

[A printed indulgence, dated 1515, issued by Albert, archbishop of Mainz, on the authority of Pope Leo X. The document is blank, and was meant to be filled in and sealed with the seal of the building fund of St. Peter's, Rome.]

[Transcribed and translated by Joseph Goering, 11 June 2008]

Albert, by the grace of God and of the Apostolic See archbishop of Mainz and of Magdeburg; administrator of the churches of Halberstadt; primate of Germany; archchancellor of the holy Roman Empire; prince elector of the Brandenburg March; duke of Stettin, Pomerania, of the Cassubens and of the Slavs; Burggraf of Nuremberg, and prince of Rügen, to our beloved in Christ, _____[name]_____, greetings in the Lord.

The sincere and fervent devotion that you have shown toward the Roman church and to the fabric of the great work of the basilica of Saint Peter at Rome through your suitable contribution in accordance with our ordinance for its reparation properly moves us to assent to your petitions, especially to those that arise from the fervor of devotion. Thus we are inclined to your devout supplications:

That you might be permitted to have a portable altar, upon which [mass may be celebrated] in suitable and respectable places, but without prejudicing the rights of others.

And if you should happen to find yourself in places upon which an ecclesiastical interdict has been laid by competent authority, for as long as you shall live you may celebrate mass, or cause it to be celebrated, by yourself or by one of your own priests or by another suitable priest, whether a secular or a regular, at any time of the year except in Easter season, even before daylight (but not too long before), with closed doors and with all excommunicated and interdicted persons excluded, so long as you shall have given no support to the interdicted.

That, by devoutly visiting a church or churches of your choice during each Lenten season and on other days on which Christ's faithful are wont to visit the churches of Rome and its surroundings in order to gain the indulgences of the stational churches of the city, you might gain as many and similar indulgences and remissions of sins as you would have received had you visited the same aforesaid [Roman] churches in person.

And that your body [might be given] a church burial with funeral pomp during an interdict imposed by whatsoever authority, so long as you shall have given no support to the interdicted.

We allow (*Indulgemus*) by special grace that these things be granted to you by apostolic authority, which we discharge through a special letter of our most holy lord, lord Leo X, pope by divine providence. With the proviso, however, that you use sparingly the indult to celebrate mass, or to have it celebrated, before daylight, since it is fitting, when our lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, who is the splendor of eternal light, is sacrificed on the altar, that this be done not in the dark of night but in the light.

In guarantee of which things we have ordered the present letter to be made and to be confirmed by the affixing of the seal of the aforesaid fabric [of St. Peter's, Rome].

Given on the ___ day of _____, in the year of the Lord 1515, the ___ year of the pontificate of the aforesaid lord pope.

Transcription: [abbreviations silently expanded; punctuation modernized; orthography of the original]

Albertus, Dei et Apostolica sedis gratia Maguntinensis et Magdeburgensis Archiepiscopus, ac Halberstatensis ecclesiarum Administrator, Germanie Primas, et sacri Romani Imperii Archichancellarius princeps elector, Marchio Brandenburgensis, Stetinensis, Pomeranie, Cassuborum, Sclauorumque Dux, Burgravius Nurenbergensis, Rugieque princeps, Dilecto nobis in christo _____ [name] _____, Salutem in domino.

Sincera feruensque deuotio quam ad Romanam ecclesiam et fabricam immensi operis Basilice Sancti Petri de vrbe gerere comprobatis, ex quo iuxta ordinationem per nos factam ad illius reparationem debitam fecisti contributionem merito nos excitat et inducit vt petitionibus tuis illis presertim quas ex deuotionis feruore prodire conspiciamus fauorabiliter annuamus. Hinc est quod nos tuis deuotis supplicationibus inclinati:

Vt liceat tibi habere altare portatile cum debitis reuerentia et honore super quo in locis ad hoc congruentis et honestis sine tamen iuris alieni preiudicio.

Et si ad loca ecclesiastico interdicto ordinaria auctoritate supposita te declinare contigerit, in illis clausis ianuis, excommunicatis et interdictis exclusis, dummodo tu causam non dederis interdicto, quoad vixeris per te ipsum vel per proprium aut alium sacerdotem idoneum secularem vel regularem quouis anni tempore preterquam in Paschate missam etiam ante diem circa tamen diurnam lucem celebrare seu celebrari facere possis.

Quodque aliquam vel aliquas ecclesiam vel ecclesias per te eligendas deuote singulis Quadragesimalibus et aliis diebus quibus ecclesie vrbis et extra eam per christifideles pro consequendis Indulgentiis stationum vrbis visitari solent visitando, tot et similes Indulgentias et peccatorum remissiones consequaris quas consequeris si singulis diebus eisdem dictas ecclesias personaliter visitares.

Corpusque tuum ecclesiastice sepulture cum funerali pompa tempore Interdicti quauis auctoritate appositi dummodo tu causam non dederis Interdicto.

Tradi possit auctoritate Apostolica, qua per speciales Sanctissimi domini nostri domini Leonis diuina prouidentia Pape decimi literas fungimur, deuotioni tue de speciali gratia Indulgemus. Prouiso tamen quod parce huiusmodi indulto ante diem celebrandi seu celebrari faciendi vtaris, quia cum in altaris officio imoletur dominus noster Ihesus Christus dei filius, qui candor est lucis eterne, congruit id non noctis tenebris fieri sed in luce. In quorum fidem presentes literas fieri dicteque fabrice Sigilli iussimus appensionem communiri.

Datum _____ Anno domini M.ccccc.xv Die _____, Mensis _____, pontificatus prefati domini nostri Pape, Anno _____.