

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Can. 998 The anointing of the sick, by which the Church commends the faithful who are dangerously ill to the suffering and glorified Lord in order that he relieve and save them, is conferred by anointing them with oil and pronouncing the words prescribed in the liturgical books.

Can. 1002 The **communal celebration** of the anointing of the sick for many of the sick at once, who have been suitably prepared and are properly disposed, can be performed according to the prescripts of the diocesan bishop. *It is highly recommended that when this is celebrated people participate, thus alleviating the difficulties of waiting.*

THE MINISTER OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Can. 1003 §1. Every priest and a **priest alone** validly administers the anointing of the sick. Only an ordained priest can administer the sacrament – deacons and lay people are not permitted to do so. §2. All priests to whom the care of souls has been entrusted have the duty and right of administering the anointing of the sick for the faithful entrusted to their pastoral office. For a reasonable cause, any other priest can administer this sacrament with at least the presumed consent of the priest mentioned above.

THOSE ON WHOM THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK IS TO BE CONFERRED

Can. 1004 §1. The anointing of the sick can be administered to a member of the faithful who, having reached the use of reason, **begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age**. *The use of the word “begins” provides for the celebration of the sacrament not to be delayed. Too often, people are under the impression that the term “last rites” means to wait until the last moment. In this age of fewer and fewer priests, some with more than one parish and others with more than one role which takes them out of the parish, waiting until the near end may result in people not receiving the sacrament. It is imperative that the sacrament is arranged for early on in the illness.*

§2. This sacrament can be repeated if the sick person, having recovered, again becomes gravely ill or if the condition becomes more grave during the same illness.

Can. 1006 This sacrament is to be conferred on the sick who at least implicitly requested it when they were in control of their faculties.