



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

November 5, 2012

Dear Pastors and Pastoral Administrators,

On October 5, the Apostolic Penitentiary announced that from October 11, 2012 through November 24, 2013, all the faithful who, being truly repentant of their sins, may acquire a Plenary Indulgence by celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, receiving Holy Communion, praying for the Pope's intentions and performing one of the following penances adapted, according to the decree, for the Diocese of Rochester:

- a. Participate in a parish mission, attending at least 3 sessions; or attending at least 3 lectures on the decrees of the Second Vatican Council; or 3 lectures on some topics from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Or
- b. Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, Holy Family Church, Auburn or St. Peter & Paul Church, Elmira where they will either participate in Mass (or some other religious service) or spend some time in prayer, concluding with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed, invocations to the Blessed Mother and to St John Fisher, patron of the Diocese. Or
- c. Participate in Mass (or the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours) and recite the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed in any church on January 25 (the announcement of the Council by Blessed John XXIII); or June 22 (the reconstituting of the Council after the election of Pope Paul VI); or October 11, (the opening of the Council), or December 8 (the close of the Council), or March 25, 26, or 27 (during Holy Week). Or
- d. On any day, visit the baptistry or place where they themselves were baptized, renewing their baptismal promises according to the current liturgical form. Or
- e. Devoutly attend the diocesan solemnity at Sacred Heart Cathedral to close the Year of Faith on November 24, 2013 and receive from the Bishop or Apostolic Administrator the Papal Blessing with the Plenary Indulgence. Or
- f. When truly impeded from any the above by a serious reason (i.e. cloistered nuns and monks, prisoners, the elderly and sick), simply recite the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed, other prayers in keeping with the Year of Faith and offering the sufferings and discomforts of their life.

In your kindness, please make known to your people the announcement of the Plenary Indulgence and the conditions under which it can be obtained. Please know that I fervently pray you and all those under your spiritual care, that this Year of Faith will be for us all a time of deepening and renewal, a time of rediscovery, a "time of spiritual grace."

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham
Apostolic Administrator of Rochester