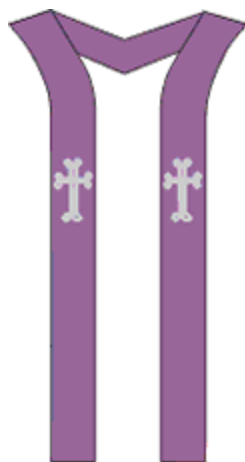


Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick



Confession



Anointing of the Sick

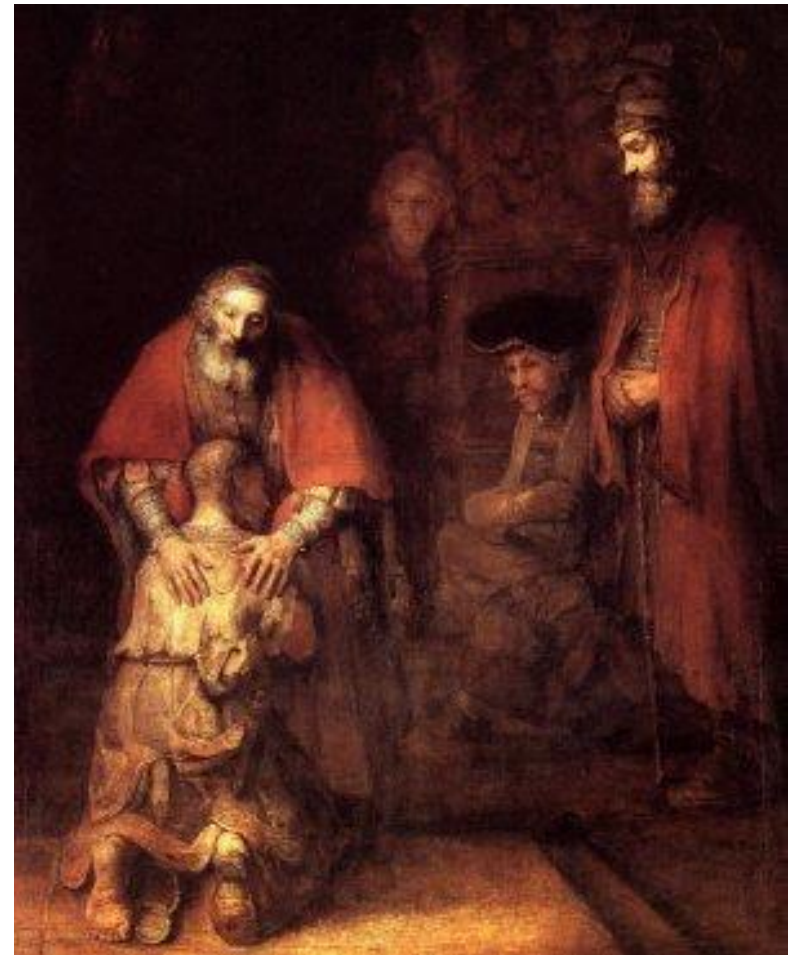
Pre-figuration of the Reconciliation

- **OT Prophets** – calling the people of Israel to conversion (*shub*)
- **Day of Atonement** - the high priest was to confess the sins of the people while imposing his hands upon a goat (Lev. 16:21)
- **Baptism of John** – the people would confess their sins and receive a washing as a sign of repentance



Names for Reconciliation

- Each name highlights a different element of the Sacrament
- **Reconciliation** –we are reconciled to God and the Church
- **Confession** – discloses ones sins to a priest and confesses God's mercy
- **Penance** – includes acts of penance and satisfaction
- **Forgiveness** – forgives one's sins
- **Conversion** – makes present Jesus call to conversion and turns one back to God



