ALFREDUS
DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS ALANOPOLITANUS

DECREE

IN NOMINE DOMINI.
AMEN.

To our Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Diocese of Allentown.

Mindful of my obligation to foster belief and devotion to the Sacred Mysteries so that the faithful entrusted to my care may grow in grace through the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Most Holy Eucharist, and sustain them in fulfilling their Christian Vocations; and, so that they may know more fully, and live out the Paschal Mystery of Christ, by leading lives of holiness, promoting the growth of the Church, and contributing to the sanctification of the world:

I commend all the faithful to recall how the Lord Jesus Christ, on the night of the Last Supper, was aware that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and to return to His Heavenly Father. On that evening before His Passion and Death, as He gathered together with the Apostles in the Upper Room, and in the context of the Passover Feast, He instituted the Most Holy Eucharist under the forms of the bread and wine so that He would leave us the pledge of His love and never depart from us, thus manifesting the fulfillment of the Wedding Banquet of the Lamb, and anticipating the final Passover of His Church into the glory of the Kingdom of God; and,

Because this Mystery of Faith was mandated by Christ to be carried out by the Apostles and their successors until He returns, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the Cross perpetuated down throughout the ages. When a Priest, acting in the person of Christ, the Head, offers this Sacred Oblation, all the faithful are invited to proceed to the Sacred Banquet, in which Christ is truly received. Having been illuminated by Sacred Scripture, the Church is led to the Altar of Sacrifice, where the Bread of Angels, the Bread from Heaven, the Most Precious Blood, and the Medicine of Immortality is adored and received, as our minds are filled with grace, and we are given a pledge of future glory.
Long before the foundation of the Diocese of Allentown, and until now, vast numbers of immigrants poured into these five counties, already united in the solidarity of the Catholic faith, and with the warmth of the charity of Christ burning in their hearts. In each new generation they adhered to this most sacred legacy of the Faith, principally by handing on the Eucharistic Mystery. This is the sublime cause of that Communion in Divine Life that unifies us as the People of God, and sustains us as the Body of Christ, making us one in the ineffable Sacrament of the Altar, which, as has been taught to us, is always to be praised, adored, and loved, with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the Tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time.

This unity is accomplished and manifested when we ourselves are truly present in the House of God and attentive to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. At this most sacred moment, we are commanded, rightly and justly, to lift up our hearts, so that we might once again become mystically united to the Holy Trinity, with the Blessed Virgin Mother of God, and Mother of the Church, the Angels and Archangels, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Joseph, Patriarchs and Prophets, Apostles and Evangelists, Disciples and Martyrs, Bishops and Confessors, Virgins and Religious, as we beg the intercession of the countless hosts of our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in faith: those of every race, nation, people, and tongue, who stand before the throne of the Lamb.

This belief in the Communion of Saints also keeps before our eyes the signs of the times. As such we honor the memory of those loved and lost during this time of Pandemic, and bear in mind the sufferings of the faithful who have been afflicted or affected, their families, heroic workers, and those who have assisted them, especially through prayer, and have, like Simon, encountered the glorious Cross that has brought about our salvation; and, like Veronica, ministered to Christ, and in doing so, from their hearts, have touched the face of God.

For these reasons we profess that the Diocese of Allentown is:

a Roman Catholic family of faith, centered in the Holy Eucharist; and,
having arrived at the Diamond Jubilee of our foundation by Pope Saint John XXIII,
we gratefully recall the sixty years of blessings God has bestowed upon us.
For those graces, and the spiritual benefit of the faithful entrusted to my care,
to whom the Lord commands me to, “Feed my sheep;” and,
under the protective mantle of our Patroness, Mary, Mother of the Church:

I Decree and Proclaim a

YEAR OF THE REAL PRESENCE

This year of the Lord’s favor is to commence with joy on the eleventh of April, in the year of Our Lord two-thousand and twenty-one, the Solemnity of Divine Mercy Sunday, and be observed with joy and gratitude until its conclusion, on the nineteenth of June, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty-two, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi.
In accord with the Universal Law of the Church which grants Bishops, by virtue of their pastoral office, the jurisdiction to grant a partial indulgence to persons under their jurisdiction;

*I further Decree that a:*

**PARTIAL INDULGENCE**

may be obtained for the remission of temporal punishment for sins whose guilt is already forgiven under the usual conditions of: Sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and, prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff,

for those members of the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Allentown who, truly penitent, are compelled by charity to take part in any event of the *Year of the Real Presence*, and in a particular way: the Opening Mass celebrating the *Solemnity of Divine Mercy Sunday*, and the closing Eucharistic Procession and Benediction upon the occasion of the *Solemnity of Corpus Christi*.

This indulgence may be applied to the souls of the faithful held in Purgatory as the lives of each of God’s Children, both those still on this earthly pilgrimage and those who have died in the peace of Christ, are joined together in Christ, and strengthened by the communion of spiritual blessings; and,

This indulgence may also be obtained by those members of the Christian Faithful of the Diocese of Allentown who are aged, sick, or are unable to leave their home; and, who have the intention to fulfill, the prescribed condition; and who spiritually unite themselves to those participating in this event; and, offer their prayers and sufferings to our merciful Father.

Given at the Cathedral of the Diocese of Allentown, the nineteenth day of March, in the year of Our Lord two-thousand twenty-one, in the fourth year of my Episcopate; and, upon the occasion of the *Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Universal Patron of the Church.*

[Signature]

Bishop of Allentown

[Seal]