

How Anointing Helps the Sick

By Father Albert J. Shamon
(Last in a Series
of three Articles)

We have seen that anointing is a sacrament for the sick. Danger of death is no longer a condition for its reception. Anyone because of age or a serious illness can receive it. We then outlined a brief history of this sacrament. Remaining to be considered are the effects of this sacrament.

A sacrament is a sign that does what it says. By examining the sign of the sacrament of the sick and the ritual surrounding it, we shall be able to get an idea of what it is meant to effect.

There are three steps in the anointing of the sick.

First, there is the **prayer of faith**, a litany, in structure not unlike the prayers of the faithful we pray at Mass. In this litany we pray for comfort, freedom from harm, relief of pain, freedom from sin and temptation and restoration of life and health for the sick person. This litany concludes with a prayer for help for all those who are taking care of the sick person.

Secondly, there is the **laying on of hands** on the head of the sick person. This ceremony is done in silence. It is meant to express the concern of the people of God and the comfort that comes through the sense of touch. It is the ancient biblical gesture used to symbolize the coming of the Spirit upon a person; and in this instance, His coming upon the sick person to impart His strength and healing grace.

Lastly, there is the **anointing with oil of forehead and hands**. Oil is a beautiful sign of healing. The oil is applied to the forehead, for in the head lodges the worry, anxiety, and depression that can plague one seriously ill; and to the hands, for sickness prevents hands from doing their usual work.

In the prayer used by the Church to bless the oil, she asks that those anointed with it be **freed from pain, illness, disease**

CHOICE Sets Training Course

A preliminary training weekend will be sponsored by CHOICE, May 3-5, at the First Universalist Church, 150 S. Clinton. Classes will meet from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, and 9-5 Sunday.

CHOICE utilizes community volunteers to develop decision-making and problem-solving skills. The program was first used in Rochester last November with the women inmates of the Monroe County Jail.

Registration must be made by May 1, by writing CHOICE, 342 Powers Building, or calling May Owens, 385-2637. The fee is \$35.

RENEWAL MASS

Auburn — Representatives from the region's renewal groups including Better World, Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Exodus Teen Seminar, pre-cana staff, and charismatic movement, have been invited to a Renewal Mass, April 26 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Alphonsus Church.

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
DEWEY AVE.
PHARMACY**
Prescription Specialists
COSMETICS — TOILETRIES
PHOTO-FINISHING
2310 Dewey Avenue 865-2210

and be made well again in body, mind and soul.

In her prayer when applying the oil to the forehead, the Church asks that the grace of the Holy Spirit help the sick person.

In her prayer when applying the oil to the hands, the Church begs that the Lord save the sick man and raise him up.

In other words, the effects of this sacrament are a **restoration to health**, sometimes to **physical health** — a clinical cure — but more likely and more often to **spiritual health**. It enables the sick person to embrace his sufferings as Christ did His on the cross.

If need be, the sacrament will remove sin. However, the sacrament of the sick is **a sacrament of the living. It is given to a sick person as such, and not to a sinner.** Therefore, one receiving it ought to be in the state of grace. Penance should precede this sacrament. Should a person be unable to confess his sins and should he be truly sorry for them, the sacrament, like any other sacrament of the living, would take away serious sins.

The sacrament of the sick consummates the sacrament of penance. For when suffering and pain, like those attendant upon age or serious sickness, are accepted in faith and in resignation to God's will, they can purify one from the punishments due to sins already forgiven.

Christians suffer sickness and pain as do other men. Christianity has never promised to take away the cross. Christianity does **about suffering is to show us how to carry the cross and to give us strength to carry it.**

By preaching a **crucified savior**, she teaches us that suffering and pain can be redemptive. Two looked out of their prison bars, one saw mud, the other saw stars. To the pagan, suffering is like mud to be avoided at all costs; to the Christian, suffering can become the star leading to Christ.

By preaching that we are all members of the one body of Christ, she teaches us that we can help one another. As water from one lake can be vaporized and in clouds transported over mountains to lands parched for water, so our suffering can help others, as Christ's sufferings have helped us.

Finally, by preaching we **have not here a lasting city**, but look for one that is to come — one that is eternal, one in which there will be no more suffering, no pains, no tears, but only joy and happiness without end — she teaches us with St. Paul, that the sufferings of this world are nothing compared to the glory to come.

The sacrament of the sick is meant precisely to help us look at suffering and pain that way and in that way turn inevitable pain into inestimable gain.

Junior Hike Also Slated

Just about everyone has heard of the 25-mile, springtime Hike for Hope in Rochester, producing people jams in streets, some blisters, and a lot of money for Project Hope.

Not as many people know that younger Rochesterians in all areas of town have their own Hikes for Hope.

The smaller walkers get together for 10-mile Hikes on Sunday, May 5th — the same day as the regular Hike. The rain date is May 12th. All Junior Hikes for Hope are from 1-5 p.m.

