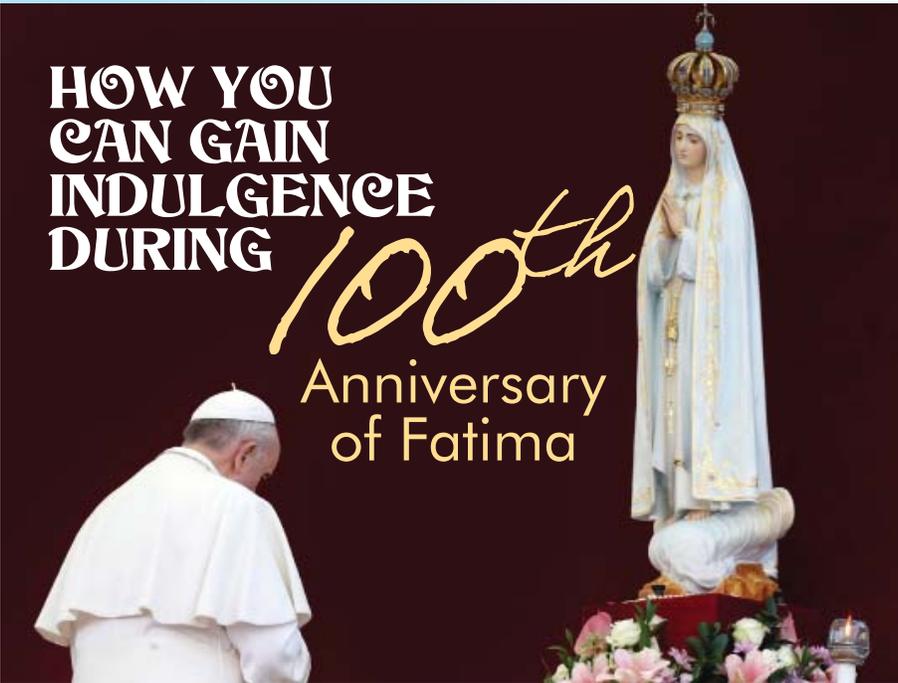


# HOW YOU CAN GAIN INDULGENCE DURING

# 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fatima



of Mercy. In other words, an indulgence is not a means to forgive sins, but a privileged way to reduce or even remove altogether their negative effects on the sinner.

## CONDITIONS TO GAIN AN INDULGENCE

The Church authority, which grants indulgences, has also laid down what the Catholic faithful are expected to DO in order to gain them.

Essentially, in order to gain an indulgence, a Catholic has to satisfy

certain prescribed CONDITIONS and perform certain prescribed GOOD WORKS.

**P**ope Francis has given all Catholics a special opportunity to gain a **plenary indulgence** during the Jubilee Year of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, which started on November 27, 2016 and will end on November 16, 2017. The Blessed Virgin, who introduced herself as “The Lady of the Rosary,” first appeared to the three children in Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1917.

In order to better appreciate the importance of this opportunity we must have a clear idea of the nature and purpose of an “indulgence.”

## WHAT IS AN “INDULGENCE”?

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), an “indulgence” is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins, whose guilt has already been forgiven. The faithful Christian, who is properly disposed, can gain such indulgence 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.

An indulgence is either partial or plenary, depending on whether it removes part or all the temporal punishment due to sin. (See CCC 1471.) An indulgence, then, deals not with sin directly, but with its effects and consequences on the sinner, as Pope Francis beautifully explains in number 22 of *Misericordiae Vultus*, the Apostolic Letter with which he proclaimed the Jubilee Year

## THE “PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS”

1. To have the intention of gaining an indulgence;
2. To be in the “state of grace” (i. e., that the sins of an individual penitent have already been forgiven through sacramental confession and that he/she is completely detached from sin)
3. To receive the Holy Eucharist
4. To offer for the intentions of the Pope a prayer such as one “Our Father” and one “Hail Mary,” and
4. To perform the “good work” that is related to the indulgence one wants to gain

## THE “PRESCRIBED GOOD WORKS”

The prescribed “good works” to which the Church authority has attached an indulgence are quite numerous and varied. They include:

- making the Way of the Cross;
- participating in a spiritual retreat;
- going on a pilgrimage;
- performing any of the corporal or spiritual “works of mercy;”
- reciting the Rosary;
- reading the Bible and meditating on the passage read; and
- many other pious or good actions that the Church authority has listed down in an official document entitled “*Enchiridion indulgentiarum.*” (List of indulgences and conditions to gain them)