



Confession and Anointing of the Sick

Catholic Truth League
Friday Apologetics
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The two Sacraments of Healing of the Church are Confession and Anointing of the Sick. As our life as a “child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin” (CCC 1421), we turn back to Jesus Christ and his Church to find forgiveness and the strength to endure the trials of this life, to carry our Cross. Just as the prodigal son returns to his father recognizing his own unworth, yet is embraced by a forgiving father, so too do we approach our Heavenly Father recognizing our weakness and seeking His loving embrace. (Luke 15:11-32)

Quick Scripture

St. John 20:21-23
St. Matthew 9:2-8
St. Matthew 18:18
2 Corinthians 5:18-20
1 John 1:8-9
Mark 6:12-13
James 5:14-15

Confession Themes

- ❖ What is Confession?
 - Five Parts of Confession
 - Examination of conscience: Discern what you have knowingly and willingly done against the will of God, against His Commandments (CCC 1454).
 - Contrition: “Sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together with the resolution not to sin again” (Council of Trent: DS 1676).
 - Perfect Contrition*: Sorrow for sin that “arises from love of charity for God” (CCC 1492)
 - Imperfect Contrition*: Sorrow for sin due to the “sin’s ugliness or the fear of eternal damnation and the other penalties threatening the sinner” (CCC 1453).
 - Amendment to sin no more: The intent to sin no more in the future (CCC 1489).
 - Confession:
 - Absolution: Through the priest’s sacramental absolution, God forgives sins (CCC 1424)
 - Seal of Confession: Sins confessed kept absolutely secret by Priest (CCC 1467)
 - Penance: Remedying disorders caused by sin; expiating (making up for) sins (CCC 1459).
- ❖ Why do we confess to a Priest?
 - Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them “Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (John 20:21-23)
 - In Persona Christi: The apostle is sent out “on behalf of Christ” with “God making his appeal” through him and pleading: “Be reconciled to God.” It is *God* who forgives (CCC1442).
 - Human and psychological need, the freedom associated with saying your sins (CCC 1455).
- ❖ Effects of Confession (CCC 1468-1473, 1496)
 - Forgiveness of sins (forgiveness of the guilt of sins)
 - Reconciliation with God (recovering of grace) and the Church (hurt by our personal sins)
 - Remission of *eternal* punishment (i.e. now able to enter eternal life)
 - Remission, at least in part, of *temporal* punishment resulting from sin
 - Need of Indulgences and Purgatory to be absolved of such punishment

Anointing of the Sick Themes

- ❖ What is Anointing of the Sick?
 - “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).
- ❖ Effects of Anointing of the Sick
 - Uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure sufferings; forgiveness of sins if Confession is not possible; restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul; preparing us to pass over to eternal life. (CCC 1532).