



**JEFFREY**

**By Appointment of the Apostolic See  
BISHOP OF STEUBENVILLE**

**Decree Granting Permission to Obtain Indulgences  
Outside of the Usual Conditions**

Whereas, during this time of disease, it has been necessary to take such drastic measures as the cancellation of all public celebrations of the Holy Mass in order to protect the public health by slowing the spread of contagion; and

Whereas, these measures, though necessary, have the unfortunate effect of making it temporarily impossible for most of the faithful to receive sacramentally the graces of Holy Communion and difficult for them to receive the graces imparted in the celebration of the other sacraments; and

Whereas, it is therefore all the more essential for the faithful in these times to avail themselves of the extra-sacramental graces given abundantly by God through his Holy Church; and

Whereas, among such extra-sacramental graces received through an indulgence, namely the grace of partial or total remission of the temporal punishment owed to sin, is especially prominent; and

Whereas, however, the protective measures mentioned above constitute an obstacle to the perfect fulfilment of the usual conditions required for the reception of indulgences (i.e., sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intention of the Sovereign Pontiff), conditions which must be fulfilled in the several days before or after the indulgenced work is performed with the proper disposition;

Therefore, by virtue of the faculty granted to local ordinaries in norm 25 of the *Manual of Indulgences* I hereby grant permission through the Solemnity of Pentecost (May 31, 2020) for all the faithful of the Diocese of Steubenville wherever they are, as well as anyone actually present within the Diocese of Steubenville, to gain plenary indulgences without confession and Communion, provided they have contrition for their sins and have the intention of receiving these sacraments as soon as possible;

Nevertheless, I urge the faithful who take advantage of this permission to make a Spiritual Communion soon before or after performing an indulgenced work, without prejudice to the requirement of receiving sacramental Communion as soon as it becomes possible;

And I exhort all the faithful to obtain indulgences, particularly by partaking in indulgenced works that are especially suited not only to this penitential season of Lent but also to these difficult times, among which I make special mention of the following:

- **Way of the Cross** – the pious celebration of the Way of the Cross in those churches that remain open, or for those who are impeded from celebrating in a church, the reading and meditation on the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ for at least a quarter of an hour (#13),
- **Rosary** – the devout recitation of the rosary, including in a family setting (#17),
- **Scripture** – the reading of Sacred Scripture for at least half an hour from a text approved by the competent authority (#30);

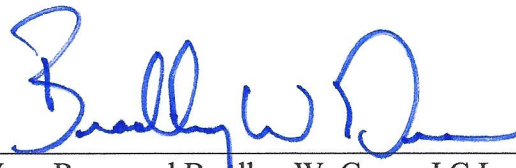
I remind the faithful that, although Mass cannot currently be publicly celebrated, churches are generally open to the public for prayer and devotions, as well as sacramental confessions when possible, provided that no large groups accumulate and that appropriate protective and hygienic measures are always taken;

Lastly, I inform or remind the faithful of the indulgences conceded on March 20, 2020, by the Apostolic Penitentiary, which include indulgences for the faithful suffering from the coronavirus, health care workers, and the dying (from any cause, including the coronavirus).

Given at Steubenville on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April in the Year of Our Lord, 2020.



Most Reverend Jeffrey M. Monforton, D.D., S.T.D.  
Bishop of Steubenville



Very Reverend Bradley W. Greer, J.C.L.  
Chancellor

