



APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY

D E C R E E

Special Indulgences are Granted to the Members of Faithful on the Occasion of the ‘Fourteenth World Day of the Sick’

The Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, moved by the strong wish that from the infirmities and pains of men, borne with resignation and offered to the Eternal Father through the Virgin Mary together with the sufferings of His Son the Redeemer, come abundant spiritual fruits, and above all sustained by the hope that there will be promoted works and initiatives of Christian piety and social solidarity on behalf of the sick, and in a special way for those who, being affected by some mental disability, are more easily marginalised by society and their own families, at the Audience granted to the below mentioned Cardinal Penitentiary on 2 January of this year ordered that special indulgences, as follows, be granted to the faithful on the occasion of the ‘Fourteenth World Day of the Sick’, next February 11, the liturgical Memorial of the Our Lady of Lourdes, which will culminate in the Eucharistic Celebration in the cathedral of **St. Francis Xavier** in Adelaide, Australia.

A. A *plenary indulgence* to the members of faithful who, under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), and with a spirit that is detached from any sin, on next February 11, take part devoutly, in the cathedral of Adelaide or any other place established by the ecclesiastical Authority, in some holy ceremony celebrated to implore from God the achievement of the aims of the ‘World Day of the Sick’.

Members of the faithful who in public hospitals or in any private home charitably assist as ‘good Samaritans’ the sick, especially those who because of some mental disability require greater patience, diligence and attention, and, because of their service cannot take part in a ceremony indicated above, will obtain the same gift of the plenary indulgence if on that day they will at least for an hour generously give their assistance to the sick as though they were doing it to Christ the Lord himself (cf. Mt 25:40), with a spirit detached from any sin and the intention to fulfil, when they can, the conditions required for the obtaining of the plenary indulgence.

The members of the faithful, lastly, who because of illness, advanced age or a similar reason, are impeded from taking part in a ceremony indicated above, will obtain the plenary indulgence where, with their spirit detached from any sin and with the resolution to fulfil the usual conditions as soon as possible, on that day, united to the Holy Father, they take part spiritually by their wishes in the above celebration, pray devoutly for all the sick, and offer to God, through the Virgin Mary, ‘Health of the Sick’, their physical and spiritual sufferings.

B. A *partial indulgence* to all the members of the faithful who, from next February 9 to 11, at any time, with contrite heart, address to merciful God devout prayers to implore the achievement of the above aims to help the sick.

This present Decree has effect only on this occasion. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary.

Given in Rome, at the Offices of the Apostolic Penitentiary, 18 January 2006, the beginning of the Week of Prayer for the unity of Christians

+ JAMES FRANCIS Card. STAFFORD
Major Penitentiary

GIANFRANCO GIROTTI, O.F.M.
Regent