animo, celebrationi Paenitentiae sese praebeant.

Praesenti pro hac vice tantum valituro. Non obstantibus in contrarium facientibus quibuscumque.

Datum Romae, ex aedibus Paenitentiarīae Apostolicae, die XIII mensis Ianuarii, anno Domini MCMXXI.


Norbertus Card. PRAGENSIS
Paenitentiarīus Maior


Christophorus NYMBER
Regens

Prot. N. 16/21/I

Decree

For the sake of increasing the devotion of the faithful and salvation of souls, by the power of the faculties given by the Supreme Pontiff, Francis, the Pope by Divine Providence, in response to the request of His Eminence Wilton Daniel Cardinal Gregory, Metropolitan Archbishop of Washington, the Apostolic Penitentiary kindly grants, from the heavenly treasures of the Church, a plenary Indulgence, to be obtained under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) by the Christian faithful truly penitential and compelled by charity, which indeed they can also apply to the souls of the faithful held in Purgatory, by way of suffrage, if they take part in the sacred celebrations, among the great assembly of people, during the course of the annual event that is called “March for Life,” which will be carried out on the 28th and 29th days of January 2021, in the Archdiocese of Washington (particularly in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the Cathedral church itself).

The aged, sick, and all those who due to grave reason are not able to leave home will be equally able to obtain the plenary Indulgence, having the disposition of detachment from any kind of sin, with the intention of fulfilling, as soon as one is able, the three customary conditions, if they spiritually join themselves to the sacred ceremonies, provided that they will be made available by means of television and radio but also through the new instruments of social media, and also having offered prayers and their sufferings or the ailments of their own life to the merciful God.

Therefore, and in order that easier access unto the attaining of this divine favor through the keys of the Church might go forth, for the sake of pastoral charity, this Penitentiary earnestly asks that Pastors and priests, those provided with suitable faculties to hear confessions, with a willing and generous spirit, might make themselves available for the celebration of Penance.

The present Decree will be valid for this event only. Anything whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given in Rome, from the offices of the Apostolic Penitentiary, on the 13th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2021.