

PARISH FAMILY ABLAZE: ANOINTING OF THE SICK—KEYNOTE (1-27-19)

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 In verdant pastures He gives me repose;
Beside restful waters He leads me;
 He refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
 for His name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
 I fear no evil; for You are at my side
With Your rod and Your staff
 that give me courage.
You spread the table before me
 in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows;
Only goodness and kindness follow me
 all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
 for years to come.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: A SACRAMENT OF HEALING (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Numbers 1499-1513)

- I. "By the Anointing of the Sick and 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. And indeed she exhorts them to contribute to the good of the People of God by freely uniting themselves to the Passion and death of Christ." (1499)
 - A. Illness: A "glimpse" of death (1500)—Responses
 1. Negative: "Anguish, self-absorption, sometimes even despair and revolt against God"
 2. Fruitful: Maturation, discernment of essentials, determined search for God, and a return to God (1501)
 - B. Illness: A consequence of sin and an anticipation of death, but a path beyond both sin and death
 1. Could be a consequence of sins from outside the individual
 2. Could be a consequence of sins committed by the individual
 3. God's glory revealed through the suffering of illness
 - a. Healing—natural (physicians)/supernatural (miracles—Divine Physician)
 - b. Sanctification and deeper union with the suffering Christ
 - c. Perfection of loving obedience and other virtues—"Although He was a Son, he learned obedience through what He suffered; and being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated as high priest after the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5: 8-10)
 - d. Opportunity for others to give, show mercy, and be compassionate

- e. Opportunity to share in Christ's redemptive and reparative work—"in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of His Body, that is, the Church." (Colossians 1:24)
- II. Christ: "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases" (Matthew 8:17, quoting Isaiah 53:4)—Holy approaches to illness
- A. Using natural and supernatural means, seek health and healing, without making the body an idol—rather, the body is a temple and, ultimately, an altar of sacrifice.
 - B. Accept and offer up unavoidable suffering and illness.
 - 1. Make reparation for my own sins and those of the whole world.
 - 2. "Rejoice in so far as you share Christ's sufferings." (1 Peter 4:13)
 - 3. Learn the Wisdom of the Cross and intimacy with Jesus, Mary, and John.
 - 4. Humbly bear pain, poverty, and powerlessness.
 - 5. Accept the help of others, even in its imperfection and incomprehension.
 - C. The Divine Physician and His Church
 - 1. Ultimate healing of the body and soul comes through holy suffering and death (The Way of the Cross).
 - a. Soul perfected first through final agony, death, and Purgatory
 - b. Body restored and perfected ultimately at the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting
 - 2. God uses the very punishments resulting from sin to deliver us from sin.
 - 3. "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters 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 the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." (James 5:14-15)
 - D. The Sacrament
 - A. Laying on of hands
 - B. Anointing with blessed oil
 - 1. Making the sign of the Cross on the forehead: "Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with grace of the Holy Spirit."
 - 2. Making the sign of the Cross on each hand: "May the Lord Who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

QUESTIONS (T/F)

1. Christ reveals that our merciful Father will never permit innocent persons to suffer.
2. Clearly, God has not answered my prayer if He does not heal a sick person for whom I prayed for healing.
3. A person who accepts suffering most certainly possesses more faith and humility than a person who prays to God to be delivered from it.
4. It shows a lack of faith to seek healing from a doctor rather than to seek healing directly from Christ.
5. A deacon, priest, or bishop can administer the Anointing of the Sick.
6. Sick children may never receive the Anointing of the Sick.
7. God did not create illness, suffering, and death.
8. It is possible to experience both joy and sorrow at the same time.
9. When healing individuals, Christ does not make a distinction between those who are ill and those who are possessed by demons.
10. One should only receive the Anointing of the Sick when he is close to his last breath.

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: "Act of Faith," "Act of Hope," "Spiritual Communion," and "Psalm 23"
- II. Mental Prayer During the Day (20-35 minutes)
 - A. The Rosary
 - B. Journal Meditation
 - 1. 5-10 Minutes of Scriptural or spiritual reading
 - 2. 5-10 Minutes writing to either the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit
 - 3. 5-10 Minutes recording what you believe God is saying to you
- III. Examination of Conscience and Act of Contrition
 - A. Did I use my memory and intellect in a way that glorifies God the Father? Ask the Father to heal and purify my memory and intellect.
 - B. Did I unite my heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus today by making a Spiritual Communion or receiving Him in Holy Communion? Ask Jesus to heal and purify my heart and will.
 - C. Did I place all my emotions and desires under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Ask the Holy Spirit to heal my emotions and purify my desires.
 - D. Did I embrace Mary today as my Mother in the order of grace by praying with her and behaving like one of her spiritual children? Ask Mary to pray for my healing and purification in body and soul.