



## THE ADDED BENEFIT OF SAYING INDULGENCED PRAYERS

Saying prayers that have been indulgenced by the Church has the added benefit of enabling us to obtain the remission of the *temporal punishment* due for sins whose *guilt* has already been removed.

# FAVORITE INDULGENCED PRAYERS

CONTAINING  
SOME OF THE FINEST PRAYERS  
FROM BOTH NEW AND OLD EDITIONS  
OF THE *ENCHIRIDION OF INDULGENCES*



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*Illustrated*



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## FOREWORD

**T**HE Church teaches that there are temporal punishments for sin. Even after receiving forgiveness for our sins, we must atone for them either in this life or in purgatory. We can do so in this life by deeds of penance comprising works or prayers.

Thus, we carry out the penance imposed in the Sacrament of Penance, which is usually the recitation of certain prayers. However, our sins are more serious than we think, and our penances are often slight.

Hence to help us in our frailty, the Church makes indulgences possible on our behalf. An indulgence is a remission of all or part of the temporal punishment due to sins that have already been forgiven.

From her spiritual treasury made up of Christ's merits (as well as those of Mary and the Saints), the Church grants the remission of the temporal punishment due to sin already forgiven—through indulgences attached to works and prayers.

Indulged works and prayers ultimately have as their purpose to bring us into closer union with Christ and the Church through charity. This should also be the basic reason for us to do the work or say the prayer graced with indulgences.

It is true that all prayers enable us to carry on a dialogue with God. However, indulged prayers have an added value because they have been time-tested by the Church and found to be very effective in helping people talk with God or the Saints. They also inculcate spiritual sentiments that work to lessen or do away with temporal punishment due to sin.

## FOUR GENERAL GRANTS OF INDULGENCES

**F**ROM the Council of Trent to the beginning of Vatican II, many Catholics had a particular fondness for prayers that were indulgenced by the Church. Undoubtedly, they felt that in reciting such prayers they were guarded from praying fruitlessly, so to speak. However, the precise nature of indulgences often escaped the faithful and abuses crept into the practice, so that they came to be used by some in an almost magical way.

On January 1, 1967, Pope Paul VI promulgated new norms regarding the discipline of indulgences in the Church. The document dealt with the nature of sin, the punishment due to sin, the solidarity of all human beings in Adam and in Christ, the Communion of Saints, and the treasury of the expiations and merits of Christ, of the Blessed Virgin, and of the Saints—a treasury that has been given to the Church to be placed by her at the disposition of the faithful.

It also stressed how salutary is the use of indulgences, since they promote through charity the union of all the faithful with Christ and with the pastors of the Church, His representatives. At the same time it called for a revision of the indulgenced prayers and practices. This became a reality when a revised Latin edition of the *Enchiridion of Indulgences* was published in 1968 and an English edition in 1969. (A later

## Novena Devotions

*A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who devoutly take part in the pious exercises of a public novena before the feast of Christmas or Pentecost or the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (no. 34).*

### Prayer for Novena Devotions (Christmas)\*\*

**G**OD of love, Father of all,  
the darkness that covered the earth  
has given way to the bright dawn  
of Your Word made flesh.  
Make us a people of this light.  
Make us faithful to Your Word,  
that we may bring Your life  
to the waiting world.  
Amen.

## Use of Articles of Devotion

*The faithful, who devoutly use an article of devotion (crucifix or cross, rosary, scapular or medal) properly blessed by any priest, obtain a partial indulgence.*

*But if the article of devotion has been blessed by the Sovereign Pontiff or by any Bishop, the faithful, using it, can also gain, a plenary indulgence on the feast of the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, provided they also make a profession of faith according to any legitimate formula (no. 35).*

### Prayer While Using an Article of Devotion\*\*

**F**ATHER in heaven,  
we give You thanks for sending Your Spirit  
to teach us to pray.

## FORMERLY INDULGENCED PRAYERS

**T**HIS section (pp. 113-189) contains some of the most ancient and beloved prayers to which indulgences were formerly attached. The Church cut down the vast number of individual prayers because she wished to make the Enchiridion of Indulgences more manageable.

At the same time, the Church knew that such prayers fit under the new category of the First General Grant mentioned on p. 13 and are still indulgenced, so to speak.

Those who make use of them with the right attitude continue to gain a partial indulgence. In addition, these prayers are very helpful and filled with sentiments that are fruitful for the faithful.

They possess themes that reinforce the idea of sin and satisfaction for one's sins. They also inculcate the teaching that we are part of the Mystical Body of Christ and the Communion of Saints. In addition, they bring out the fact that the gifts of God are totally gratuitous. Indeed, we can do penance for our sins only through the grace that God gives us.

Finally, these time-tested prayers serve to move us to do good works that are useful not only to ourselves but also to the whole community. In the words of Pope Paul VI:

*“An indulgence is not an easy way to avoid the necessary repentance on the part of sinners. Rather it is a help that the faithful who are humbly conscious of their weakness can find in the Mystical Body of Christ, which by charity, example, and prayers works for their conversion”* (Letter Sacrosancta Portiunculae, 1966).