News



A giant mural of the Sacred Heart of Jesus overlooks several hundred thousand people gathered for Mass with Pope John Paul II in Havana Jan. 25, 1998. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will lead the nation in prayer at this time of the coronavirus on Good Friday, April 10, 2020. U.S. Catholics are invited to join him in praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus "to seek our Savior's healing and protection" at noon (EDT), 11 a.m. (CDT), 10 a.m. (MDT) and 9 a.m. (PDT). To participate and pray as one nation, go to https://lacatholics.org/sacred-heart or facebook.com/usccb. (CNS/Reuters/Paul Hanna)

by Catholic News Service

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Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has invited U.S. Catholics to join him on Good Friday, April 10, to pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart at noon (EDT).

"Praying together as a nation, the archbishop asks that we 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," said a USCCB news release issued late April 2.

A livestream of the Litany of the Sacred Heart with Gomez will be available on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' website: www.lacatholics.org and on the USCCB Facebook page: www.facebook.com/usccb. The text of Litany of the Sacred Heart can be found in English and Spanish on the Los Angeles archdiocesan website.

Additionally, with special permission received from the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See, a plenary indulgence is available for those who join 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, the faithful would need to: pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart on Good Friday; be truly repentant of any sins they have committed and receive the sacrament of reconciliation (at the earliest opportunity); and pray for Pope Francis' intentions.

"Good Friday is a day when Christians around the world solemnly commemorate the day when Jesus suffered and died on the cross. Catholics traditionally mark the day with fasting, penance and reflection on Jesus' loving sacrifice," the USCCB release said.

"This opportunity to pray together during the coronavirus pandemic offers a special moment of unity for the faithful during a time when communities throughout the

United States and worldwide are physically unable to congregate for Holy Week and Easter because of COVID-19," it added.

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