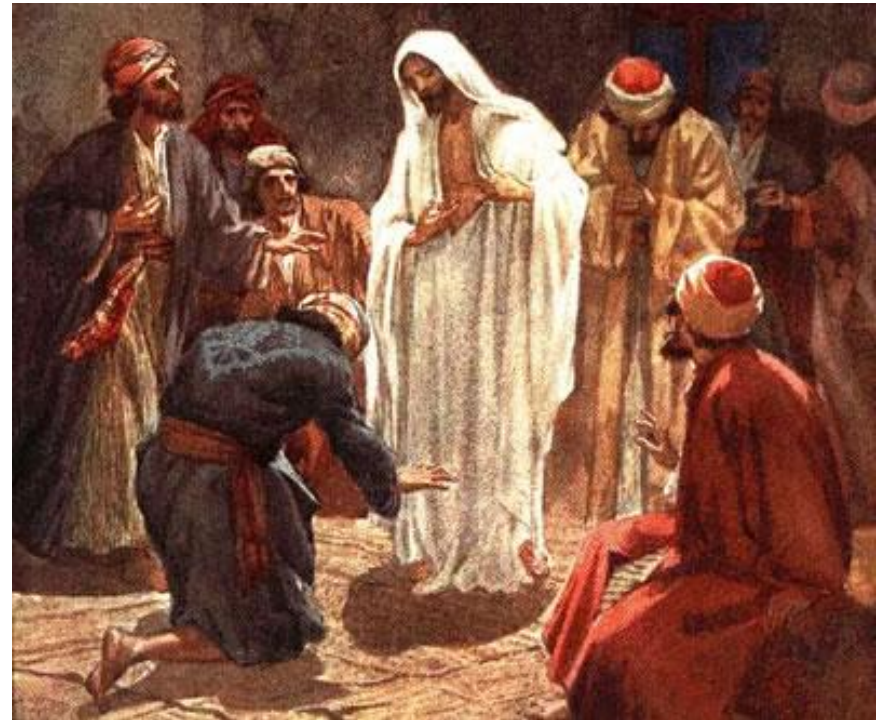
Sacrament of Confession: Outward Sign

- **Form** – prayer of absolution
 - “...I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”
- **Matter** – sins and contrition
- **Minister** – Priest and Bishop
- **Recipient** – any baptized Catholic



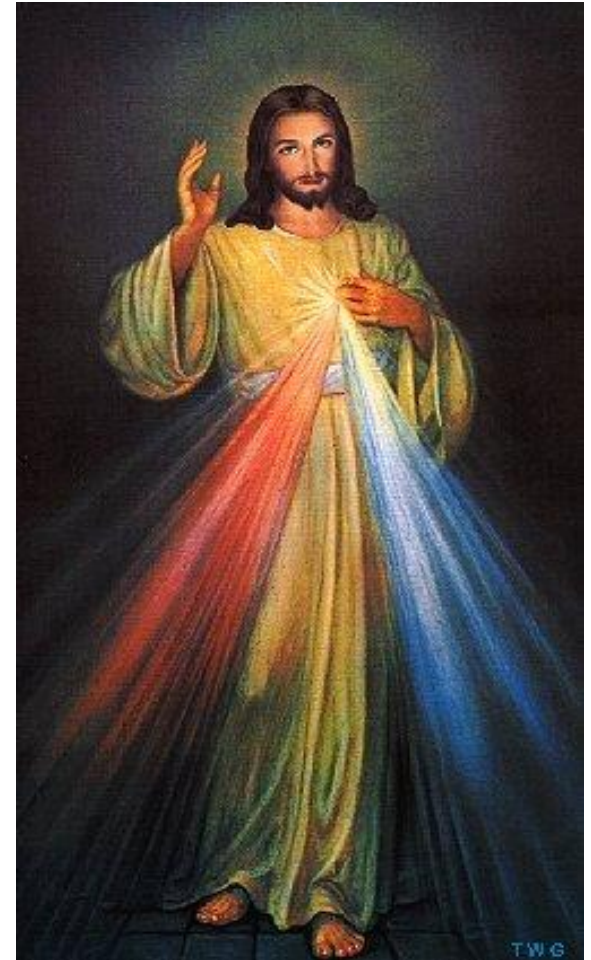
Instituted by Christ

- **John 20:23** - “Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. *As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.*’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. *If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.*’”



To Give Grace

- Reconciles one with God and the Church
- Restores one to a state of grace (if lost by mortal sin)
- Forgives sins
- Removes eternal punishment
- Removes temporal punishment
- Gives one peace of conscience
- Gives the grace and strength to resist sin



Acts of the Penitent

- Four steps to a good confession
 1. Examination of Conscience
 2. Contrition
 3. Confession
 4. Satisfaction

