The Marian Year, like a Holy Year, will offer many opportunities for plenary indulgences to be gained by the faithful throughout the world. Confession, Communion, and prayers for the Pope's intentions are the usual conditions for being "properly disposed."

Your Confession and Communion may be within the octave before, or the octave after, the pious work is performed. A Pater, Ave, and Gloria suffice as prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father.

How Indulgences May Be Gained

1) By visiting a church built in Mary's honor on the feasts of the: a) Immaculate Conception (Dec.8); b) Purification (Feb.2); c) Annunciation (Mar.25); d) Assumption (Aug.15); e) Nativity (Sept.8); f) Immaculate Conception of next year.

Note: Several churches in South Bend -- none on campus, so far as we know -- qualify as churches for gaining this particular indulgence. Furthermore, the indulgence listed above is called toties-quoties -- that is, this plenary indulgence may be gained as often as the visit is made, and the required works performed.

2) Every Saturday of the year by taking part in a pilgrimage to a shrine in honor of Mary, or by attending a function in her honor.

Note: You must go in a group to this devotion - you can't make the pilgrimage alone.

3) Every day of the year by visiting a sanctuary (or shrine) where the Blessed Virgin Mary is venerated with particular devotion, and where the faithful customarily go in large numbers -- for example, our Novena to the Sorrowful Mother -- in any church or chapel.

4) All altars dedicated to the Blessed Virgin will be privileged altars during the Marian Year -- that is, a plenary indulgence may be gained for the soul in Purgatory for whom the Mass is offered.

If the Bulletin is mistaken in some detail(s), you will be appraised of the correction.

Bob Considine on Christmas Cards

"Received a card with a tenderly tinted view of a battleship belching a broadside; a lot of cards with wistful dogs, horses, cats; views of the Manhattan skyline from Brooklyn; a bewildering variety of front doors; a pretty painting of a Swedish bridge; a suberbly embossed card giving the first, breath-taking sentence of the Constitution, and a shot at the Kremlin tower! Call me Scrooge, but I can't quite experience the haunting tingle of bygone Christmases by resting the eye upon a beautifully colored picture of the Eiffel Tower!

"Snow is fine, and all that. But there wasn't any around when Christ was born. Nor reindeer being ridden by cartooned images of the dear, little ones, or the family. Nor hack poets. There was mainly this Child, as I get it, and His Mother, and she wrapped Him in some of her clothing, and laid Him in the manger of a cave because, as a good reporter named Luke wrote, a few years later, the Family had had some hotel trouble."

We started yesterday -- The Novena For Parents -- but if you missed, begin tomorrow morning. There is still ample time to complete the Novena before you leave the campus.