



DIOCESE OF TRENTON
701 LAWRENCEVILLE ROAD
POST OFFICE BOX 5147
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08638-0147

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MAY 5, 2017

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Pope Francis Grants Plenary Indulgence*
For Our Lady of Fatima Centennial Jubilee Year of Fatima
Granting of Plenary Indulgence

Pope Francis has granted a **plenary indulgence* opportunity** for the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions throughout the centennial year, **from the 27th of November 2016 till the 26th of November 2017**

There are three ways to obtain the plenary indulgence, detailed in a statement from the Fatima Shrine in Portugal.

To obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful who follow one of these three ways must also fulfill the ordinary conditions: **(1) go to Confession and Communion, (2) be interiorly detached from sin, and (3) pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, usually the Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Glory Be.** The three ways are:

1. Make a pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine In Portugal:

To the faithful who make a pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal and participate in a celebration of prayer dedicated to the Virgin. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke the Mother of God. **OR,**

2. Pray before any statue of Our Lady of Fatima

To the faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima **solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place** during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October 2017, and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

3. The elderly and infirm

To the faithful who, because of age, illness or other serious cause, are unable to get around, may pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. They must also “offer to merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives.”

*"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints (canon 992 and Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1471)." A plenary indulgence is a complete remission of temporal punishment due to sins and is limited to one per day.

Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

Respectfully yours in the Lord,
Most Reverend David M. O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D.
Bishop of Trenton