

Tridentine Community News

January 14, 2007

More Information About Indulgences

Some of the most important benefits of an airline's frequent flyer program are often hidden in the fine print of the program's rules. For instance, did you know that there is a way to circumvent Northwest Airlines' odious Saturday-night-stay rule on frequent flyer awards? And not by spending twice the miles, either. (If you're curious to know how, e-mail the address at the bottom of this page.)

So it is with Indulgences. In our September 10, 2006 column, we mentioned that there have been rumors that one can now earn a Plenary Indulgence up to 20 days before or after receiving the Sacrament of Confession. It had been generally accepted that the rule was one week prior or subsequent to receiving this sacrament, although even this specific number of days could not be found in any Roman document which this writer has seen. The text was always a vague "several days".

The rumor reached a greater level of respectability when the Fraternity of St. Peter mentioned the new 20 day rule in their 2006 and 2007 *Ordo* (liturgical calendar) booklets. Unfortunately, the FSSP provided no reference for this new ruling. Even the 1999 revision to the Enchiridion of Indulgences from the Vatican made no mention of such a change.

We are pleased to report that we have finally located the appropriate authoritative document: On January 29, 2000, William Cardinal Baum, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary (the Vatican department which oversees Indulgences) issued a letter, "The Gift of the Indulgence," which stated:

"It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence." [Emphasis added]



You may read the original Vatican document in its entirety at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_trib_appen_pro_20000129_indulgence_en.html

Why the Holy See chose to bury such an important clarification within a relatively obscure document is difficult to fathom. It

promises a new opportunity for the faithful to earn Plenary Indulgences for themselves or for the Souls in Purgatory. Presuming that one meets all of the other criteria for earning a Plenary Indulgence, one monthly Confession could allow you to earn a Plenary Indulgence every day of the month.

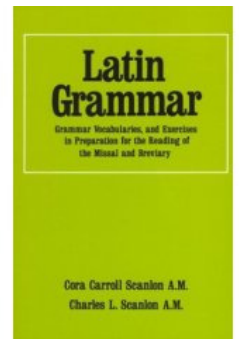
Of course, it can be difficult to meet the associated condition to remain free from the "attachment to sin" for an entire month without going to Confession, however at least the possibility is there. What an opportunity of grace to assist the Poor Souls, who can no longer pray for themselves but are utterly dependent upon the prayers of others to shorten the time of their suffering.

Latin Class Begins January 28, 2007

St. Josaphat's Introduction to Latin class will begin immediately after the Tridentine Mass (around 11:00 AM) on Sunday, January 28. Participants will learn Latin specifically as it is used in the Sacred Liturgy. Classes will be held in the basement of the Parish Hall on every Sunday on which there is a reception after the Tridentine Mass. This means every Sunday except February 18, March 11, April 22, May 20, and June 24.

Attendees should sign up with instructor Peter Gulewich after Mass, or e-mail the address at the bottom of this page, but last-minute arrivals are welcome. The class is open to all; you do not need to be a member of St. Josaphat or attend the Tridentine Mass.

Participants will need to purchase the textbook, "Latin Grammar: Grammar Vocabularies and Exercises in Preparation for the Reading of the Missal and Breviary" by Scanlon & Scanlon. This book is available on Amazon.com for \$18.00, or directly from the publisher, TAN Books, at (800) 437-5876.



Gregorian Chant Workshop

With the significant interest shown thus far in the Latin Class, St. Josaphat and St. Michael music directors Wassim Sarweh and Matthew Meloche are trying to assess interest in a one-day (Saturday) Chant Workshop. Participants will learn the history of chant, how to read chant notation, and will have ample opportunity to develop their singing skills. Attendees will learn how to sing the Mass Propers from the Tridentine *Liber Usualis* and Novus Ordo *Graduale Romanum*, the principal references for the chants of the liturgical year.

This workshop will be intended both for the person in the pew just curious to develop his or her knowledge of the Church's own music, as well as for those who might want to join a choir, here or elsewhere, that uses chant. See Wassim or Matthew after Mass if you are interested, or e-mail the address at the bottom of this page.