

INDULGENCES FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

The Holy Souls cannot reach heaven by their own efforts, but only through our intercessory prayers and sacrifices. Here are some ways to obtain indulgences for the souls in purgatory.

A *plenary indulgence*, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful who on,

1. Any and each day from November 1 to 8, devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the departed;
2. All Souls' Day devoutly visit a church and recite an Our Father and the Creed.

A *partial indulgence*, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful who,

1. Devoutly visit a cemetery and at least mentally pray for the dead;
2. Devoutly recite the prayer Eternal Rest.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

INDULGENCES

Indulgences do not forgive sins. They only deal with the remission of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven by the sacrament of Penance. An indulgence is **partial** or **plenary** according to whether it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due for sins.

The faithful can obtain partial or plenary indulgences for themselves, or apply them to the dead. An indulgence can be attached to various works of piety, both private and public, as well as works of charity and penance. 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 works. To gain an indulgence one must have at least the general intention of doing so and must carry out the works at the stated time and in due fashion.

To gain a plenary indulgence, in addition to excluding all attachment to sin, even venial sin, it is necessary to perform the indulgenced work and fulfill the following three conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff. One Our Father and one Hail Mary is satisfactory. The three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the prescribed work. A plenary indulgence can be acquired only once a day.

For more information, consult *The Manual of Indulgences, NORMS AND GRANTS*, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' English translation of the official source for information about indulgences the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, fourth edition (1999).