

Liturgical Options for the Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick (BCDW Newsletter XLIX: May 2013)

In late 1972, the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship promulgated the revised *Ordo unctionis infirmorum eorumque pastoralis curae*, which was translated in 1983 by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) as *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*. The *Ordo unctionis infirmorum*, nos. 80-92, provides instructions for celebrating the Rite of Anointing within Mass, but there is no proper formulary, apart from two Solemn Blessings (cf. nos. 79 and 237). Rather, one is to use the euchology from the Mass “For the Sick” (no. 45 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions in the *Roman Missal*). This formulary includes two Entrance Antiphons, two Collects, one Prayer over the Offerings, one Communion Antiphon, and one Prayer after Communion. Because the Eucharistic Prayers for Various Needs had not yet been promulgated (as they would be in 1994), in 1973 one had simply to use one of the Prefaces of the day with one of the four main Eucharistic Prayers.

Every sacrament that can be celebrated within Mass (which excludes only Penance) has a proper Ritual Mass formulary except for Anointing of the Sick. These considerations might help explain why ICEL composed a formulary for a Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, which was approved for use by the Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship in December 1982. This formulary includes two Collects, two Prayers over the Offerings, a Preface, special intercessions for Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III, two Prayers after Communion, and a Solemn Blessing—different from the two already present in the *editio typica*. This formulary was placed in Appendix VII of the *Sacramentary*.

In the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, new translations are provided for the two Solemn Blessings from the *Ordo unctionis infirmorum*, and the celebrant is referred to the formulary for the Mass for the Sick. The formulary, previously in Appendix VII, continues in force, however, because those texts are located in an approved ritual book (*Pastoral Care of the Sick*) and so are still permitted for liturgical use in the dioceses of the United States. The special intercessions for Eucharistic Prayers I, II, and III may also continue to be used in a Ritual Mass for the Anointing of the Sick. The first one for Eucharistic Prayer I would need to be adapted slightly to fit it with the revised translation in the *Roman Missal*. The following should be used:

Therefore, Lord, we pray:
graciously accept this oblation of our service,
that of your whole family,
**and especially of those who ask for healing
of body, mind and spirit;**
order our days in your peace...

The intercessions for both Eucharistic Prayers II and III could be inserted, without change, into their respective prayers:

<p><u>Eucharistic Prayer II</u> ...together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop and all the clergy. Remember also those who ask for healing in the name of your Son, that they may never cease to praise you for the wonders of your power. Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection...</p>	<p><u>Eucharistic Prayer III</u> Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: hear especially the prayers of those who ask for healing in the name of your Son, that they may never cease to praise you for the wonders of your power. In your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.</p>
--	--

For the sake of completeness, the Lectionary readings for this Ritual Mass should be taken from volume IV of the *Lectionary for Mass*: “Pastoral Care of the Sick” (nos. 790-795 for the Anointing of the Sick, or nos. 796-800 for Viaticum)—these texts actually come from the *Ordo unctionis infirmorum*. One could also use readings from the section “For Masses for Various Needs: For the Sick” (nos. 933-937).