

The Anointing of the Sick

Who can/should be anointed:

- a. “the faithful who because of sickness, mental illness, or age are seriously ill.” The inclusion of mental illness is still connected to serious illness. If a mental illness is making someone seriously ill, they can be anointed.
- b. Before a surgical procedure, as long as serious illness is the reason for the procedure.
- c. People of advanced age, even if no serious illness is present.
- d. Children who have reached the use of reason may be anointed in the case of serious illness. The judgment about the use of reason for this sacrament is guided by the question of whether the child themselves would be comforted by the Sacrament. In doubt of whether the child has reached the use of reason, the text encourages to err on the side of anointing. The law presumes that all have reached the use of reason by age 7.
- e. Anointing should not be conferred to a dead person; sacraments are for the living.