

Cathedral Centennial Indulgence Decree



PAENITENTIARIA APOSTOLICA

Prot.N. 501/06/I

Most Holy Father,

Kevin Carl Rhoades, the Bishop of Harrisburg, along with the clergy and all the faithful committed to his care in the spirit of filial devotion submits to Your Holiness this humble request.

May 14, 2007, will mark the centenary of the dedication of the Cathedral church to almighty God in honor of Saint Patrick, Patron of the Harrisburg Diocese.

To mark this most memorable event of Christian piety in a worthy and holy manner and to render due thanks to God appropriate solemn celebrations and a variety of spiritual initiatives will be held in the Cathedral Church itself throughout the jubilee year, the purpose of which is to increase the supernatural virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity among the faithful, to advance their moral formation in accordance with the Gospel, and to strongly reinforce the bond of hierarchical unity with their own Bishop and with the Supreme Pontiff, of which the Cathedral Church is an excellent symbol.

In order, however, that the treasure of Divine Grace, may be abundantly open to the faithful who participate in these celebrations, I request of Your Holiness on their behalf a grant of Indulgences.

September 14, 2006

The Apostolic Penitentiary, acknowledging the petition of the Bishop of Harrisburg, by a special authority granted to it for this occasion by Our Most Holy Father Benedict XVI that from March 17, 2007, when the Jubilee of the Cathedral Church will begin until May 17, 2008, when it will be solemnly concluded the faithful may obtain *a plenary Indulgence*, having fulfilled the usual conditions [sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intention of the same Supreme Pontiff] provided they have put aside attachment for any type of sin,

- a.- if they undertake a sacred pilgrimage to the Harrisburg Cathedral Church and there devoutly participate at Holy Mass or another liturgical celebration, such as Morning or Evening Prayer or some pious exercise such as the “Way of the Cross” or the Rosary or the recitation of the “Akathist” Hymn in honor of the Mother of God
- b.- if alone or in groups (for example, the families and students of schools, those associated by the arts or by work, members of the same parish, religious communities, or pious associations etc.) who devoutly visit the Cathedral and there spend a suitable period in spiritual reflection concluding with reading or singing of The Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed.

The Elderly infirm, or those who are homebound, and those who cannot travel can obtain a Plenary Indulgence so long as they unite themselves in desire and spirit with those who are actually on pilgrimage, and so long as they fulfill these usual conditions “devout Prayer before the image of Mary or St. Patrick, recitation of The Lord’s Prayer and the Creed with a prayer for the blessing of Mary and St. Patrick, humbly offered”.

These provisions are binding during the Jubilee year of the Harrisburg Cathedral.

Iacobus Franciscus Card. Stafford

Iacobus Franciscus S.R.E. Card. Stafford
Major Penitentiary

Ioannes Maria Gervais
Ioannes Maria Gervais
Adjutant