

The five questions are addressed in this presentation:

INDULGENCES

ONE OF THE TWO ARMS OF GOD'S MERCY

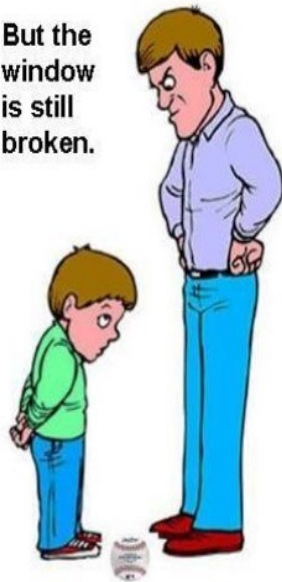
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1. What is Purgatory and why does it exist?
2. Why do I keep committing the same sin?
3. What are indulgences?
4. How do we obtain indulgences?
5. How does this help me and my family serve God ?

Purgatory Exist Because Sin has a *Double Consequence* (Eternal and Temporal)

Asking for forgiveness
of the father...
sorry for the sin.

But the
window
is still
broken.



Pope Francis

"[In the]
Sacrament of
Reconciliation,
God forgives
our sins, which
he truly blots
out;

and yet sin
leaves a
negative effect
on the way we
think and act."



The indulgence
will pay for the
negative effect
(in our example
the broken
window) from
the *Treasury of
Church*, "which
can never be
exhausted,
which Christ's
merits have
before God..."



Justice Will Be Served: Debtor Prison

In the time of Jesus, if you could not pay a debt, declaring bankruptcy was not an option. You went to debtor's prison until the debt was fully paid. Since you could not pay your debt within prison, you would need family and/or friends to pay the debt. Purgatory is a type of debtors prison: those in Purgatory need us to pray and pay them out.

- Matthew 18:34, "And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do..."
- Matthew 5:25-26, "Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."

Catechism 1472: To understand this doctrine and practice of the Church, it is necessary to understand that sin has a double consequence. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called the "eternal punishment" of sin. On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to creatures, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in the state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the "temporal punishment" of sin.

The Two Arms of God's Mercy: the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Indulgences.

Catechism 1473: The forgiveness of sin and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment of sin, but temporal punishment of sin remains (someone needs to pay for the broken window as in the example above).

NOTE: Purgatory is a temporal place, that is having to do with time and not eternity. There will be a time to come when all temporal debt is paid and Purgatory will no longer exist.

Definition of Indulgence: The word indulgence in post-classic Latin meaning the remission of a tax or debt.

What is an Indulgence? (The five elements of Indulgences as define in Catechism 1471)

1. An indulgence is a remission before God
2. of the temporal punishment for sins, whose guilt is forgiven,
3. which a duly disposed member of the Christian faithful obtains under certain and clearly defined conditions
4. through the intervention of the Church,
5. which, as the minister of Redemption, dispenses and applies authoritatively the treasury of the expiatory works of Christ and the saints.

Basics to being able to receive an Indulgences (Manual of Indulgences, N17,§1 and §2)

In order to be capable of gaining indulgences one must be baptized, Catholic, not excommunicated, and in the state of grace at least at the completion of the prescribed works. To gain an indulgence, one must have at least the general intention of doing so.

The Authority to Bind and Loose

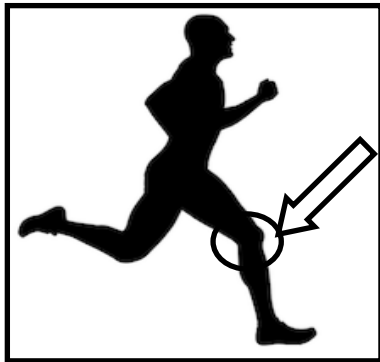
- God gave his authority to the Church to be his instrument of distributing Grace.
- This was given to Saint Peter by the Lord himself. "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19).
- An indulgence is obtained through the Church who, by virtue of the power of binding and loosing granted her by Christ Jesus, intervenes in favor of individual Christians and opens for them the treasury of the merits of Christ and the saints to obtain from the Father of mercies the remission of the temporal punishments due for their sins. Thus the Church does not want simply to come to the aid of these Christians, but also to spur them to works of devotion, penance, and charity. (Catechism 1478)

Where does the indulgence come from? The Treasury of the Church (Catechism 1474-1477)

1. "From the infinite value, which can never be exhausted, which Christ Merits have before God..."
2. "This treasury includes as well the prayers and good works of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Two Type of Indulgences (Manual of Indulgences, N18 §1)

- Partial indulgence - removes part of the temporal consequence (can be easy to obtain). A partial indulgence can be acquired multiple times a day.
- Plenary Indulgence – removes all the temporal consequence (Five steps need to obtain a plenary indulgence). A plenary indulgence can be acquired only once in the course of a day.



