

Unit Ten: Rites of Healing

Reconciliation; Anointing; Funerals

Alternative title: Rites of Restoration.

These rites all deal with DAMAGE and LOSS: to: baptismal innocence
health
life
relationship

They are concerned with subjects often considered taboo: sin, sickness, and death (in others and oneself) and in facing up to them.

PENANCE deals with realities about *God's mercy and call*
Oneself and others
the Church

ANOINTING is concerned with sickness and its implications:
Weakness of body, spirit, faith
Danger of death

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS deals with the reality of death:
what the deceased has left unfinished
what we have left unfinished

Rites help with acceptance of and coping with serious events.

- *role of the Word of God (OCF 4)*
- *ministry of the community in reconciling, care (APCS), consoling (OCF)*

Music has different roles at different times:

- *in Penance: an aid to reflection*
- *OCF: music 'expresses what words alone fail to convey'*

Environment has to be appropriate; *e.g. reconciliation room; 'ambience' or funerals*

Role of the Laity in these rituals (as leaders) to be stressed where necessary

1. PENANCE

- *not part of the current experience of many people in the church today*

Vatican II (SC72): the rite was to be revised 'to give more luminous expression to the nature and effect of the sacrament'.

The First Rite stresses the call of Christ to conversion; his welcome and reconciliation of sinners; the Apostolic Charge

(N.B. Baptism and Eucharist are also sacraments of forgiveness)

The Rites:

- the three rites retain the traditional structure
- outline of the history of the rites
- Penance as feature of Lent
- Non-sacramental services of penance
- possible future developments

2. ANOINTING AND PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK

Principles of reform: SC73–75

Revised rites (1983 ICEL rite expands the original version)

VIATICUM

VISITS TO THE SICK

PRAYERS WITH THE DYING

- *communal celebrations: show community involvement and help share burden of anxiety*

3. ORDER OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

1990 version introduces new elements:

- enriched introduction and pastoral notes
- Stress on: Ministry of consolation
Preparation
Music
- more prayers
- no longer 'three stations'
- New provisions:
Cremation
Burial of ashes
Commendation of Infant

Bibliography and Documentation

The Rite of Penance, Collins, Goodliffe Neale, 1976, Introduction.

Pastoral Care of the Sick, Geoffrey Chapman 1983: Cf. Apostolic Constitution and Introductions.

Order of Christian Funerals, Geoffrey Chapman, 1991: General Introduction and Pastoral Notes.

D.A. Withey, **Catholic Worship**: Kevin Mayhew 1990, ch. 15.

J.D. Crichton, **Christian Celebration**, Part 2: The Sacraments, chs. XI, IX X. [Ch. X needs updating the light of the new Order of Christian Funerals]

Stephen Dean (ed.) **The Parish Funeral**. Great Wakering: McCrimmons, 1991

Torn Coyle (ed.) **Christian Ministry to the Sick**. Geoffrey Chapman, 1986,