



Holy Compostelan Year **AGENCIA DEL CAMINO 21/22**

What is a Holy Year Compostelano?

Year when St James's Day (25th July) falls on a Sunday.

Holy (Jubilee) Year is a time when the Church, due to some occurrence during history of Redemption, grants its faithful spiritual graces, thus imitating what the Bible said of the Israeli Jubilee Year (Lv 25, 8-55): every 50 years was a Sabbatical Year during which lands which had to be sold because of necessity and slaves regained their freedom.

It is a time when it is easier to obtain graces from God and, above all, it is an invitation to those who have parted from the Christian life to return or to take more seriously our condition of Christians.

Santiago Cathedral enjoys a singular privilege thanks to a papal bull granted by Pope Calixtus II, a great benefactor for that church in Compostela. This privilege, confirmed by Alexander III, consists in that every year in which St James's Day falls on a Sunday is a Holy Compostelan Year. During that year the graces of the Compostelan Jubilee can be obtained in Santiago (= St James) of Compostela Cathedral.

What is a Jubilee?

The Compostelan Jubilee grants as a special grace:

A Plenary Indulgence

A plenary indulgence, applicable to the death, each day, with the customary conditions.

"An indulgence is the remission in the sight of God of the temporal punishment due for sins, the guilt of which has already been forgiven. A member of Christ's

faithful who is properly disposed and who fulfils certain specific conditions, may gain an indulgence by the help of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the merits of Christ and the Saints" (Code of Canon Law, c. 992).

Other graces

Confessors specially designated can give absolution from censures (for example, consummated abortion, public apostasy, ... C.I.C, c. 1398 and c. 1364), except those reserved for the Holy See, and dispensation or commutation of unreserved vows.

Priests, while they stay in the diocese of Compostela for the pilgrimage, have ministerial licenses in the form in which they may have them from their respective Ordinaries.

The sense of the indulgence

Mankind due to sin has distanced itself from God and has damaged his communion with their brothers. But by the sacrament of Confession our sins are forgiven. However, we are obliged "to compensate" for them, that is to say, purify the disorder caused within us by sin. The Church invites us to do this by means of good deeds, penitence and charity.

The plenary indulgence is the concession by the Church, in the name of God, of the "grace" which allows us to "satisfy completely" all that we owe due to our sins.

The indulgence of the Compostelan Jubilee is therefore the concession which the Church makes to the faithful of the "pardon" or "total amnesty" for God, conditioned by our sincere wishes of conversion and, in this case, by a visit to the Cathedral of St James Apostle.

How do I obtain the Jubilee?

It is necessary, apart from exclusion of all affect to every sin, including venial sin:

- 1- Visit the cathedral of St. James where the tomb of St. James the elder is found.
- 2- Some prayer, particularly the Our Father and the Creed, according to the intention of the Pope.
- 3- Confession and Communion. Both recommended for the same day of the visit to the cathedral. But the Confession can be made a few days before or after.

Note:

A. Both the confession and communion can be anticipated or delayed fifteen days to the visit to the cathedral. It would be convenient that the communion and prayers for the pope be done same day as the visit to the cathedral.

B. During the visit to the cathedral it is not necessary to do any other acts than those indicated: to enter through the holy gate etc.

Examination of conscience

Catechism of the Catholic Church says about the sacrament of Penance: "The reception of this sacrament ought to be prepared for by an examination of conscience made in the light of the Word of God"(n. 1454). *Some questions are suggested as reference*

- Have I witnessed publicly to my faith in God?
- Have I respected the name of God, or do I offend Him with blasphemy, swearing and taking His name in vain?
- Do I keep Sundays and Holydays sacred by going to Mass?
- Do I cause serious scandal by words and actions?
- Do I educate my children in the Catholic Faith by example and dialogue?

- Do I obey my parents, respect them and help them?
- Am I faithful to my wife/husband, in thought, word and deed?
- Do I treat others as I would like them to treat me?
- Do I share with the poor? Do I help the poor, weak, old and immigrants?
- Have I kept my civic duties? Do I pay what I owe?
- Am I honest in my work, and do what is my duty?
- Do I pay a just salary to those who work for me?
- Have I told the truth, or have I injured others with what is a false, lie or calumny?
- Have I hurt the goods of others, their integrity or honor? Have I induced abortion?
- Have I stolen from others? Have I given back what I have stolen?
- Have I asked pardon from those I have offended?
- Have I been pure and chaste in body and senses?
- Have I committed impurities of the flesh?
- Have I acted against my conscience for fear or hypocrisy?

If other sins are founded, mention them in the Confession.