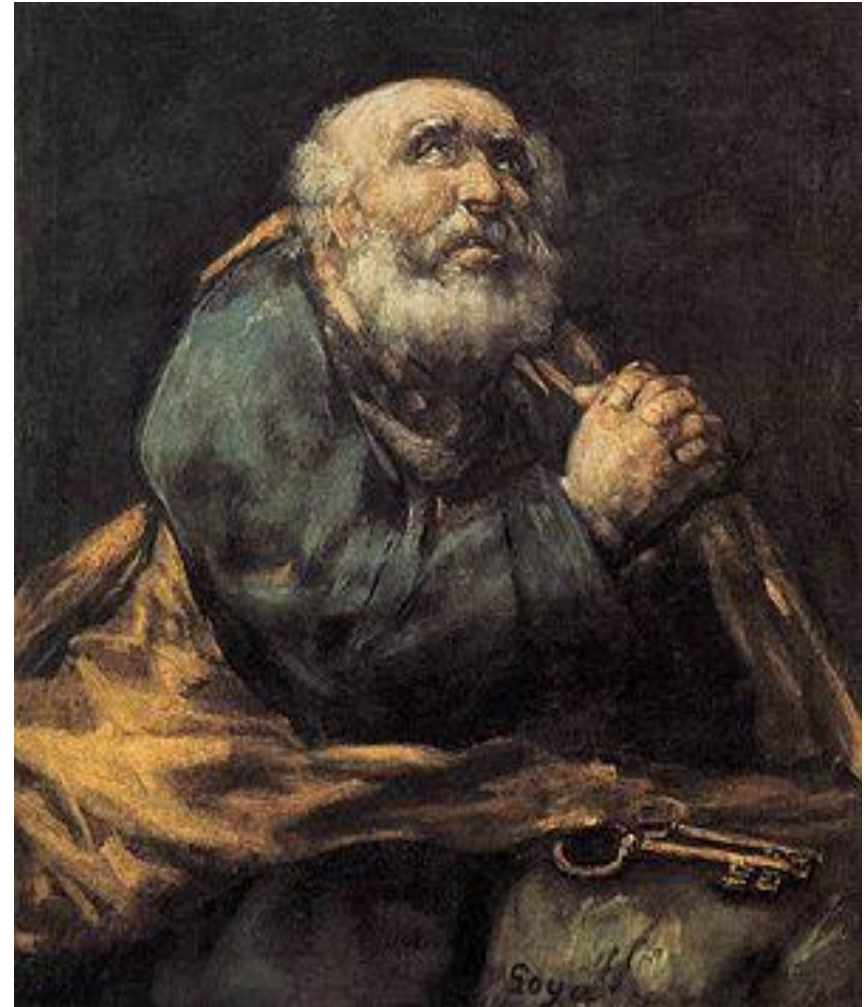


Examination of Conscience

- General Examination
 - In this kind of examination one looks for any sins (especially mortal) that come to mind since one's last good confession
- Particular Examination
 - In this kind of examination one looks at specific sins that he or she is trying to overcome in order to grow in a particular virtue, e.g., patience, charity, etc...

Contrition

- **Perfect** contrition
 - This contrition is motivated by the love of God
 - A person is sorry because he or she loves the one who has been offended
- **Imperfect** contrition (attrition)
 - This contrition is motivated by the fear of hell or the ugliness of sin
 - This is sufficient for a good confession
- Part of contrition is the resolve not to sin again



Confession of Sins

- **Integral Confession** - In order to make a good confession one must confess all of his or her mortal sins to the priest in kind and number
 - **Kind** – what type of sin, e.g, drunkenness, fornication, missing mass on Sunday
 - **Number** – to the best of one's memory how many times this mortal sin happened
- If a person intentionally withholds a mortal sin it would be a sacrilege and their sins would not be forgiven
- The confession of venial sins is strongly recommended but not strictly necessary
 - Aids the formation of one's conscience
 - Fights against evil tendencies



Satisfaction

- Satisfaction is the carrying out of the penance given by the priest in order to repair the damage our sin has caused us
 - It is a token of our Christian life of penance
- This can include
 - **Prayer:** for example Our Fathers and Hail Maries
 - **Restitution:** Returning what we have stolen or making up for it in some other way
 - **Acts of Charity:** for example offering someone extra help or kind word



Frequency of Confession

- A good practice for all Catholics is:
 - Immediately if one is conscious of a mortal sin
 - Once a month
- One is obligated to confess mortal sins at least once in a year and before receiving Holy Communion
 - To receive the Eucharist in a state of mortal sin would be a sacrilege



