

Appendix 23: Anointing of the Sick

Liturgical Options for the Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick

“If the diocesan bishop decides that many people are to be anointed in the same celebration, either he or his delegate should ensure that all disciplinary norms concerning anointing are observed, as well as the norms for pastoral preparation and liturgical celebration.” This brief note includes some information pertaining to disciplinary norms, pastoral preparation and liturgical celebration for the Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, first, concerning the proper texts for this Mass, and then several norms for pastoral care in the celebration of this Mass.

In the May 2013 edition of the Newsletter from the USCCB Commission for the Liturgy, there is a note on the texts for the Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick.

Mass Formulas

The note points out that “Every sacrament that can be celebrated within Mass...has a proper Ritual Mass formulary except for Anointing of the Sick.” There can be some confusion regarding the readings and proper prayers to be used in this Mass. There are two options for the prayers. One option is the prayers found for the Mass found in Pastoral Care of the Sick (#’s 131ff). These prayers were composed by ICEL, and do not have a Latin typical edition. Since the text Pastoral Care of the Sick is an approved liturgical text, these prayers may still be used. That Mass includes a proper preface that should be used, though with the updated texts of the preface dialogue.

The other option is to use the prayers from the Mass for the Sick (#45 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions in the Roman Missal). Since there is no proper preface for this Mass, one of the prefaces for the Mass of the day should be chosen.

One may still use the options for the special intercessions in Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III, though the one for Eucharistic Prayer I must be slightly adapted to fit with the revised translation as follows:

“Therefore, Lord we pray: graciously accept this oblation of our service, that of your whole family, **and especially of those who ask for healing of body, mind and spirit;** order our days in your peace...”

The intercessions in Eucharistic Prayers II and III can be inserted without change as found in Pastoral Care of the Sick into their respective Eucharistic Prayers.

Eucharistic Prayer II

...together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy

Remember also those who ask for healing in the name of your Son, that they may never cease to praise you for the wonders of your power.

Remember also our brothers and sisters...

Eucharistic Prayer III

Listen graciously...before you

Hear especially the prayers of those who ask for healing in the name of your Son, that they may never cease to praise you for the wonders of your power

In your compassion...

Pastoral Norms

Paragraphs 108-110 in Pastoral Care of the Sick deal with norms for anointing with a large congregation, either during Mass or outside of Mass. Along with the updated Mass texts, this is a fitting place to emphasize a few points of pastoral consideration based on this text. These considerations as applications of the text should be considered normative for the Diocese of Bismarck.

In the Pastoral Care for the Sick, the main liturgical source for the Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, paragraph #133 reads, "The priest should ensure that the sick who wish to celebrate the sacrament of penance have a convenient opportunity to do so before Mass." In order to correspond with what the Church asks for the availability, the norm for the Diocese of Bismarck is that the sacrament of penance must be offered for at least one hour before the celebration of a Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick.

"The practice of indiscriminately anointing numbers of people on these occasions simply because they are ill or have reached an advanced age is to be avoided. Only those whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age are proper subjects for the sacrament. Care should be taken before the celebration of a Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick to ensure that those who present themselves to receive the sacrament of anointing are proper subjects for the sacrament. Children accompanying ill parents or relatives, those who have minor illnesses, or those who are advanced in age but not impaired in health thereby are not proper subjects for the sacrament.

"If the diocesan bishop decides that many people are to be anointed in the same celebration..." Bishop Kagan has determined for the Diocese of Bismarck that the Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated throughout the Diocese of Bismarck, in accord with all current liturgical norms, including those contained in this document. This celebration, and any other celebration in which a large number of people are anointed is not to take place more frequently than once a year in any Church or Chapel without further permission from the diocesan bishop.