

55.

**Cardinal Rigali Message
Indulgences**

Announcer: And now a message from Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

The word indulgence is commonly used to describe a kindness or favor. In theological terms, it often is employed to signify the kindness and mercy of God.

In a more meaningful sense, *The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines indulgences as the remissions before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven.

The Compendium further instructs that the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains the indulgence under prescribed conditions for either himself or the departed. Indulgences are granted through the ministry of the Church which, as the dispenser of the grace of redemption, distributes the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints.