

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE KEYNOTE—THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH (3-21-21)

Prayer to Guardian Angel of the United States (from *Opus Angelorum*)

O glorious Guardian Angel of the United States, to whom God has entrusted the care of our beloved country, we honor you and thank you for the care and protection you have given to this great nation from the first moment of its inception.

O powerful Angel Guardian, whose watchful glance encompasses this vast land from shore to shore, we know that our sins have grieved our Lord and God and marred the beauty of our heritage. Lead us to a deep conversion, so that we may return to the embrace of His merciful love!

O Holy Angel, obtain for us through the intercession of the Queen of Heaven before the throne of God the graces we need to overcome the forces of evil so rampant in our beloved land. Help us, our God-given protector and friend, to respond wholeheartedly to the urgent pleas of the Mother of God at Fatima. Assist us to offer the prayers and sacrifices necessary to bring peace and goodness to our nation.

We want to make you known and loved throughout our land, so that docile to your inspirations we may know, love and serve our Lord more faithfully and so become once more "one Nation under God"! Amen.

SACRED SEVEN

- ___ 1. Only a baptized person can gain a plenary indulgence.
- ___ 2. A baptized person does not need to be in a state of grace to gain a plenary indulgence.
- ___ 3. A person can gain only one plenary indulgence in a given day, unless he is at the hour of death, in which case he could gain a second one.
- ___ 4. A person may apply the indulgence to a living individual, a deceased individual, or himself.
- ___ 5. To gain an indulgence, one must pray for the Pope's intentions.
- ___ 6. For a person to gain a plenary indulgence, he must exclude all attachment to sin, whether mortal or venial.
- ___ 7. An indulgence is remission in the eyes of God of the temporal punishment due to sins that have already been forgiven.

GROWING IN HOLINESS WITH SAINT JOSEPH

- I. Joseph's Life of Simplicity, Humility, and Purity of Heart:
 - A. Lives in a way both pious and practical

- B. Practices a wise obedience imbued with humility and mercy
 - C. Lives in accord with the Holy Spirit—Inspired discernment:
 1. He acts within his vocation and state of life as a Jew, husband, and father.
 2. His actions fit his talents and charisms and further develop them.
 3. His actions perfect his soul as they require service and sacrifice.
 4. He keeps his attention fixed on God to fulfill his responsibilities to his neighbor.
 5. He does not escape the real world but enters more deeply into it.
 6. His life is filled:
 - a. With truth—right reason and revelation
 - b. With the freedom of the Holy Spirit
 - c. With love that forms and fulfills each action
- II. Joseph’s Life Can Help Us in This Time:
- A. To establish order in the midst of disorder:
 1. God first, then neighbor
 2. Family life as a vocation—of serving, guarding, nourishing, and flourishing (domestic church)
 3. Work as a means of sanctification and glorifying God (opus Dei)
 - B. To practice holy leadership amidst corrupt leadership
 - C. To enter into silence amidst noise
 - D. To exercise devotion and fidelity in the midst of hard-heartedness and infidelity.
- III. Requirements for a Plenary Indulgence:
- A. Carrying out the prescribed work
 - B. Excluding attachment to all sin, whether mortal or venial
 - C. Within several days preceding or following performance of the prescribed work:
 1. Making a Sacramental Confession
 2. Receiving Holy Communion
 3. Praying for the Pope’s intentions (One “Hail Mary” with one “Our Father” suffice)

QUESTIONS

- I. Have you ever tried to gain a plenary indulgence? Why or why not?
- II. Do you see gaining a plenary indulgence as challenging? Why or why not?
- III. Do you believe many Catholics seek to gain plenary indulgences? Defend your answer.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer—Include the “Signum Crucis,” “Pater Noster,” “Ave Maria,” “Gloria Patri,” “Capital Campaign Prayer to Saint Joseph,” and “Prayer to the Guardian Angel of the United States”

- II. Mid-Day Prayer—Praying “The Divine Praises” and making a particular examination of conscience with an Act of Contrition
- III. Daily Mental Prayer—Conversing with your guardian angel
- IV. Nightly Examination of Conscience followed by the Confiteor:
Have I expressed my devotion to the holy angels:
 - A. Have I lived fully and helped others to live fully?
 - B. Did I live in truth as a child of God by imitating Christ?
 - C. Did I live in freedom by avoiding sin and cooperating with grace?
 - D. Did I express love by always and everywhere offering my life to God in thanksgiving and serving others in His Name?