

From: Fr. Michael J. Lumpe
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2020 4:03 PM
Subject: Update Letter to Priests
Attachments: Divine Mercy BB (3).pdf; The Forgiveness of Sins (5).pdf; A litany of Mercy (1).pdf; Universal Prayer-Divine Mercy Sunday (4).pdf

Brother priests,

While a great many of us were hoping that by now, as we approach Divine Mercy Sunday, we would be able to publicly celebrate Mass and hear confessions in a safe manner this is still not possible because of the stay-at-home order as we do our part to help limit the spread of the coronavirus. But we can still celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and all that it entails from a spiritual perspective; instead of hearing confessions the faithful can make an **act of perfect contrition**, and instead of receiving communion they can make a **spiritual communion**. To facilitate this I am providing to you several attachments to share with your parishioners, parents and students about what they can do on Divine Mercy Sunday to obtain the special graces and indulgence associated with Divine Mercy Sunday during this pandemic. Please feel free to use these as part of your own parish Divine Mercy Sunday celebrations as well.

Several parishes will be live-streaming Divine Mercy liturgies this Sunday, but I would strongly encourage those who are not having special Divine Mercy liturgies to publicize the Divine Mercy Liturgies from The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. These will be available on Saint Gabriel Radio, EWTN, and on the Facebook page of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy. In order to do this I am requesting that you provide the information and links below, and the attachments, to parishioners and others via your Facebook pages, web pages, other social media and e-mail blasts -- whatever means are at your disposal for the widest possible distribution.

Saint Gabriel Radio: <https://stgabrielradio.com/divine-mercy-sunday-schedule/>

The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy - web page: <https://www.shrineofdivinemercury.org/>

The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy -
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ShrineOfDivineMercy/>

EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com>

During this time of the pandemic, when we say time and time again from the depth of our hearts "Jesus, I trust in You!" let us remember the words of Pope Saint John Paul II: *"Those*

who sincerely say 'Jesus, I trust in You' will find comfort in all their anxieties and fears. There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy – that love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights to the holiness of God." —Shrine of Divine Mercy in Cracow, Poland on June 7, 1997

Fraternally,

Bishop Brennan

Jesus, I Trust in You!

My Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

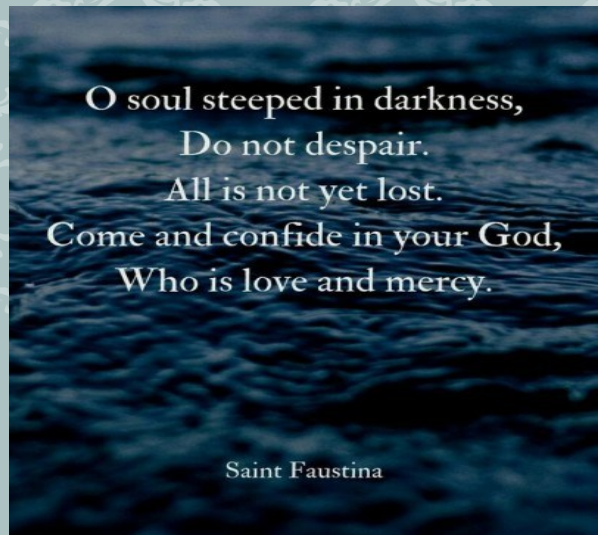
This Sunday, April 19th, the Church will once again celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. Normally we would gather together as a community for Mass, breaking upon the Word and sharing in the Bread of Life.

Many would re-gather later that day to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, contemplate the image of Jesus as shown to St. Faustina and recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 pm. This year, however will be different. Each of us will remain in our homes. We will gather for virtual prayer when Mass is live streamed. We will pray the ancient words of spiritual communion, ardently longing for that day when we can receive the Lord sacramentally again, and later in the day, we may engage in our own devotional time. Perhaps, like Thomas, in today's Gospel we will question God. At a time when we are most in need of God's mercy, we may experience silence and doubt. It is for this very reason that we need to embrace the message of Divine Mercy, and the short prayer "Jesus, I trust in You."

My colleague and friend, Bishop Barres wrote a poignant [letter](#) to the faithful in his diocese addressing the importance of this feast to our situation today. It returns us to the core of our faith, and points to how this feast is exactly for times such as these. I ask that you take some time to read and pray over the message as I have done.

St. Francis de Sales, who is the patron saint of our Diocese, is quoted to have said: "Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry." There is no doubt that we live in a time of great anxiety. It is difficult to not worry when we are in the midst of the unknown, and when things change every day.

Yet, here we are in the Easter season, a season of hope and great joy. Easter is the answer to death and to fear. Easter is God's resounding "Yes" to humanity, and the Resurrection reminds us that all is possible with God when we, as Jesus did, place our trust in him. And, it appears that God is indeed calling all of us to a radical trust that He will take this time and



forge something new. So in the midst of the darkness, the message of mercy shines bright. Jesus is calling us to gaze upon him with radical trust in a way we may have never done before, and He, Himself gives us the words to pray when we are filled with doubt, despair and fear... "Jesus, I trust in You." At a time when we may seem overwhelmed with the needs of our world, let us place all, especially the sick, the dying, their families and caregivers under the mantle of the Lord's Mercy. "Jesus, I trust in You."...may those words be our consolation now and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

The Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan

Bishop of Columbus



THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, INDULGENCES, ABSOLUTION, & GOD'S MERCY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the past month and a half, the norms of life have been changed. The coronavirus pandemic has not been selective in who or what it affects; every facet of daily life has been halted or reconstructed to prevent the spread of the virus and save human life. As a Church, we have been asked to make many sacrifices out of charity for the common good of our community. These sacrifices have been painful, and they should be, for true charity from the heart gives a piece of ourselves for the benefit of another.

