

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish
13 North St., Geneseo, NY



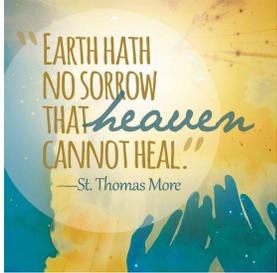
Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace – Sacraments of Healing
Fr. Jeffrey S. Tunncliff
March 20, 2020

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**Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace
Sacraments of Healing**

Opening Prayer



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**Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace
Sacraments of Healing**

- Review
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1131- “The Sacraments are **efficacious signs** of grace, **instituted by Christ** and **entrusted to the Church**, by which divine life is **dispensed** to us.”
 - Baltimore Catechism - “A sacrament is an **outward sign instituted** by Christ to give **grace**.”
 - Sacrament as gift – we can't earn forgiveness

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**Sacraments: Channels of God's Grace
Sacraments of Healing**

- Review
 - Sacraments begin in Baptism
 - Confirmation
 - *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1303 - “From this fact, Confirmation brings an **increase** and **deepening** of baptismal grace:
 - We are strengthened in the Eucharist
 - ...only say the word and my soul shall be healed

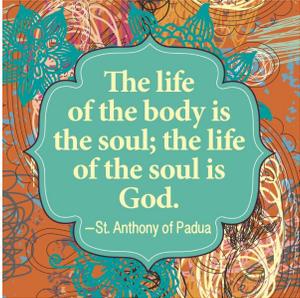
My previous presentations in this series on the sacraments are available online at:
www.renewaloffaith.org/sacramentsvideo

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"Jesus came to heal the whole person, body and soul." (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, 251)



The life of the body is the soul; the life of the soul is God.
 —St. Anthony of Padua

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What is Healing?

- "Many people tend to think of healings as secondary to Jesus' real purpose, to save souls. But the Gospels tell us otherwise. In the biblical understanding, the human person is an inseparable unity of body and soul." (Healy, *Healing*, 26).
- "His whole mission can be described as a work of healing, a restoration of souls and bodies to the fullness of life that God intended." (Healy, *Healing*, 29)
- "**Jesus ultimately came to heal humanity's deepest wound: the wound of our sin and consequent alienation from God, with all its consequences of spiritual and physical brokenness.**" (Healy, *Healing*, 30)

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Sacraments of Healing



Which of the Seven Sacraments are "Sacraments of Healing"?

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Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

- **Anointing of the Sick**
- **Reconciliation**

Sacraments of Service

- Matrimony
- Holy Orders

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Sacraments of Healing

Which of the Seven Sacraments are "Sacraments of Healing"?

- Anointing brings spiritual healing in times of physical illness
- Reconciliation brings first and foremost healing (forgiveness) of our sins
 - This includes healing broken relationships
 - With God
 - With family
 - With friends
 - With strangers
 - *And with the whole church*

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What does the word "Anointing" mean?

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What does the word "Anointing" mean?

- Pouring of oil over
- For us today, we have
 - Oil of Catechumens (aka Oil of Salvation)
 - Sacred Chrism
 - Oil of the Sick
 - Mark 6:13 "They drove out many demons, and they ***anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.***" (The Mission of the Twelve)

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Anointing of the Sick in the Bible
New Testament

- Many stories of Jesus healing the sick
 - Jesus touched those who were prohibited from being touched – healing power of touch
 - Need for support from community
- Miracle cure vs. Faith changes how we look at suffering in sickness
 - Lepers
 - Physical healing
 - Restored to community from isolation
 - People who have told me about a "sense of peace"

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Anointing of the Sick in the Bible New Testament

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.***"

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Anointing of the Sick in the Bible Old Testament

- Old Testament use of word "anoint"
 - Kings
 - Priests
 - Sacred items (like the altar and the Tabernacle/tent)

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Healing in the Old Testament

- Numbers 21:4-9 "From Mount Hor they set out by way of the Red Sea, to bypass the land of Edom, but the people's patience was worn out by the journey; so the people complained against God and Moses...So the LORD sent among the people seraph serpents, which bit the people so that many of the Israelites died.... So Moses prayed for the people, and the LORD said to Moses: Make a seraph and mount it on a pole, and everyone who has been bitten will look at it and recover. ***Accordingly Moses made a bronze serpent and mounted it on a pole, and whenever the serpent bit someone, the person looked at the bronze serpent and recovered.***"
- Sirach 38:9 "My son, when you are ill, do not delay, but pray to God, for it is he who heals."

