

**Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the granting of special Indulgences to the faithful  
in the current pandemic.**

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Rom 12:12). The words written by St. Paul to the Church of Rome resonate throughout the entire history of the Church and guide the judgement of the faithful in the face of all suffering, sickness and calamity.

The present moment in which the whole of humanity, threatened by an invisible and insidious disease, which for some time now has become part of all our lives, is marked day after day by anguished fears, new uncertainties and above all widespread physical and moral suffering.

The Church, following the example of her Divine Master, has always had the care of the sick at heart. As St. John Paul II points out, the value of human suffering is twofold: “It is supernatural because it is rooted in the divine mystery of the Redemption of the world, and it is likewise deeply human, because in it the person discovers himself, his own humanity, his own dignity, his own mission” (Apostolic Letter *Salvifici Doloris*, 31). So that all those who suffer because of COVID-19, may rediscover ‘the same redemptive suffering of Christ’ this Apostolic Penitentiary..., trusting in the word of Christ the Lord and considering with a spirit of faith the epidemic currently underway, to be lived in a spirit of personal conversion, grants the gift of Indulgences in accordance with the following disposition.

The Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they: Unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and a pious invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity toward their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions), as soon as possible.

Healthcare workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion...will obtain the same Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.

The Apostolic Penitentiary also willingly grants a Plenary Indulgence to all those faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.