

Chapter 20 – Anointing of the Sick and the Dying

Jesus came to heal the whole person, body and soul.

The Gospels narrate many occasions when Jesus healed the sick.

Through the sacrament, it is Jesus who touches the sick to heal them from sin – and sometimes even from physical ailment.

The Church carries forward Christ's healing ministry in a variety of approaches. There are occasional instances of individuals with the charism of healing.

Only bishops and priests may be ministers of the sacrament

Penitential Rite

Scripture reading

Laying on of Hands

Anointing with Oil

Effects of the Sacrament:

The primary effect of the sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

The person's sins are forgiven.

Another effect is union with the Passion of Christ.

The sacrament also prepares us for our final journey when we depart from this life.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has a very important community dimension. In any illness we should never have to stand alone.

Questions:

- What do you expect of caregivers?
- How would you describe your reaction to illnesses that you have had?
- What value does an experience of illness have for an individual and for the parish community?
- Why is it important to acknowledge and incorporate those who are sick and dying into the faith community?
- Give an example of someone who, through the grace of the Sacrament of Anointing, witnessed to the peace and strength to bear the sufferings and limitations of sickness.