Seal of Confession

- The Sacramental seal of confession is the grave and strict obligation never to reveal any information that would identify a sin with a particular penitent
 - This absolute secrecy applies in all circumstances whatsoever
 - The purpose of the seal is due to the delicacy of confession and to maintain the honor of the sacrament
 - The penalty for a priest who either directly or indirectly violates this seal is immediate excommunication



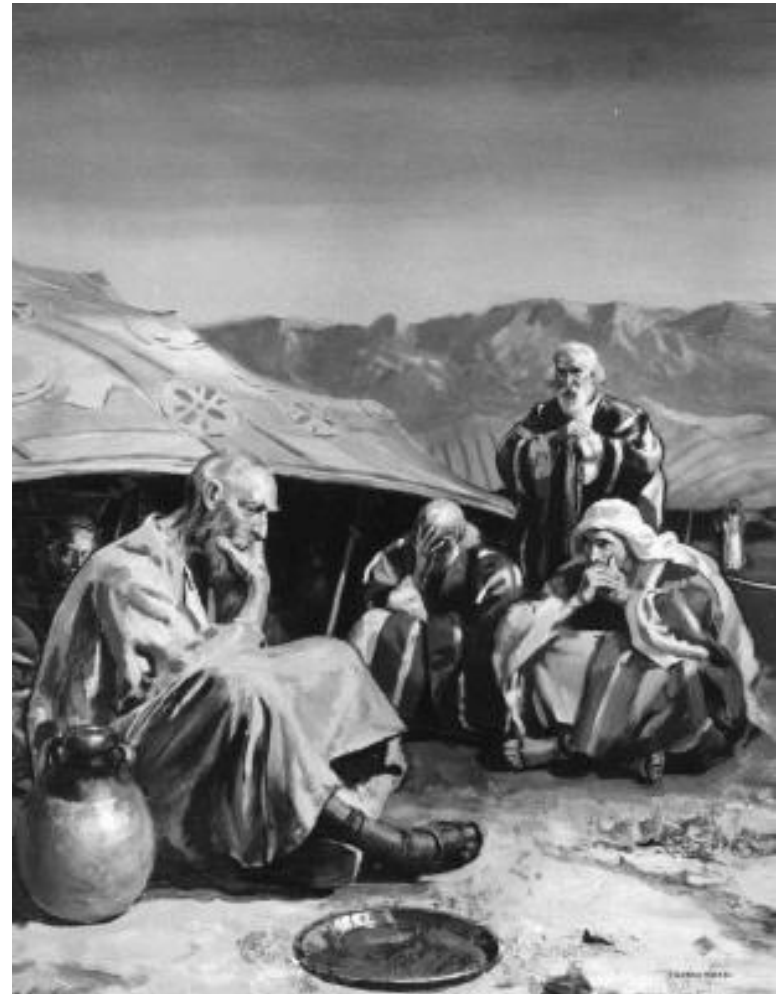
St. John Nepomucene

Excommunication

- Excommunication – means that one is excluded from the communion of the Catholic Church
- It is a censure given only for the most serious religious crimes
 - Breaking the seal of confession
 - Desecration of the Holy Eucharist
 - Having or participating in an abortion
- The lifting of an excommunication is reserved to Rome and in some cases the Diocesan Bishop

Old Testament Background of Anointing of the Sick

- **Sickness and sin** – mysterious connection between the two
- **Sickness in God's Presence** – the Psalms relate how sickness is an opportunity for repentance
- **Suffering Servant** – Isaiah 53 indicates that suffering can be redemptive for oneself and for others



Anointing of the Sick: Outward Sign

- **Form** – Pray of Anointing:
“Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up. Amen.”
- **Matter** – Oil of the Sick
 - The minister anoints the forehead and palms of the hands
- **Minister** – Bishop and Priest



Instituted by Christ

- **James 5:14-15** - Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.



To Give Grace

- Unites the Sick person more closely to the sufferings of Christ
- Strengthens the person to offer their sufferings to God for the good of their soul and the souls of others
- Gives comfort, peace, and courage
- Forgives venial sins
- Forgives mortal sins if the person is not able to go to confession
- As a special grace it can bring about a physical healing

Those who can receive the anointing of the sick

- **In danger of death** - A person can receive this sacrament if they begin to be in danger of death because of sickness or old age
 - If the person elderly
 - If the sickness is serious even though they may not be dying
 - If the person is immediately dying
- **Viaticum** – Latin word meaning “provision for the journey”
 - Viaticum is the last time a person receives Holy Communion before he or she dies
 - It is food for their journey to eternity

