

# CHICAGO AIRPORTS CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

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## *Jubilee Holy Year on the occasion of The Centenary of the Proclamation of Our Lady of Loreto as Patron Saint of Aviation*

**December 8, 2019 – December 10, 2020**

### **Whyis the Church celebrating this Jubilee?**

The Holy House, which according to an ancient pious tradition was carried by angels in flight, inspired the aviators of the First World War to rely on the Blessed Virgin of Loreto. At that time, in fact, airplanes were popularly called “flying houses”. Thus Pope Benedict XV, on 24 March 1920, declared the Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto “principal patroness to God for all aircraft”. The centenary of the proclamation is therefore the occasion of this Jubilee.

However, the Jubilee event does not only concern the world of aviation (workers and passengers), but is addressed to all the devotees of Our Lady of Loreto, and to all those who come to the Holy House from all over the world to receive the gift of Plenary Indulgence, a sign of God’s infinite mercy.

On the Jubilee prayer card, the Pope invites us to pray as follows: “As God raises us upward in flight, let our spirit too rise high.” The flight of aircraft therefore becomes the metaphor of our existence. We are all called to fly high, because God offers everyone the possibility of a good and holy life.

In his pastoral letter “Called to Fly High,”<sup>1</sup> Archbishop Fabio Dal Cin, prelate and Pontifical delegate for the Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto, proposed some points for reflection so that this flying is not intended as “fluttering” or “wandering”, performing extraordinary feats, but accepting Christ as the “Pilot” of our life. This is an extraordinary way of doing ordinary things, placing faith and love in us as Mary did. The letter simply helps us to understand the meaning of the Jubilee, a Jubilee that is intended as a great opportunity for us all to revive our adherence to Christ the one Savior, without whom it is illusory to dream of a more just, fraternal and supportive society.

From this point of view, the Jubilee becomes a favorable occasion for each of us to rediscover the call to holiness in the contemporary world, as presented to us by Pope Francis in the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate*.

During the Lauretan Holy Year, the **only** jubilee church in the world will be the Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto in Italy. However, in order to underscore the pastoral value of places of worship in civil and military aviation, the possibility of receiving the gift of the Plenary Indulgence is also extended to civil and military airport chapels, upon request sent to the Pontifical Delegation by the local Ordinary. Requests have already arrived from various countries (Brazil, Spain, Poland, France, Italy, the United States, etc.). Thanks to Cardinal Cupich and Fr. Mike Zaniolo, the O'Hare and Midway Airport Chapels have been granted the possibility of offering this Plenary Indulgence associated with the Jubilee!

To better understand indulgences as instruments of God’s mercy and our restoration in the Communion of Saints, see *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*,<sup>2</sup> nn. 1471-1479.

### **What must one do in order to receive the special Plenary Indulgence?**

In order to gain this special Indulgence, a Catholic is required first to: let go of all attachment to sin, make sacramental Confession, receive the Eucharist at Mass, and offer prayers for the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.

In addition to and in conjunction with fulfilling these conditions, one must pray the Our Father, the Creed, & the Jubilee Prayer (prayer cards are available at the airport chapels), or the Litany of Loreto *before the Icon or an image of Our Lady of Loreto in the O'Hare Airport Chapel or Midway Airport Chapel.*

Those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to go to the O'Hare or Midway Airport Chapel, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, e.g., confined to the home, the Holy Father noted, "For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence."

The Pope has asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.

1) see <https://www.jubilaeumlauretanum.it/pastoral-letter-by-s-e-mons-fabio-dal-cin-archbishop-of-loreto/?lang=en>

2) see [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/\\_P4G.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P4G.HTM)

**Go to [www.airportchapels.org](http://www.airportchapels.org) for more information about the O'Hare and Midway Airport Chapels**