

INTRODUCTION

The profundity of the divine mercy that God has for men is magnificently demonstrated in the conferring to Saint Peter and his successors, the Keys over the spiritual treasury of the Church, so that by their word the faithful can obtain from the spiritual treasury, the application of the sufferings of Christ to the atonement for the temporal punishment due to their sin; and hence be granted a full pardon for having violated divine justice.

At the time of death, one is at the doorstep of a true reckoning for one’s life. What great compassion God has in giving the Church the power to wipe away all of the restitution one must pay back to him. This is called an “**Apostolic Pardon**” or an “**Apostolic Blessing**.”

PAPAL AUTHORITY

Pope Innocent IV in his Bull, *Pia Mater* extended the faculty all priests to give a benediction with a **plenary indulgence** to the sick, called “*In Articulo Mortis - The Moment of Death*.”

CONDITIONS

This indulgence is gained only at the moment of death. The circumstances in which the benediction is to be given are the same as with giving **Extreme Unction** and is customary to be given right afterwards. In order to gain the fruit of the indulgence, the following conditions of disposition must be held by the sick person:

1. Sorrow for their sins.
2. Sentiments of fervent love of God.
3. Perfect resignation to His Holy Will in accepting death by His hand, in punishment for their sins.

FORMS

The Apostolic Blessing has two forms in the in the Ordinary Form for the Anointing of the Sick:

- **Form A:**
“Through the holy mysteries of our redemption, may Almighty God release you from all punishments in this life and in the life to come. May he open to you the gates of paradise and welcome you to everlasting joy. Amen.”
- **Form B:**
“By the Faculty which the Apostolic See has given me, I grant you a full pardon and the remission of all your sins, in the Name of the Father ✠, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit ✠. Amen.”

