



Memo

Date: December 18, 2023

To: Priests, deacons, religious and laity

From: Father Gerardo Ceballos-Gonzalez, director, Office of Divine Worship

Re: Plenary indulgence through Feb. 2 in honor of 800th anniversary of first crèche

Brothers and Sisters,

As you might know by now, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the “Nativity scene of Greccio,” the Apostolic Penitentiary is granting a plenary indulgence to all the faithful who, through Feb. 2, 2024 (Feast of the Presentation of the Lord), will visit a Nativity scene in a church entrusted to the Franciscan Friars anywhere in the world.

The Franciscan-led parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta are:

- Holy Cross, Atlanta
- Saint Philip Benizi, Jonesboro

Also, Archbishop Hartmayer personally requested the Apostolic Penitentiary to grant this privilege to his Cathedral Church, since he is a Franciscan Friar himself. As of today, **the Apostolic Penitentiary granted the Cathedral of Christ the King this privilege.**

The faithful may obtain the plenary indulgence under the usual conditions: Going to confession, receiving the Eucharist, praying for the intentions of Pope Francis and devoutly pausing before the nativity scene prepared in the mentioned churches; as well as spending an appropriate period of time in pious meditation and concluding with the Our Father, a profession of faith and invocations to the Holy Family of Jesus (Mary and Joseph), and St. Francis of Assisi (see below).

Those who are sick or unable physically to participate can receive the plenary indulgence either by offering up their sufferings or by carrying out acts of piety.

Invocations to the Holy Family and St. Francis of Assisi:

Oh Good Jesus, contemplating this Nativity scene, I ask you for the grace of forgiveness of my sins. You are the dawn from on high made flesh to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. You made your home among us and loved us to the point of giving your life for us. You did not come to condemn the world but to save it. Give me the grace of sincere repentance and the humility to recognize my frailty. Give me faith in your mercy and renew in me the joy of your salvation.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church, teach us the joy of the humble and of those who believe in the promises of the Lord. Help us to proclaim the greatness of the God who accompanies and saves suffering humanity. You are the dawn of a new creation. You are Virgin made Church, you are Mother of grace and mercy. Listen to our plea with the tenderness of your immaculate heart.

Saint Joseph, just and faithful servant of the Lord, you are a holy and generous custodian. Do not take your care away from us, lost pilgrims in search of the true homeland. Protect the Church from the snares of the evil one and teach us to trust in the One who gave his only Son to rescue us from sin, evil and death.”

“Saint Francis of Assisi, you who loved the poor and humble Christ so much that you wanted to relive in Greccio, with faith and devotion, the night of his birth in Bethlehem, intercede for us so that we can contemplate with a clean heart the beauty of the incarnation of the Son of God and the kindness of his gaze that calls us to a new life.

Amen.

[Plenary indulgence decree \(Latin\)](#)

[Plenary indulgence decree \(English\)](#)

[Plenary indulgence decree \(Spanish\)](#)

[Plenary indulgence decree \(Portuguese\)](#)