As Catholics, we are Sacramental people and the greatest loss we have experienced is the ability to receive the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. While we are encouraged to make a prayer of Spiritual Communion to unite ourselves with the Lord when we cannot receive the Eucharist, many have requested information on how to address our need to experience absolution and God's mercy when Sacramental Confessions are not available during these challenging days. This document addresses those concerns.

PERFECT CONTRITION & FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Pope Francis has repeatedly said that we must rely on God's mercy and understanding of our hearts.

"Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by votum confessionis, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)."

Perfect contrition requires the love of God, the sincere desire for forgiveness and the ardent commitment to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation ***when it is able to do so again***. If a person has these, they will as the Catechism states "obtain forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones".

HOW DO I MAKE AN ACT OF PERFECT CONTRITION?

Pope Francis has encouraged Catholics confined to their homes to seek God's forgiveness through an "act of perfect contrition" and go to confession later, when restrictions are lifted. *"You do what the Catechism says. It is very clear...speak to God, he is your father, and tell him the truth...Promise him 'Later I will confess, but forgive me now.' And immediately you will return to the grace of God."*

Perfect contrition comes from the heart; it is an extension of God's grace and continual beckoning to return to Him with a contrite heart. There is no set formula for making an act of contrition, but a common one is:

“My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing, to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.”

PLENARY INDULGENCES

In a decree issued on March 20th, 2020 the Apostolic Penitentiary, provided numerous ways that the faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence daily.

WHAT IS A PLENARY INDULGENCE?

An indulgence is “the expression of the Church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when - in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints - she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace” (St. Pope John Paul II, General Audience, September 29, 1999)

A **plenary indulgence** removes all the temporal punishment due to sin (CCC, 1471).

HOW DO I RECEIVE A PLENARY INDULGENCE?

In the Apostolic Penitentiary decree, Pope Francis has laid out the criterions required to receive a plenary indulgence.

- ❖ To the faithful suffering from the Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes. They are asked to engender a penitential spirit and unite themselves spiritually through participating/watching Holy Mass on television; to praying the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross or participating in other devotional practices. They should endure this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as they are able to. *What this means: Every day you are in lockdown and unite yourself to these activities and/or prayers-you can obtain a plenary indulgence.*
- ❖ Health care workers, family members and all those who are exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, by caring for those with the Coronavirus will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions. *What this means: if you work in healthcare or are considered an “essential worker”-you can obtain a plenary indulgence.*
- ❖ To the faithful who spend time in prayer with the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, pray the Rosary, the Way of the Cross, or recite the [Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#) (click on link for more information) with the intention of imploring 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 will also obtain the gift of a Plenary Indulgence. *What this means: when you pray any of these prayers or devotions with the intentions noted-you can obtain a plenary indulgence.*

- ❖ To the faithful who are unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and *Viaticum*. The Church entrusts each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and granting a Plenary Indulgence on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime (in this case the Church makes up for the three usual conditions required). For the attainment of this indulgence, it is suggested that a crucifix or cross be shown to the person if possible. *What this means: for those who are ill or dying and unable to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick or final Holy Communion before death, are given a plenary indulgence.*

April 15, 2020

Office for Divine Worship, Diocese of Columbus

A Litany of Mercy

IN THE MIDST OF A WORLD THAT IS BROKEN
AND FILLED WITH SUFFERING

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS NO HOPE LEFT

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

FOR THE SICK

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR THE DYING AND FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR ALL CARING FOR THE SICK

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR ALL WORKING TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR THOSE LIVING IN FEAR, ISOLATION OR DESPAIR

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR FAITH OR DOUBT IN YOU

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR THE WISDOM OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHURCH LEADERSHIP

JESUS, HAVE MERCY!

FOR A NEW WORLD TO ARISE FILLED WITH COMPASSION

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

FOR THE EQUALITY OF ALL PEOPLE

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

FOR THE COMING OF YOUR KINGDOM

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU! HELP ME IN MY DOUBT!



UNIVERSAL PRAYER: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Celebrant: Dear brothers and sisters, trusting in God's mercy, we place the prayers of our community before our Heavenly Father seeking his wisdom and generosity to the words, we speak.

Dcn/Lector: For the leadership in our Church, especially Pope Francis and Bishop Brennan. May their ministry be reflective of the compassionate and merciful Lord as they care for those entrusted to their care.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For government leaders, locally and nationally. May they work for the common good and benefit of the people they have been entrusted to serve, especially those in the greatest need. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For all those suffering from depression and despair. May they know that they are not alone in their pain, and be embraced by the merciful love of God that transforms and heals. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For our brothers and sisters who are suffering from the effects of the Coronavirus, be it through illness, financial loss, stress and fear. May the message of Divine Mercy bring much needed hope to wearied hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For all the many people whom selflessly, give of themselves to care for those in need. In a special way, we remember hospital personnel, service workers and first responders who daily risk their own health to serve the greater good. May their sacrifices bear witness to God's merciful compassion for His people. let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For scientists and medical researchers as they continue to seek a cure for the coronavirus. May the wisdom of God guide them in their quest. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For all those who have been affected by the tornados and storms throughout our country. May kindness and generosity surround and sustain them as they begin their task of starting life anew. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Dcn/Lector: For our beloved deceased, and all those who mourn. May the message of Divine Mercy and the Easter Season grant hope and consolation in their grief. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, we entrust you in your infinite mercy to hear the prayers we have spoken as well as the many we hold deep in our hearts.

Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.