

Invitation to Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Good Friday

(Memo from Archbishop Gomez to all Bishops)

From: Rev. Msgr. J. Brian Bransfield, General Secretary, USCCB

To: All USA Bishops

Your Eminences / Your Excellencies,

I take this opportunity to convey to you the enclosed letter of Most Reverend José Gomez of Los Angeles, President, inviting you to join in prayer in the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at 9 am PDT / 12 pm EDT this Good Friday, April 10, 2020.

By a special grant from the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See for those who pray for the end of the pandemic, a plenary indulgence is available for those who join Archbishop Gomez in praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart on Good Friday. A plenary Indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins and may be applied to oneself or to the souls of the deceased [Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1471].

To receive this indulgence, a member of the faithful would need to

- a) pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart on Good Friday
- b) be truly repentant of any sins they have committed and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (at the earliest opportunity)
- c) pray for the Holy Father's intentions.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this memorandum.

From: Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, USCCB President

To: All USA Bishops

May God bless you.

I write to you during this Lenten season which feels more challenging than usual. As we shelter in place, cut off from those we love and fearing for so many, our thoughts turn continually in prayer to Jesus Christ, the great healer. This present sickness itself even testifies to the unity and connection of all humankind, that all God's creation is sojourning together and in need of grace.

We see Jesus, perhaps, in a new light during this Holy Week. We have celebrated him as the triumphant king, as indeed he is, and we delighted to praise him with hosannas and cheer his coming. This year, though, we see his sorrows, and we see ourselves in the crowd that cries out, begging for deliverance.

Still, the angel's cry sounds through the ages, "Be not afraid!" As we await the glad feast of Easter, we recall that the grave could not contain our Lord, that death has lost its sting. Particularly as we approach Holy Week, we remember the greatness and power of God, and we affirm, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

I therefore invite all of us to join together in prayer using the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus this Good Friday at 9 am PDT / 12 pm EDT.

As an aid to this call to prayer, please find at the following links a prayer card of the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as a promotional flyer for the occasion:

- Spanish: <https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Litany-of-the-Sacred-HeartSpanish.pdf>
- English: <https://lacatholics.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Litany-of-the-Sacred-HeartEnglish.pdf>
- Flyer (English):
https://lacatholics.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/AnnoucementGraphic_USCCB_English.png

Please extend this invitation to all the faithful under your care, that together we may seek healing for all who are unwell, wisdom for those whose work is halting the spread of coronavirus, and strength for all God's children.

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend José H. Gomez Archbishop of Los Angeles President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops