

HOW TO OBTAIN A PLENARY INDULGENCE

Cardinal Seán O'Malley has granted that a plenary indulgence is available at the 2009 Boston Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences. Please see the text of his letter below and some explanation below.

We encourage everyone to read in Cardinal Seán's letter the description of what a plenary indulgence is. We hope that all attendees will take advantage of this unique opportunity because of the Year of Saint Paul.

April 13, 2009

Mr. Scot Landry
Boston Catholic Conferences
Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral Center
66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184

Dear Scot:

In honor of the 2,000th Anniversary of the birth of Saint Paul the Apostle, it is with pleasure that I grant a plenary indulgence for all Catholics who participate in the Boston Catholic Men's and Women's Conference at Boston College's Conte Forum, on Saturday, April 18, 2009 and Sunday, April 19, 2009, and who meet the required conditions set forth below.

Please let those who are to be present know that in order to receive the plenary indulgence certain prescribed conditions must be met (can. 992). According to *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 1471): "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

Therefore, in addition to being in a state of grace, one must:

- have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- have sacramentally confessed their sins;
- receive the Holy Eucharist;
- pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, the Pope.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Boston in Braintree, Massachusetts, this 13th day of April 2009.

With all good wishes and assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Cardinal Seán O'Malley
Archbishop of Boston

Why are the Conferences a site for a plenary indulgence during this Year of Saint Paul?

Why not! The gift of Indulgences which the Pope offers to the universal Church, truly smoothes the way to attaining a supreme degree of inner purification which, while honoring the Apostle Paul and the Divine Mercy Weekend, exalts the supernatural life in the hearts of the faithful and gently encourages us to do good deeds.

We are all sinners in need of forgiveness and mercy. It is a gift of our church. This weekend in particular is one rich in opportunities for fulfilling the conditions for obtaining a plenary indulgence. Confession is being offered throughout the day. At the close of each day of the conferences we will celebrate Holy Mass together. And we will all pray for the intentions of the Pope, through the intercession of Saint Paul.

The Conference organizing team is grateful to Cardinal Seán for giving attendees this great opportunity.