



APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY

Prot. N. 00016/2024-1452/23/I

DECREE

The APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, by the faculties granted it in a privileged way by our Most Holy Father in Christ, Francis, by Divine Providence the Pope, exists to promote religion among the faithful and the salvation of souls. Attentive to the request recently made by the Most Reverend Steven John Raica, Bishop of Birmingham in Alabama, in honor of the 800th anniversary of the Nativity scene first established by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223 in the town of Greccio (Italy), this Penitentiary hereby graciously grants from the Church's heavenly treasury a PLENARY INDULGENCE under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayers for the intention of the Supreme Pontiff).


This Indulgence is granted to the faithful who are truly penitent and motivated by charity, and may be gained from December 14, 2023 until February 2, 2024; it may also be applied to the souls of the faithful departed in Purgatory. To gain the indulgence, one must make a pilgrimage either to the Cathedral church or to another diocesan holy place as determined by His Excellency the Bishop, either as a group or individually, and there take part in special devotions for the Nativity or even pause for an appropriate time in prayer before the church or chapel's Nativity scene, humbly pouring out prayers to God for peace. The visit should conclude with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the Symbol of Faith (an approved Creed), and invocations to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, as well as St. Francis of Assisi.

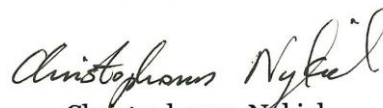
The elderly, the infirm, or all others who due to grave causes are unable to leave their homes (this includes the imprisoned), shall equally be able to gain the Plenary Indulgence. To do so, they must have a total detachment from all sin and make the intention to complete the three usual conditions as soon as possible; they should then also join in spiritually with the above-mentioned pilgrimages and celebrations and offer their prayers, sufferings, and the inconveniences of their lives to the merciful God.

Consequently, in order that, in keeping with pastoral charity, ready access to divine forgiveness through the Keys of the Church may be had, this Apostolic Penitentiary earnestly asks that the diocesan penitentiary, the Cathedral clergy, pastors, and other priests endowed with the appropriate faculties for hearing Confessions should offer themselves with a ready and generous spirit for the celebration of Penance.

The present Decree is valid for this occasion only. Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome from the Apostolic Penitentiary on the 19th day of December in the year of the Incarnation of the Lord 2023.


MAURUS S. R. E. Card. PIACENZA
Paenitentiarius Maior


Christophorus Nykiel
Regens