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Outline: Anointing of the Sick

I. What does Anointing celebrate?

A. When people are sick or close to death, they often talk about a great sense of loneliness and isolation, or worry, depression, and helplessness.

B. The sacrament of Anointing offers a spiritual antidote to the spiritual damaging effects of illness.

C. These are three faces of christian faith that derives with Anointing of the sick.

God loves and cares for us when we are sick or suffering.

God heals our spirit and gives us comfort through the love of the christian community.

Jesus' suffering and death were not his final face, and neither are they for us. Jesus resurrection is hope for us.

IV. God's loving concern: A gift tot the whole person.

A. God's loving concern for sick, suffering, and dying people is the first and foremost truth celebrated in the sacrament of Anointing.

B. In this sacrament the people of God seek not only to remind the sick, suffering individuals among them of God's unconditional love and forgiveness, but also to reassure them that God cares about their well being.

1. Healing the whole person

A. A serious illness can have a huge impact on how the person acts everyday, it affects their body, mind, and soul. An illness that has both physical and emotional causes is considered "psychos mate".

B. The Sacrament of Anointing acknowledges and celebrates, the wholeness of the human person, paying attention to both physical and spiritual well being.

2. How do we know God really cares?

A. Two elements lie beneath the Christian belief in God's compassion.

3. Jesus' Healing Actions

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III. The Healing power of the faith community.

A. The role of the Christian community in carrying on the healing ministry of Jesus is expressed in a variety of ways through the church's pastoral care of the sick.

1. The personal and social sides of sickness

A. Although others can empathize with our condition, only we as individual persons feel our pain, discomfort, and anxiety.

2. The personal and social sides of healing.

A. Persons who are ill in many ways rarely find healing by isolating themselves, from others. In fact much scientific research suggests that physical touch and presence of others are critical to recovery of sick persons.

3. The criticism community as “wounded healers”.

A. In the christian tradition, experiences of suffering and healings are linked to service to others. The sacrament of anointing both celebrates and affirms this reality.

IV. Hope through the resurrection.

A. The sacrament of Anointing reminds us of the hope filled reality of Jesus’ own suffering, death, and resurrection, and allows us to reaffirm our faith in that reality.

1. Life, not death, has the final word.

A. As Christians profess “The Nicene Creed” “On the third day, he rose again”. Although Jesus’ Resurrection did not eliminate suffering and death from human experience, it did make it clear that they are not the end of life but steps on the new way to new life.

This is the powerful, hopeful message of the paschal mystery “The God of Jesus is the God of Life”.

V. The ritual of Anointing Symbolic Actions and Words

1. Different Rites for Different circumstances.

A. Offered with the wider faith community present. The sacrament of Anointing can be celebrated with a whole faith community, either as a part of a Mass or in a separate healing service.

VI. Common Elements in Anointing

1. A number of elements are common to all forms of celebrating the sacrament of Anointing.

1. Prayers

2. A penitential rite

3. Readings from the scriptures

4. The laying on of hands by the priest

5. Anointing with oil on the forehead and hands by the priest.

6. Holy communion.