



Sacraments 33 & 34/36: The Tri-partite Theory & the Catechism Summary of the Anointing of the Sick

Sacramentum Tantum What the Sacramental Rite itself looks like. The Anointing of the Sick includes the Matter of the Oil of the Sick and a person with a life-threatening illness. It also includes the Laying on of Hands and the words spoken while anointing.

Res Tantum What the immediate result of the Sacrament is, the grace given and its ultimate meaning. For the Anointing, this includes a forgiveness of venial sins and a consecration of this person, with this illness, to the suffering of Jesus. It grants grace to battle the illness as well as to endure the mental trauma of the dying process.

Res et Sacramentum What the abiding, everlasting purpose of the Sacrament is. In Anointing, the person with this illness is set apart as holy through this time of suffering. It creates a unity to the suffering of Christ and can cause the inspiration and salvation of those witnessing the illness.

The full teaching on the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* §1499-1535. The following are the summary points found in §1526-1535.

1526 “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven” (James 5:14-15).

1527 The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick has as its purpose the conferral of a special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties inherent in the condition of grave illness or old age.

1528 The proper time for receiving this holy anointing has certainly arrived when the believer begins to be in danger of death because of illness or old age.

1529 Each time a Christian falls seriously ill, he may receive the Anointing of the Sick, and also when, after he has received it, the illness worsens.

1530 Only priests (presbyters and bishops) can give the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, using oil blessed by the bishop, or if necessary by the celebrating presbyter himself.

1531 The celebration of the Anointing of the Sick consists essentially in the anointing of the forehead and hands of the sick person ..., the anointing being accompanied by the liturgical prayer of the celebrant asking for the special grace of this sacrament.

1532 The special grace of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has as its effects:

- the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church;
- the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age;
- the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance;
- the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul;
- the preparation for passing over to eternal life.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Last Rights