



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT
1234 WASHINGTON BLVD.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

November 18, 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

Earlier this year, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI commenced a holy year in honor of the Apostle to the Gentiles, St. Paul, in celebration of the two-thousandth anniversary of his birth. During this holy year, which will conclude on June 29, 2009, the Holy Father extends to all of the faithful an opportunity to receive a Plenary Indulgence upon the completion of the required conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, prayers for the Supreme Pontiff's intention). This Plenary Indulgence can be received by making a pilgrimage to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome, as well as to churches designated as pilgrimage sites by the Bishop of each diocese.

To make reception of the Plenary Indulgence readily available to all of the faithful, I have designated certain churches as pilgrimage sites here in the Archdiocese. These churches are identified in the attached decree.

A holy year is an opportunity for all of us to grow spiritually, as well as to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the treasury of spiritual graces that are available to us through the Church. Specifically, an indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian, who is duly disposed, gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the church.

As we join with Catholic Christians around the world in prayer during this holy year, may we become more and more aware of the great love God has for us, and imitate the missionary zeal and courage of St. Paul.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Adam Cardinal Maida
Archbishop of Detroit