

Anointing of the sick and the healing mission of the Church

Headline: The Catholic Church's healing mission is in totality; to spiritually and physically prepare the person for eternity with Christ. Sacramental Healing, via Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, are only performed by priests. However, the Holy Spirit provides a charismatic gift of healing to religious and lay people alike. Fathers Team will explore their own healing missions as members of the body of Christ, HIS Church.

Objective: Healing, Sacramentally or Charismatically, could be characterized as heroic but that would be wrong. Healing is realized through the love and mercy of Jesus Christ manifest through the Holy Spirit. Sacramentally our priests heal in Persona Christi Capitas (In the person of Christ). All lay people within the body of Christ can also be channels for God's love and mercy to bring us into HIS eternal presence. Our objective is to explore our scriptural mission about how we can heroically lead ourselves and our family to union with the Church in its healing mission.

Song Suggestion: Be Not Afraid

Bible and Catechism Readings:

John 14: 12-14 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

James 5:13-15 Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone in good spirits? He should sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.

Mark 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

Catechism 1508 The Holy Spirit gives to some a special charism of healing so as to make manifest the power of the grace of the risen Lord. But even the most intense prayers do not always obtain the healing of all illnesses. Thus St. Paul must learn from the Lord that "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness," and that the sufferings to be endured can mean that "in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his Body, that is, the Church."

Catechism 1525 Thus, just as the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist form a unity called "the sacraments of Christian initiation," so too it can be said that Penance, the Anointing of the Sick and the Eucharist as viaticum constitute at the end of Christian life "the sacraments that prepare for our heavenly homeland" or the sacraments that complete the earthly pilgrimage.

Saint: Saint Jude Thaddeus was brother of the Apostle the Lesser James. He is known as the Saint intercession for the hopeless and despaired. His bones are in a crypt at Saint Peters Basilica in tomb with Simon the Zealot.

His heroic intercession is widely recognized and attained through this prayer. "O most holy apostle, Saint Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honoureth and invoceth thee universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, and of things almost despaired of. Pray for me, who am so miserable.

"Make use, I implore thee, of that particular privilege accorded to thee, to bring visible and speedy help where help was almost despaired of. Come to mine assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly (here make your request) and that I may praise God with thee and all the elect throughout eternity.

"I promise thee, O blessed Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favour, to always honour thee as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to thee. Amen."

Vignette:

He lived close to Church and was walking home from a healing service and Mass. Another person, he did not recognize, drew up beside him and asked. What news around here? He responded, "Not much, I am just walking home from a healing service at church. It was nice." The person reacted surprisingly; "Nice, only nice? Did not Jesus say he would always answer what is asked if asked in His name?" He responded, "I remember that Bible passage. That was nice too, a great thought but we do not see miracles like in Jesus's time." The stranger said, "You are correct about that. But that is not Jesus's problem, it is lack of faith and trust within the Body of Christ." They separated and walked on. The following week after Mass people were all talking about a healing that happened at the service the week before. His thoughts returned to the words of the stranger. He felt in his heart he had been on a road to Emmaus. He took his desire to pray more fruitfully into Adoration. From that day forward it his hero's task to pray for healing, always in Jesus's name, with trust in Jesus. To his joy, his prayers were much more fruitful. He never saw the stranger again.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

Should we take Jesus words to heart and ask for healing in His name?

Is it possible to realize your eternal reward for yourself or to guide your family to it without a fully accessing reconciliation and anointing of the sick?

If charismatic (from the Holy Spirit) healing was real for Jesus, His 12 and then His 72 why would it not be real for us today?

What fruits can come by praying for healing in Jesus name?

There are four basic categories of healing, namely physical healing: the healing from physical sickness and disability; psychological healing: the healing of wounds to the human psyche, including emotional wounds; spiritual healing: this means, above all, the “healing from sin” that restores a person to a relationship with God; and exorcism and deliverance. What has been your experience with these?

Deacon Russ Feldkamp is deeply involved with growing knowledge and practice of gifts of Holy Spirit to bring people to Christ through Physical and Inner Healing via Encounter Ministries of Cincinnati What do you share about that ministry?

Resources:

<https://www.chausa.org/publications/health-progress/archive/article/september-october-2011/canon-law---anointing-of-the-sick-the-how-and-why>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/resource/55055/the-anointing-of-the-sick-catechism-of-the-catholic-church>

Web Search for “Catholic Charismatic Renewal, The Gift of Healing”

<https://encounterministries.us/>

Action Plan:

I will explore my beliefs in the benefit of Sacramental and Charismatic Healing. Scripture says, if I believe, and ask in His name it will be done. What do I need to commit to?

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