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Who Can Receive the Anointing of the Sick?

- Baptized
- Those in a state of grace (Sacrament of Reconciliation can be received at same time)

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Anointing – Historical Development

Question from a previous presentation evaluation

- “I am interested in how the focus of sacraments have changed over years or at least as far as how they are presented i.e. “anointing of the sick vs. extreme unction”.”
- The Second Vatican Council did not invent a new “anointing of the sick” but rather restored what was found in James 5:13
- Why was it seen as only for the dying?
 - You need to be in a state of grace to receive Sacrament. For a period of time, you could only receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation once in a lifetime so would wait till near death. So, you have to wait to be anointed.

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The Rite of the Anointing of the Sick

- At Mass
- At Home (full)
- In hospitals/homes
- Dire emergencies - Anointing of the Sick vs. Last Rites
 - Apostolic pardon - “Through the holy mysteries of our redemption, may almighty God release you from all punishments in this life and in the life to come. May he open to you the gates of paradise and welcome you to everlasting joy.”
- Forgiveness of sins

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Things Used in the Anointing of the Sick

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1504

“Often Jesus asks the sick to believe. He makes use of signs to heal: **spittle** and the **laying on of hands** (Mk 7:32-36; 8:22-25), **mud** and washing. The sick try to touch him, “for power came forth from him and healed them all (Luke 6:19).” And so in the sacraments Christ continues to “touch” us in order to heal us.”

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Things Used in the Anointing of the Sick (cont'd)

Oil



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Things Used in the Anointing of the Sick (cont'd)

Prayer of Anointing
"Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.
May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.
Amen."

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Effects of the Anointing of the Sick

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1520
"A particular gift of the Holy Spirit. **The first grace of this sacrament is one of strengthening, peace and courage to overcome the difficulties that go with the condition of serious illness or the frailty of old age.** This grace is a gift of the Holy Spirit, who **renews trust and faith in God** and **strengthens against the temptations of the evil one,** the temptation to discouragement and anguish in the face of death."

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Effects of the Anointing of the Sick cont'd

Lumen Gentium, 11
"By the sacred anointing of the sick and the 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 (cf. Jas. 5:14-16). 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.**" (cf, *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1521*)

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When Can One Receive the Anointing of the Sick?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1514
"The Anointing of the Sick "is **not** a sacrament for those **only who are at the point of death.** Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful **begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age,** the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived."

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Can a Person be Anointed Again?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1515

"If a sick person who received this anointing **recovers** his health, he can **in the case of another grave illness receive this sacrament again**. If during the same illness the person's condition **becomes more serious, the sacrament may be repeated**. It is fitting to receive the Anointing of the Sick just prior to a serious operation. The same holds for the elderly **whose frailty becomes more pronounced**."

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Who Can Anoint a Person?

A priest (includes bishops)
 (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Code of Canon Law 1003)

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Who is the patron saint of the Anointing of the Sick?

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Who is the patron saint of the Anointing of the Sick?

Patron saints of the "sick"

- St. John of God (ill when young & cared for the sick)
- St. Camillus (had a "diseased leg" & cared for the sick)
- St. Michael the Archangel

Patron saints of the "dying"

- St. Joseph (Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him, the way we all would like to leave this earth.)

From www.catholic.org/saints

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What are the Other Names for Reconciliation?

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What are the Other Names for Reconciliation?

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1423-1424)

- Confession
- Penance
- Reconciliation
- Metanoia

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Reconciliation in the Bible
New Testament

- Matthew 9:1-8 – Healing of the paralytic
 - Verse 6 “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.”
 - Cf. Mark 2:1-12
- John 20:19-23
 - Verse 23 “Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose you retain are retained.” (cf. Matthew 18:18)

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Reconciliation in the Bible
Old Testament

- The first “original” sin in Genesis chapter 3
 - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/original-sin.html>
- Cain and Abel – Genesis chapter 4
- Sacrifices for sins prescribed in Leviticus (remember other sacraments “**prefigured**” in Old Testament)

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Reconciliation – Historical Development

- Baptism includes forgiveness of sins
 - Could be baptized only once so baptism delayed until near death
- No reconciliation after baptism → once → repeatable
 - Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:22, cf. Genesis 4:24)
- Order of Penitents
- Public vs. Private Confession
- The penitentials

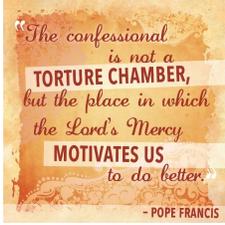
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People's Experience of Confession

- Stories of people getting yelled at in the Confessional
- My first time going when I came back



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The Rites of Reconciliation

- Short videos on my website
 - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/reconciliation.html>
 - Content of the first video is mostly same as today
 - Second one taped inside confession how-to (13 minutes) (still some overlap)
 - 3 pamphlet handouts

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The Rites of Reconciliation

Three rites

- Individual
- Penance service with individual confessions
- General Absolution

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The Rites of Reconciliation

- Prayer to start (optional in individual confession)
- Scripture (optional in individual confession)
- Confess your sins
 - The Seal
- Receive counsel
- Penance
- Act of Contrition
- Prayer of absolution



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What things are used in Reconciliation?

