



Bits and pieces



(continued) . .

“Is there anyone sick among you? He should ask for the presbyters of the church. They in turn are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name [of the Lord]. This prayer uttered in faith will reclaim the one who is ill.” – James 5:14-15

And so, the early Church came to understand that Christ’s mission of reaching out to the sick and suffering to bring healing and comfort to them was to continue through the sacraments of the Church, in particular, through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Again, this year, at the ALL of the Masses **the weekend of September 14th/15th**, we will offer this **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**. This is the weekend closest to the Church’s celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, a Feast that reminds us of the contradiction of this sacred symbol in our Christian faith: a human tool of suffering and death that was divinely transformed, becoming a symbol of sacrificial love, hope, and the promise of new and eternal life.

So, just who are candidates for this Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick?

The Church tells us that, “The sacrament of anointing is the proper sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age.” – *art. 97*, but it also states that:

- “A sick person may be anointed before surgery . . .” *art. 9*
- “Elderly people may be anointed if they become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present.” *art. 10*
- “Sick children may be anointed if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament.” *art. 11*
- “Those who are judged to have a serious mental illness and who would be strengthened by the sacrament may be anointed.” *art. 52*

Why celebrate this at the weekend liturgies?

[There are] “two complementary aspects of the sacrament: through the sacrament of anointing the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and continues Christ’s messianic work of healing. All who are united in the common bond of baptism and a common faith are joined together in the body of Christ since what happens to one member affects all.” – *art. 98*

Additionally, “the sacrament of the anointing of the sick should be celebrated with members of the family and other representatives of the Christian community whenever this is possible. Then the sacrament is seen for what it is – a part of the prayer of the Church and an encounter with the Lord. The sign of the sacrament will be further enhanced by avoiding undue haste in prayer and action.” – *art. 99*

Isn't this the "last rites"? No. In fact, the Church discourages "delaying the reception of the sacrament" in order that "the celebration takes place while the sick person is capable of active participation." – art. 99

In the words of Saint Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, "If one member suffers, all members suffer with it;" – 1 Corinthians 12:26 (part.)

+++++

Sincerely yours in ChristFr. Mike

The celebration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick the weekend of 14/15 September will be a great opportunity to reach out to those who are candidates for this sacrament and perhaps bring them to Church, so that, among members of the body of Christ, they might not only experience the power of this sacrament, but the power of the Christian community gathered together in prayer.

At all of the Masses the weekend of September 14th/15th, there will be front pews for those who are physically impaired and wish to sit closer, and specifically for those who will be seeking to be anointed during Mass. For any who wish to be anointed but may be sitting elsewhere and are unable to come forward, once all who have come forward to be anointed are anointed, the Priest/Presider will go to them to anoint them before concluding this particular ritual.

For those who wish to celebrate the sacrament of penance prior to being anointed, you are encouraged to do so during the normal scheduled times.

PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER: FOR ANY WHO ARE UNABLE TO COME TO CHURCH, THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK CAN COME TO YOU. SIMPLY CALL THE PARISH OFFICES TO SPEAK WITH FR. MIKE AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS.