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## Extension of Plenary Indulgence for the Poor Souls during November.

The October 22, the Vatican extended the Plenary Indulgence for the poor souls to the entire month of November and modified the “work” associated with the indulgence. “Mentally” visiting a cemetery now suffices. As was published in our bulletin for All Saints/Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>:

### ***All Souls Indulgences***

*An indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the dead. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls in purgatory. This indulgence is a plenary one from November 1 through November 8 and can be gained on each one of these days. On the other days of the year this indulgence is a partial one.*  
Handbook of Indulgences, No. 13.

This indulgence may be gained this year without actually visiting a cemetery, church or oratory. The “work” is the visit to a sacred place, (Catholic cemeteries are blessed and becomes a sacred place BEFORE any body is interred therein). This work may be done “mentally”, due to the current danger of people gathering, or places under civil lockdown.

It is not as bizarre as it may appear.

From the General Norms of the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*:

No. 4: *Both partial and plenary indulgences can always be applied to the dead as suffrages.*

The normal conditions for gaining a plenary indulgence are enumerated in Norm No. 23. 1: *Beside the exclusion of all attachment to sin, even venial sin, the requirements for gaining a plenary indulgence are the performance of the indulgenced work and fulfill of three conditions: sacramental confession, eucharistic communion, and prayer for the pope’s intentions.* The norms of the Plenary Indulgence promulgated by the Bishop of Fort Worth on March 24 apply to this indulgence as well, scil. sacramental confession and eucharistic communion are not required. Norm 21.1 still applies, however: *A plenary indulgence may be gained only once on any day.*

The Pope’s intention for this month is “that robotics and artificial intelligence be oriented towards respecting the dignity of the person and of creation”. (This intention was obviously determined in 2019, the last year before 2020).

For more information, please see the Vatican website

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2020-10/decreed-plenary-indulgence-faithful-departed-november.html>