

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION

ITS MEANING

This beautiful devotion, in memory of the forty hours during which the Body of Jesus lay in the sepulcher, is held in each Catholic Church once every year, and is welcomed by every parish and religious community as a period of special graces and blessings. (The devotion dates its origin as far back as the year 1534, and has for its object the solemn adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, including thanksgiving, reparation, propitiation and impetration.) The worship of Jesus in the Eucharist is the primary devotion of Holy Mother Church, (before which all other devotions pale as the stars at the coming dawn.) The Forty Hours devotion is, furthermore, precious on account of the Indulgences that are offered.

THE INDULGENCES

- 1 **A Plenary Indulgence** may be gained once a day on each day during the Forty Hours Devotion by all who, being truly repentant, confess their sins, receive Holy Communion, visit the church in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and pray for the intentions of the Church. The prayers prescribed for this indulgence are the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, six times.
- 2 **A Partial indulgence** of fifteen years may be gained for each and every visit to a church in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for the Forty Hours Devotion. The same prayers are prescribed.
 - a. These indulgences are applicable to the souls in Purgatory.
 - b. The sick can gain these indulgences if they perform some good work prescribed by their confessor.
 - c. The Confession may be made, and Communion received on the morning before the Exposition has taken place, or any day of the following week.
 - d. If Communion be received in the church of Exposition and during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, this visit will answer for one of the prescribed as necessary to gain the plenary indulgence.

REFLECT

That every member of your family should visit the church during these days of grace, to testify his faith in the Real Presence and to prove his love for Jesus Christ, who has given Himself to us “A Prisoner of Love.” All day and night and all the year-round Jesus dwells in the Tabernacle, ready to listen to your prayers, but during these days He holds, as it were, a reception to His friends. Will you not be one of them? The nearest approach to a fore-taste of Heaven is the time spent in silent adoration of Jesus in the Sacrament of the altar.

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Raccolta #182

O my Lord Jesus Christ, who for the love Thou bearest mankind, dost remain night and day in this Sacrament, all full of tenderness and love, expecting, inviting and receiving all those who come to visit thee; I believe that Thou art present in the Sacrament of the altar; I adore Thee from the depths of my own nothingness and thank Thee for all the favors Thou hast bestowed upon me; and especially for having given me Thyself in this Sacrament, and Thy most holy Mother Mary as my advocate; and for having called me to visit Thee in this church. I pay my homage this day to thy most loving Heart and this I intend to do for three intentions: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift; secondly, in reparation for all the insults Thou has received from Thine enemies in this Sacrament; thirdly, by this visit I intend to adore thee in all places upon the earth, where Thou art least adored and most neglected in thy Sacrament. My Jesus, I love Thee with my whole heart. I repent of having in the past so many times displeased Thine infinite goodness. I purpose with the help of Thy grace never more to offend Thee in the future; and at this moment, wretched as I am, I consecrate myself wholly to Thee. I give to Thee and utterly renounce my entire will, all my affections, all my desires, and all that I possess. From this day forth do with me and with all that is mine whatever is pleasing in Thy sight. I ask and desire only Thy holy love, final perseverance, and the perfect fulfillment of Thy will. I commend to Thee the souls in purgatory, especially those who were most devoted to this Blessed Sacrament and to Blessed Mary; I commend to Thee in like manner all poor sinners. Finally, my dear Saviour, I unite all my affections with those of Thy most loving Heart, and thus united I offer them to Thine eternal Father, and I pray Him in Thy name graciously to accept and answer them for love of Thee.

The faithful who devoutly recite this prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, are granted:

An indulgence of 5 years. A plenary indulgence once a month if its daily recitation is persevered in for the entire month and, in addition, make their confession, receive Holy Communion and pray for the intentions of Holy Mother Church.

Raccolta # 183

I adore Thee, O Jesus, true God and true Man, here present in the Holy Eucharist, humbly kneeling before Thee and united in spirit with all the faithful on Earth and all the blessed in Heaven. In deepest gratitude for so great a blessing, I love Thee, my Jesus, with my whole heart, for Thou art all perfect and all worthy of love.

Give me grace nevermore in any way to offend Thee, and grant that I, being refreshed by Thy eucharistic presence here on earth, may be found worthy to come to the enjoyment with Mary of Thine eternal and ever blessed presence in Heaven. Amen.

An indulgence of 3 years once a day.

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