The Catholic Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: what’s it about, for whom and when.

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Welcome

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The Catholic Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: what’s it about, for whom and when.

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Why this workshop?

• Invited
• Not well understood by Catholics patients/families and others
• Worth it – important rich tradition
• Valuable “alternative therapy”
• Healing Strength
Objectives

• Articulate the origin, development, purpose, meaning, and prior names of the Sacrament of Anointing, and its relationship to other sacraments that might be requested, such as sacraments of penance and eucharist.

• Explain its current practice and benefit to care recipients and their families.

• Understand the role of this Sacrament in spiritual assessment and spiritual care when the coordinating chaplain is of another faith tradition.
And then there was…

- Working in the ICU

- “I want to be anointed.” Of course, tell me more…

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Origin: Looking Back

- They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them. Mark 6:13

- Is there anyone who is sick among you? Let him summon the priests of the church. They should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven. James 5:14-15

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Development: Looking Back

• Early Church – Healings and Anointings

• Anointings (Baptism, post-baptism, confirmation, orders) vocation, strength, courage, peace

• 12th Century – Extreme Unction – prevalence of death

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Development: Vatican II - Reform

• Understanding of:
  – Church – light of nations, joys and hopes
  – Liturgy – God’s and people’s holy actions
  – Sacraments – within the one Sacrament Christ
    ▪ Christ speaks and acts, in and through humans
  – Human person – call to holiness and vocation

• 1972 – Pope Paul IV
  – *PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: (PCS)*
    Rites of Anointing and Viaticum

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Meaning: Pastoral Care of the Sick
Rites of Anointing and Viaticum

“Ministry of mutual charity … ministry of comfort” (PCS 33-34)

• “all baptized Christians share in this ministry of mutual charity within the Body of Christ by doing all that they can to help the sick return to health, by showing love for the sick, and by celebrating the sacraments with them.”

• “community aspect, which should be brought out as much as possible”

– Litany, laying on of hands, and prayer over the oil (PCS 121-123)
Meaning: Value of Symbol of Anointing

• Recalling the “anointings” regarding continuity in call:
  – Anointings of prophets, priests, kings – spirit, anointed one
  – Anointing of baptism (Chrism/oil), laying on of hands – symbol of whole community present
  – Anointing of confirmation, laying on of hands – spirit
  – Anointing of priesthood/ordination

• What mean for anointing in Sacrament of Anointing of Sick?

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Purpose: What gives?

• Christ’s concern for bodily and spiritual welfare, people in need
  — “lest they be broken in spirit and, under the pressure of temptation, perhaps weakened in their faith. (PCS 5)

• Gift of Spirit to Person “helped and saved, sustained by trust in God, and strengthened against the temptations” (PCS 6)
  — Bear suffering and fight against it….

• “…includes the prayer of faith (see Jas 5:15), faith itself is manifested…above all this faith must be made actual both in the minister of the sacrament and, even more importantly, in the recipient.”
  — “The sick person will be saved by personal faith and the faith of the Church, which looks back to the death and resurrection of Christ, the source of the sacrament's power (see Jas 5:15), and looks ahead to the future kingdom that is pledged in the sacraments. (PCS 7)
Vocation of one who receives

• “associate themselves willingly with the passion and death of Christ (see Rom 8:17), and thus contribute to the welfare of the people of God.” (PCS 5)

• Pre—surgery: hope and comfort— “now I’m ready”
Relationship to Other Sacraments

- **Penance:** If necessary, the sacrament also provides the sick person with the forgiveness of sins and the completion of Christian penance. (PCS 6)

- **The sacrament as part of the entire Pastoral Care of the Sick**
  - Visits to the sick (PCS 54-61)
  - Communion of the sick (71-96)
  - Special circumstances of hospital ministry
    - Communion (92-96)
    - Anointing the Sick (149-60)
Who and When? Discernment

• “A prudent or reasonably sure judgment, without scruple, is sufficient for deciding” (PCS 8) “They should not follow the wrongful practice of delaying the reception of the sacrament.” (PCS 13) Must consider family, friends, and caregivers in relation to the sick (PCS 99)
  – YES - Seriously impaired, sick, elderly, before serious surgery
  – YES - “…sick people who, although they have lost consciousness or the use of reason, would, as Christian believers, have at least implicitly asked for it when they were in control of their faculties.” (PCS 14)
  – “When a priest has been called to attend those who are already dead, he should not administer the sacrament of anointing.” (PCS 15)
  – “The anointing of the sick is not to be conferred on anyone who remains obdurately in open and serious sin.” (PSC 15)
How? (PCS 5, 105-07, 121-26)

- Welcome, Prayer
- Word that enlightens and calls us to faith, then prayer of Faith
- Symbolic Gestures – Laying on of Hands
- Anointing of forehead and hands
  - Matter: Blessed Oil
  - Form: Prayer - Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up. (PCS 25)
- “The sick person is anointed on the forehead and on the hands. It is appropriate to divide the sacramental form so that the first part is said while the forehead is anointed, the latter part while the hands are anointed.” (DCS 23)
Viaticum... Food for the Passage

Sacrament of the Dying (in danger of death from any cause. PCS 27)
“She needs the host”

• Food for and participation in the passage (PCS 26) (the mystery of the death of the Lord and his passage to the Father)

• Strength, Jn 6:54 (PCS 26)

• Pledge of the resurrection (26): Early church identified consuming Christ’s Eucharistic body with being raised on the last day (Jn 6), at the last trumpet (1 Cor 15).

• When possible, during Mass, “Communion ... under both kinds”: participation in the paschal mystery (26)

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Viaticum...Food for the Passage

• Celebration of Viaticum
  ➢ Duty of every Christian (PCS 27)
  ➢ Pastoral responsibility: “while still in full possession of their faculties” (27) “all the faithful are bound”
  ➢ Mass is preferable form, loved ones/care-givers: priest presiding
    ▪ Renew baptismal faith (28)
  ➢ Outside Mass: deacon or lay minister
    ▪ Sprinkling with holy water (198)
    ▪ Viaticum: communion and prayer (207-09)
    ▪ Blessing and sign of peace (210-11)
Other examples... practices and benefits to care recipients and families

- Post palliative care team family meetings
- Spiritual Care and LGBT: from Pride to the Hospital
- What can we DO?
Thank You!

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