



Help and Comfort for the Sick

Test your Catholic IQ

DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help you, your students, and your students' families review what you know about our Catholic faith. Find the answer key on page 3.

1 Only a ____ can anoint a sick person.

- a) doctor b) miracle worker
- c) teacher d) priest

2 The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is available to _____.

- a) all Catholics b) only saints c) only priests and nuns d) only Catholics who never miss Mass

3 ____ is the final Eucharist that is given to a person in danger of death along with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

- a) First Communion b) The Last Supper c) Viaticum d) Baptism

4 _____, because it is the first profession of faith in Christ, is the gateway sacrament that precedes all other sacraments.

- a) Anointing of the Sick b) Baptism
- c) Confirmation d) First Communion

5 If a dying person is too sick to be baptized but would seek baptism if they could, this is called a "baptism of _____," and that person can also be anointed.

- a) procrastination b) Anointing
- c) too little too late d) desire

6 A Protestant can never receive Anointing of the Sick.

True | False

7 Anointing people who are sick or dying expresses how the Church _____.

- a) owns Catholic hospitals b) says goodbye before we die c) is anti-

death d) brings God's comfort and presence to all situations in our lives, good or bad

8 Anointing of the Sick always brings about a ____ healing.

- a) surgical b) medical c) spiritual
- d) physical

9 If it is good for one's eternal salvation, a person may also be healed _____.

- a) physically b) spiritually
- c) athletically d) musically

10 God heals people through _____.

- a) miracles b) medical science
- c) eating healthier food d) all of the above



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11 People die because of effects of sin on the human race.

True | False

12 If a person is not too sick, the sacrament of _____ should be celebrated before Anointing of the Sick so that the person's sins are forgiven.

- a) Reconciliation b) Holy Orders
c) Matrimony d) Confirmation

13 Blessed _____ oil is used for Anointing of the Sick.

- a) motor b) avocado c) olive
d) essential

14 Those who are very sick, very old, or close to death can often feel _____. One grace of Anointing of the Sick is

courage in the face of apprehensiveness at the prospect of dying.

- a) distracted b) bored c) joyful
d) afraid

15 Anointing of the Sick is always celebrated with only the priest and the sick person present. Families are not invited.

True | False

16 Jesus healed people who were _____, crippled, deaf, and sick with leprosy.

- a) blind b) annoying c) Dallas Cowboys fans
d) cranky

17 One key reason why Jesus healed people was to show that the _____ was present in a new and powerful way through him.

- a) temple b) kingdom of God c) force
d) luck of the Irish

18 One of the most powerful healings we receive from God comes through the _____ of our sins.

- a) forgiveness b) punishment
c) repeating d) public mocking

19 The two Sacraments of Healing are Anointing of the Sick and _____.

- a) Recuperation b) Recovery
c) Penance and Reconciliation
d) Holy Orders

20 The Church does not require a sick or dying person to be perfect or sinless in order to receive the Anointing of the Sick.

True | False

Kids' quiz

Anointing

DAVID O'BRIEN

This quiz can help your students review their knowledge about our Catholic faith. Check answers with the answer key on page 3.

1 The main symbol used in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is _____.

- a) fire b) water c) oil d) bread and wine

2 People who are seriously _____ should receive Anointing of the Sick.

- a) sick b) hungry c) cold d) tall

3 The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is really a continuation of Jesus' ministry of _____.

- a) preaching b) teaching c) healing
d) walking on water

4 You need to be close to death to receive Anointing of the Sick. True | False

5 The main sickness that needs healing through a sacramental anointing is the sickness of _____.

- a) anger b) allergies c) cancer d) sin

6 Jesus sent out his _____ to preach about the Kingdom of God and heal the sick.

- a) enemies b) disciples
c) classmates d) parents

7 "Is any among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should _____ over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14).

- a) pray b) fly c) jump d) sing

8 In preparation for a serious _____, a person can receive Anointing of the Sick.

- a) test b) operation
c) trip overseas d) conversation

9 A sick person can receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick more than once for the same illness or for another illness at a later time.

True | False

10 During the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the person is anointed on his _____ and hands.

- a) forehead b) feet c) tongue
d) heart



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ANSWERS TO Catholic I.Q.

