



**BLESSING OF THE SICK
USED IN SOME PROVINCES
OF THE ORDER OF PREACHERS**

1. The priest, treating the sick with kindness, first using words filled with faith and humanity, should lift their hearts with apostolic love. He should instruct them about the prayer value of this invocation, stir up their soul to faith in God, and help them to embrace his divine Will.

If the illness is dangerous, even if not immediate, the priest should encourage the sick person to receive the Anointing of the Sick.

After some words of greeting and encouragement, holding out his hands (or, where it is the custom, placing his hands on the sick person's head), the priest says the following prayer, attributed to St Vincent Ferrer and used by St Louis Bertrand.

"They will place their hands on the sick,
and they will be well again."
May Jesus, the Son of Mary,
Lord and Saviour of the world,
who drew you to the Catholic Faith
preserve you in it and make you blessed.
By the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
our holy Father Dominic,
of Blessed Vincent, and of all the saints,
may he be pleased to free you from this infirmity.

2. Then the priest adds:

May the Lord open your heart and direct it aright through hearing his Word.

Then the text of the Gospel According to John (1, 1-14) or the Gospel According to Mark (16:15-20) is read by one of those standing near, or by the priest himself. Another text may be chosen, e.g. from those in the Rite of Anointing the Sick, especially Is 61:1-3a, Rom 8:14-17, Mt 5: 1-12a, Mt 11: 25-30, Lk 12: 35-44a.

A brief explanation of the reading may be given.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

+ The beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for

testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

3. Then the priest introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

In faith, let us now call on God, the almighty Father, for he drives out every illness and every disease from human bodies by the power of his command, and let us extol his goodness, in the words of Christ himself:

and all continue together:

Our Father ... *etc.*

4. The rite concludes with the priest's blessing:

May our Lord Jesus Christ
be with you to defend you,
within you, to preserve you,
before you, to lead you,
after you, to protect you,
and above you, to bless you,
for he lives and reigns
with the Father and the Holy Spirit
in perfect unity
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down upon you and remain with you always.

R. Amen.

Another form of blessing may be used.

Then he sprinkles the sick person or persons with holy water, and thus farewells them in peace.