One of the Junior Hikes is the Southeast Area Junior Hike for Hope at the East High School track. This year's Southeast Area Junior Hike is sponsored and supervised by a volunteer committee, headed by Co-chairmen Mrs. Michael Morasco and Mrs. Kurt Bischoff.

All youngsters 13 and younger are eligible to participate in the Junior Hike. Nurses will be on hand to administer first aid, should that need arise.

Walkers can obtain pledge cards at their school. Sponsors are then listed on the cards, together with the amount they pledge for each mile hiked. Volunteers will validate hikers' pledge cards by stamping them after each lap.

The theme for the 1974 Junior Hikes is "blister power." Each participant will receive a sticker with this slogan imprinted on it.

The Southeast Junior Hike Co-chairmen advise all hikers to wear comfortable sneakers or shoes, and bring any food or drink in disposable containers.

Parents are welcome if accompanied by their children.

Criminal Justice Seminar Topic

Mrs. Dorothy Wadsworth, a member of the McKay Commission that studied the Attica uprising of 1971, will be the keynote speaker at a seminar in criminal justice arranged by Church Women United of Rochester and Buffalo.

The meeting will be held in Emmanuel Baptist Church, Batavia, on Friday, May 10, 9:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Reservations may be made through 454-6443.

RETREAT SCHEDULE

Nine parishes in the Auburn area have scheduled men's retreats at the Notre Dame Retreat House for the weekend of April 26-28. For further information contact the parishes listed: St. Alphonsus, 252-7261; St. Aloysius, 252-7273; Sacred Heart, 252-7271; St. Mary's, 252-9545; St. Hyacinth, 252-7297; Holy Family, 252-9576; St. Patrick, Moravia, 497-0626; St. Ann's, Owasco, 252-7170; St. Joseph, Cayuga, 252-0983.

Feminists' Seminar Set for St. Bernard's

Catholic feminists will storm St. Bernard's Seminary this Saturday, April 27, as St. Joan's International Alliance presents its first major seminar on the roles and images of women in the Catholic Church.

St. Joan's International Alliance is a world-wide organization dedicated to "the theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes." The local chapter was organized last summer.

Noted feminist Arlene Swidler, columnist for the National Catholic Reporter and author of *Woman in a Man's Church* and *Concerns World Religions*, will speak at 1 p.m. Her husband, Leonard, professor of religion at Temple University and author of *Jesus was a Feminist*, will conduct a workshop for men.

Registration opens at 12:30 p.m. The workshops are scheduled for 2 and 3:30 p.m. Topics include Women in the

Bible, Education, Ministry, Structured and Unstructured, and Approach to Feminism. Members of organizations within the Church and from other denominations will head the workshops.

Cost of the seminar is \$3. Coffee and donuts will be provided.

**Jack Trippe
Photography**
Your Wedding
Album Tastefully
Done
Portfolio Shown
At Your Convenience
288-5569



HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

MASS
FOR
YOUR
MOTHER
AND
FATHER

Think of the days ahead. Mother's Day is May 12th, Father's Day, June 16th. Why not send us your Mass requests right now? Simply list the intentions, and then you can rest assured the Masses will be offered by priests in India, the Holy Land and Ethiopia, who receive no other income. . . . Remind us to send you information about Gregorian Masses, too. You can arrange now to have Gregorian Masses offered for yourself, or for another, after death.

A
FUTURE
PRIEST
NEEDS
YOUR
HELP

Have you ever wished you had a son a priest? Now you can have a "priest of your own"—and share forever in all the good he does. . . . Throughout the Near East each year, grateful bishops ordain hundreds of new priests trained by people like you. . . . Their own families are too poor to support them in training, but good Catholics in America "adopted" these seminarians, encouraged them all the way to ordination. . . . In some inspiring cases, this support was given at personal sacrifice. . . . How can you begin? Write to us now. We'll send you the name of a young seminarian who needs you, and he will write to you. Make the payments for his training to suit your convenience (\$15.00 a month, or \$180 a year, or the total \$1,080 all at once). Join your sacrifices to his, and at every Sacrifice of the Mass, he will always remember who made it possible.

THE
HELPLESS
NEED
YOU

In the hands of a thrifty native Sister your gift in any amount (\$1,000, \$500, \$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$2) in the name of your mother or father will fill empty stomachs. We'll send your parents a beautiful card telling them your gift is in their honor.

Dear
Monsignor Nolan:

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$

FOR

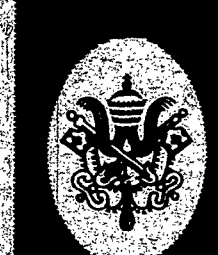
Please
return coupon
with your
offering

NAME

STREET

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

THE CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION



NEAR EAST MISSIONS

TERENCE CARDINAL COOKE, President
MSGR. JOHN G. NOLAN, National Secretary
Write: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOC.
1011 First Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10022
Telephone: 212/826-1480



"A complete real estate service"
FOR 54 YEARS

"The friendship of those we serve is the foundation of our progress"

Within 1 block of 12 Banking Institutions

350 Main St. E.
(Parking)
546-7170