Why Partial Indulgence Are Important:

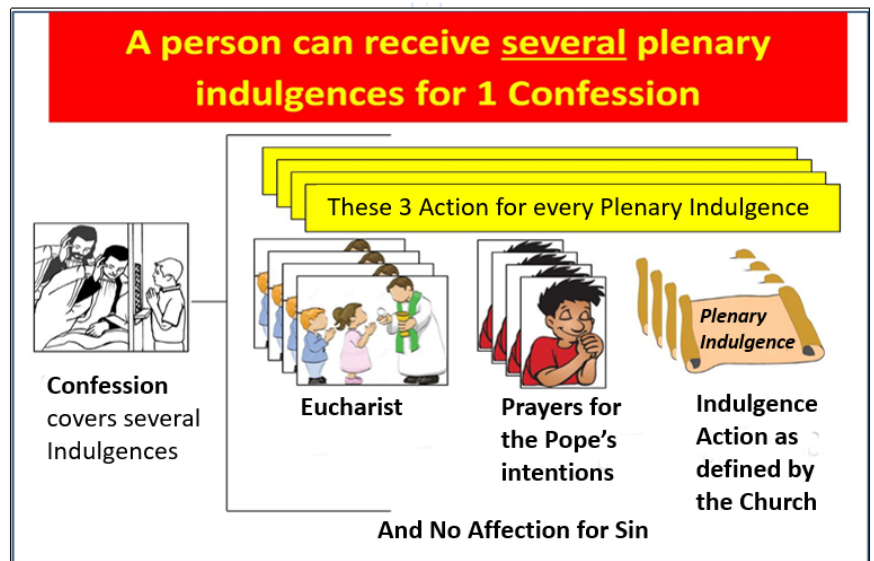
1. Knee Injured (=Sin)
2. Need outside help (surgeon) = Jesus restores grace and removes the eternal consequences of our sin)
3. Knee still weakened (temporal consequences of sin)
4. Need therapy and exercise lead to strengthening (Prayer, Fasting, acts of charity leading to indulgences and restored grace)

The Four General Concessions

- I. A partial indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who, while carrying out their duties and enduring the hardships of life, raise their minds in humble trust to God and make, at least mentally, some pious invocation.
- II. A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who, led by the spirit of faith, give compassionately of themselves or of their goods to serve their brothers in need.
- III. A partial indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who, in a spirit of penance, voluntarily abstain from something that is licit for and pleasing to them.
- IV. A partial indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who, in the particular circumstances of daily life, voluntarily give explicit witness to their faith before others.

The Five Step for a Plenary Indulgence (Manual of Indulgences, N17-N20)

1. Sacrament of Confession
2. Receive the Eucharist
3. Perform the indulgenced work with the intention of gaining the Indulgence.
4. Pray for the intention of the Pope (Usually 1 Our Father and 1 Hail Mary)
5. **(non Jubilee year) Interior disposition: complete detachment from sin, both mortal and venial.** (Jubilee year)



If the full disposition is lacking, or if the work and the three prescribed conditions are not fulfilled, the indulgence will only be partial. (Manual of Indulgences, N20,§4)

Time Frame and Circumstances for Plenary Indulgence:

1. The Eucharist must be received once for every plenary indulgence.
2. A person can receive **several** plenary indulgences for 1 Confession.
3. **Regular year:** Only one plenary indulgence per day.
Jubilee year: Two plenary indulgence per day. One for you. One for a soul in purgatory.
4. Eucharist preferably on or close to the day of the indulgenced act.
5. Eucharist and Confession may be received within several days before or after.

The Plenary Indulgence

“frees him from every residue left by the consequences of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love rather than to fall back into sin.”

Pope Francis



Affection for Sin: certain enjoyment or positive feeling toward sinful actions or thoughts.

Indulgence Can only Be Offered for you or for the Dead (Removal from Debtor's Prison)

Isaiah 61:4, “They shall rebuild the ancient ruins, the former wastes they shall raise up And restore the ruined cities, desolate now for generations.”

The One Plenary Indulgence You Don't Want to Miss

Concession 12, At the Point of Death

§1 A priest who administers the sacraments to someone in danger of death should not fail to impart the apostolic blessing to which a *plenary indulgence* is attached.

§2 If a priest is unavailable, Holy Mother Church benevolently grants to the Christian faithful, who are duly disposed, a *plenary indulgence* to be acquired at the point of death, provided they have been in the habit of reciting some prayers during their lifetime; in such a case, the Church supplies for the three conditions ordinarily required for a plenary indulgence. “

§4 The faithful can obtain this plenary indulgence at the hour of death, even if they have already acquired a plenary indulgence on that same day.

INDULGENCES SHOULD LEAD TO SERVICE TO GOD

“THE AIM PURSUED BY ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY IN GRANTING INDULGENCES IS NOT ONLY THAT OF HELPING THE FAITHFUL TO EXPIATE THE PUNISHMENT DUE TO SIN BUT ALSO THAT OF URGING THEM TO PERFORM WORKS OF PIETY, PENITENCE, AND CHARITY—PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH LEAD TO GROWTH IN FAITH AND WHICH FAVOR THE COMMON GOOD.”

***Indulgences: A treasury for all the Faithful* is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or Kindle books.**