

The Sacrament of Anointing the Sick

October, 2022

What effects does illness have on the person...

...their orbits of associates (family, coworkers...)

Physical...spiritual *"a glimpse of death"* (CCC#1500)

(Why is he blind? Is an effect of illness a feeling of undeserved suffering?)

What is healing? Salvation Healing *salus*

...to be taken out of a dangerous situation that risks perishing

The Gospel brings salvation...Rev.1:16 and Jesus is our savior Luke 2:11

Yeshua YHWH saves

Salvation is a person.... Jesus Christ

...to be saved means to be in Christ

Christ is the healer

The Church continues the healing (saving) mission of Jesus

Healing is much more than a cure.

"Illness becomes a way to conversion..." (CCC#1502)

(He is blind so that the power of God might be seen in him)

Stories of healing from the Scriptures

How did Jesus heal?

2 notable texts

Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15

So, they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. Mark 6:12-13

OIL How do people use oil?

Where is oil mentioned in the Bible?

Where in the prayer of the Church is oil used?

Oil is? Christ is.....?

A Brief History (snapshots)

God will pardon every offense and heal every illness. (Isaiah 33:24)

Healing a sign of the Reign of God. The Risen Lord sends his disciples.

These signs will accompany those who believe in me: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them.

They will lay hands on the sick and they will recover. (Mark 16:17-18)

215 the Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus contains a prayer for blessing oil

"...may it give strength to all who take it and health to all who use it"

Blessed by clergy but used freely by laity...anointed sick family members.

Cyril of Alexandria (circa 525) and **Caesarius of Arles** (circa 376)

encouraged their people not to seek out magicians and sorcerers in times of illness, but to rush to the Church...

9th Century linked with sin and death...forgiveness, received in the "extreme" 5 senses anointed...priest becomes the only minister

Reforms of Trent

Some attempt to restore as a sacrament of healing

With Penance commonly deferred until the end of life gradually Anointing becomes a regular part of pastoral care for the dying.

Extreme Unction (last rites)

By this holy + anointing and His most loving mercy may the Lord forgive you whatever wrong you have done by the use of your sense of smell [sight, hearing, speech, touch, power to walk]. Amen.

Vatican II Extreme Unction which also and more properly be called "anointing the sick," is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death." #73 Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

-Liturgy of the Word

-laying on of hands and anointing forehead and hands

-provision for communal celebration

Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his mercy and love help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

#1499 By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that he may raise them up and save them.

#1508 The Holy Spirit gives to some a special charism of healing.... But even the most intense prayers do not always obtain the healing of all illnesses. [St. Paul was told "*my grace is sufficient*"]

#1527 The sacrament of Anointing the Sick has as its purpose the conferral of a special grace on the Christian experiencing difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age. (Fr. Reilly and Lourdes)

Who may be anointed?

- grave illness or frailty from old age
- may be repeated if condition changes
- before an operation
- children who have attained sufficient use of reason
(Other children may receive a blessing - cf. Book of Blessings #399ff.)
- not to prevent illness

Who anoints?

- priests, others show charity and celebrate the sacraments with the sick

Solidarity with the sick

If one member suffers, in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all members suffer with that member (1Cor.12:26). For this reason, kindness shown the sick and works of charity and mutual help for the relief of every kind of human want are held in special honor...

It is thus especially fitting that all baptized Christians share in this ministry of mutual charity within the Body of Christ by doing all they can to help the sick to return to health, by showing love for the sick, and celebrating the sacraments with them. (Pastoral Care of the Sick 32-33)

Visits to the Sick (PCS) (I was sick, and you visited me. MT 25:36)

- Reading from Scripture
- Silence, Psalm (followed by brief expansion of reading...conversation)
- The Lord's Prayer
- Concluding Prayer
- Blessing (lay person traces cross on sick person's head)

Communion of the Sick

- Greeting
 - [sprinkling with Holy Water]
- Penitential Rite
- Scripture Reading (followed by brief expansion of reading...conversation)
- General Intercessions
- The Lord's Prayer
- Communion (Behold the Lamb...)
- Silent Prayer
- Prayer After Communion
- Blessing (lay person traces cross on sick person's head)

Viaticum "food for the journey.... the passage through death to eternal life"

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life
and I will raise them up on the last day...*

Celebrated when death is close (THE "Last Rite" & Commendation of dying: Go Forth faithful...)

Mass preferred

Includes the Baptismal Profession of Faith

Optional> Apostolic Pardon (release from all punishments...)

Order for the Blessing of a Person Suffering from Addiction or from Substance Abuse BB#409

Order for the Blessing of a Victim of Crime or Oppression BB#430

Prayer for Those Who Care for the Sick

(cf. Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)

Prayers of the Sick [short invocations to be repeated]

(cf. Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers)

When Visiting the Sick

- follow hospital protocols (masks, disinfectant, visiting hours, etc.)
- knock (respect hospital staff)
- introduce yourself if need be
- smile, be sincere
- offer no medical advice
- do not sit on the bed
- do not ask too many questions
- "would you like me to contact a priest?"
- keep the visit short...10-12 minutes
- normally, if the patient needs something offer to call staff

CCC#1532 the effects of the sacrament of anointing:

- uniting the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and for that of the entire Church
- strengthening, the peace and courage to endure suffering in a manner befitting a Christian
- the forgiveness of sins (if Penance is not an option)
- restoration of health of preparation for passing over to eternal life

.....