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What things are Used in Reconciliation?

- No "things" used in this sacrament
 - Words and attitude

There are four "elements"

1. Contrition (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1451-1454*)
2. Confession (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1455-1458*)
3. Penance
4. Absolution

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Act of Contrition

My God,
 I am **sorry** for my sins with **all my heart.**
 In choosing to do wrong
 And failing to do good,
 I have sinned against you
 Whom I should love above all things
I firmly intend, with **your help,**
 To do penance,
To sin no more.
 And to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
 Our Savior Jesus Christ
 Suffered and died for us.
 In his name, my God, have Mercy.
 Amen.

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Contrition: Perfect and Imperfect

- Perfect – “When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called “perfect” (contrition of charity). Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1452)
- Imperfect – “The contrition called “imperfect” (or “attrition”) is also a gift of God, a prompting of the Holy Spirit. It is born of the consideration of sin’s ugliness or the fear of eternal damnation...By itself however, imperfect contrition cannot obtain the forgiveness of grave sins, but it disposes one to obtain forgiveness in the sacrament of Penance.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1453)

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Penance - Evidence of Our Contrition
(aka satisfaction, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1459-1460)

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1430

“Jesus’ call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does **not** aim **first** at **outward works**, “sackcloth and ashes,” fasting and mortification, but at the **conversion of the heart, interior conversion**. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion **urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance.**”

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The Prayer of Absolution

God, the **Father** of mercies,
Through the death and resurrection of his Son
Has reconciled the world to himself
And sent the **Holy Spirit** among us
For the forgiveness of sins;
Through the ministry of the Church
May God give you pardon and peace,
And I absolve you from your sins
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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Effects of Reconciliation

Of course, we are reconciled with God (restored to a “state of grace”). What Else?

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1468-1470

“Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain **pardon** from God’s mercy for the offense committed against him, **and** are, at the same time, **reconciled with the Church** which they have wounded by their sins and by which by charity, by example and by prayer labors for their conversion.” (*Lumen Gentium*, 10)

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Who Can Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

- Baptized
- Ironically, in this sacrament one doesn't need to be in a state of grace already or one wouldn't need this Sacrament

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Reconciliation – Who Presides?

- Who can celebrate confession – Priests (includes bishops) (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1461-1467*)
- Why confess to a *human* priest?
 - Question from a previous evaluation "I struggle with the idea of going to confession. I don't struggle with the idea of being sorry for my sins and asking God for forgiveness. Why does the priest need to be involved?"

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Items to Ponder

- Examination of Conscience
- How often should one go to Confession?
- What if you
 - Forget a sin?
 - Knowingly omit a sin?
- Venial vs. Mortal Sin

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Who is the patron saint of the of Reconciliation?

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Who is the patron saint of the of Reconciliation?

- To make a good confession
 - St. Gerard Majella – known to have the gift of reading consciences
 - St. John Nepomucene – murdered for not revealing the queen's confession to the king
- Penitent Sinners
 - Mary Magdalene

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“Homework”

- Confess your sins

Suggested resources

- Here are some resources to help you make a good confession:
 - <http://www.renewaloffaith.org/reconciliation.html>
 - <http://forgiven.dor.org/>

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Future Schedule

- Series on the Sacraments
 - Fifth Session on Wednesday, May 6th at 6:30 pm

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See the treasure given to us in the Sacraments

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Resources

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Second Edition. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997.

Compendium: Catechism of the Catholic Church. Libreria Editrice Vaticana. USCCB, 2006.

Healy, Mary, Healing: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World. Our Sunday Visitor: Huntington, IN. 2015.

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Resources (cont'd)

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Nutt, Roger W., General Principles of Sacramental Theology. The Catholic University of America Press: Washington, DC. 2017.

St. Joseph Edition of The New American Bible Revised Edition. New Jersey, Catholic Book Publishing Corp. 2010.

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