1. **d)** Presbyters (priests and bishops) are ministers of Anointing of the Sick because this sacrament carries with it the grace to forgive sins like confession, which is also reserved to presbyters (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1516).
2. **a)** Because healing is an act of the Lord's universal mercy and forgiveness of sins is an effect of the anointing, all Catholics are welcome to request this sacrament when needed even if they have lapsed in their practice of the faith.
3. **c)** This last Communion, viaticum, provides the faithful with comfort and food for the journey home to the Lord.
4. **b)** If a dying person is not baptized and wishes to be anointed, they would first have to be baptized, confirmed, receive Communion, and then be anointed. This can be done in one sacramental celebration.
5. **d)** Following Jesus' example to the thief on the cross, the Church recognizes a person's desire for union with Christ even if he is unable to formally receive Baptism before death (see CCC, 1259).
6. **False.** Canon Law states: "If the danger of death is present . . . or some other grave necessity urges it, Catholic ministers administer these same sacraments licitly also to other Christians . . . provided that they manifest Catholic faith in respect to these sacraments and are properly disposed" (*Canon 844, §4*).
7. **d)** God desires to be a part of every experience in our lives, even suffering and death. Christ's life among us makes this clear as he cries with people, heals the sick, and then suffers and dies himself (see CCC, 1501, 1503).
8. **c)** The special graces of the Anointing of the Sick are the forgiveness of sins; unification with the passion of Christ; strength, peace, and courage to endure suffering and old age; and spiritual preparation for death (see CCC, 1532).
9. **a)** Throughout the centuries, many have experienced miraculous bodily healings through the sacrament as well as at holy shrines, such as where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in Lourdes, France.
10. **d)** Health and wholeness through doctors or healthier choices come from God just

as much as an inexplicable miraculous physical healing.

11. **True.** Original Sin brought death into the world. Sin mortally wounds us. Sin cut us off from God — the source of all life — forever, and we would be cut off still if Jesus didn't save us on the cross. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
12. **a)** If the person is unable to make a good confession because of sickness, a brief penitential rite is built into the opening prayers of the Anointing of the Sick ritual.
13. **c)** Pure olive oil becomes the Oil of the Sick, or the Oil of the Infirm. Each local bishop blesses the sacred oils for healing distributed to every parish in his diocese at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday every year.
14. **d)** People have a strong sense of self preservation and naturally resist death. This is normal, even though everyone eventually dies. This sacrament offers God's comfort as we approach our final journey home to God.
15. **False.** "Like all the sacraments the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration, whether it takes place in the family home, a hospital or church, for a single sick person or a whole group of sick persons" (CCC, 1517).
16. **a)** Jesus performed many miracles in his life, including raising Lazarus from the dead and resurrecting from the dead himself on Easter morning.
17. **b)** Jesus didn't heal every person, and even the people he raised from the dead eventually died again. The purpose of these powerful healing miracles was to show Jesus' divinity and the way God was transforming the world through Jesus' incarnation, establishing the Kingdom of God.
18. **a)** Jesus healed hurting people such as the Prodigal Son (see Luke 15) and the woman caught in adultery (see John 8) by forgiving their sins.
19. **c)** Both Penance and Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick bring about spiritual healing, forgiveness of sin, and a release from guilt.
20. **True.** Everyone sins every day. "All have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God"

(Romans 3:23). This is precisely why Christ died for our sins, and the Church continues to pour out God's mercy through the sacraments.

Kids' Quiz

1. **b)** Oil was used for healing in ancient societies, including Israel where Jesus lived.
2. **a)** A very old or sick person can request to be anointed.
3. **c)** The Church continues all the ministries of Jesus today, including healing, because we are the Body of Christ in the modern world, a world that needs healing of mind, body, and soul.
4. **False.** The sacrament "is not for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived" (CCC, 1514).
5. **d)** Sin is the worst illness a person can have because it separates us both in this life and the next from the healing, wholeness, and happiness found only in God.
6. **b)** Jesus sent the disciples, and "so they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them" (Mark 6:12-13).
7. **a)** The early followers of Jesus witnessed him perform many miraculous healings. The early Church understood that Jesus expected those who believed in him to continue his ministry of healing, which they did by anointing people with oil and praying over them for healing.
8. **b)** Because there is always the risk of death with a serious operation, Catholics preparing for surgery can ask to be anointed (see CCC, 1515).
9. **True.** "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" (CCC, 1529).
10. **a)** The ancient practice of anointing one's forehead is continued in this sacrament both as a symbol of comfort but also as a sign of God's blessing.