

THE BLESSING OF THE OILS AND THE CONSECRATION OF THE CHRISM — *Extracts*

Blessing of the Oil of the Sick

O God, Father of all consolation,
who willed to heal the infirmities of the weak through your Son,
listen favourably to the prayer of faith:
send forth from the heavens, we pray,
your Holy Spirit, the Paraclete,
upon this oil in all its richness,
which you have graciously brought forth from the verdant tree
to restore the body,
so that by your holy blessing ✠
everyone anointed with this oil
as a safeguard for body, soul, and spirit
may be freed from all pain,
all infirmity,
and all sickness.
May your holy oil, O Lord,
be blessed by you for our sake
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.
R. Amen.)

The conclusion Who lives and reigns is said only when this blessing takes place outside the Eucharistic Prayer.

Blessing of the Oil of Catechumens

O God, strength and protection of your people,
who have made the oil you created a sign of strength,
graciously bless ✠ this oil,
and grant courage to the catechumens
who will be anointed with it,
so that, receiving divine wisdom and power,
they may understand more deeply
the Gospel of your Christ,
they may undertake with a generous heart
the labours of the Christian life,
and, made worthy of adoption
as your sons and daughters,
they may rejoice to be born anew and to live in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Consecration of the Chrism

23. Then the Bishop pours the fragrances into the oil and mixes the Chrism in silence, unless this was done beforehand.

24. After this is done, he says the invitation to prayer:

Let us pray, dear brothers and sisters, to God the almighty Father,
that he bless and sanctify this oil;
may those who are signed with it outwardly
be inwardly anointed
and made worthy of divine redemption.

25. Then the Bishop, if appropriate, breathes upon the opening of the vessel of the Chrism and, with hands extended, he says one of the following Prayers of Consecration.

1

O God, author of all growth and spiritual progress,
receive in your goodness the grateful homage
that the Church joyfully offers to you through our voice.

For in the beginning you commanded the earth
to bring forth fruit-bearing trees,
among which olive trees would arise
as providers of this most rich oil,
so that their fruit might serve for sacred Chrism.

In the spirit of prophecy,
David foresaw the sacraments of your grace
and sang of the oil that would gladden our faces.
After the world's offences were washed away by the flood,
a dove announced the restoration of peace on earth with the olive branch,
foreshadowing the gift to come.

In the last days all this has been clearly revealed:
when every offence is removed through the waters of Baptism,
the anointing with this oil makes our faces cheerful and serene.

You also commanded your servant Moses
to make his brother Aaron a priest,
by pouring this oil upon him
after he had been washed in water.

Still greater dignity was added to this
when your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord,
insisted that he be washed by John
in the waters of the Jordan:
you sent the Holy Spirit from on high
in the likeness of a dove;
you declared by the witness of the voice that followed,

that you were well pleased in him,
your Only Begotten Son;
and you were seen to confirm clearly
what the prophet David had foretold in song,
that Christ would be anointed with the oil of gladness
above his companions.

All the concelebrants extend their right hand toward the Chrism until the end of the prayer,
without saying anything.

Therefore we beseech you, Lord:
be pleased to sanctify with your ✠ blessing this oil in its richness,
and to pour into it the strength of the Holy Spirit,
with the powerful working of your Christ.
From his holy name it has received the name of Chrism,
and with it you have anointed your priests, prophets, kings, and martyrs.
May you confirm the Chrism you have created
as a sacred sign of perfect salvation and life
for those to be made new in the spiritual waters of Baptism.
May those formed into a temple of your majesty
by the holiness infused through this anointing
and by the cleansing of the stain of their first birth
be made fragrant with the innocence of a life pleasing to you.
May those anointed with royal, priestly, and prophetic dignity
be clothed with the garment of an incorruptible gift
in keeping with the Sacrament you have established.
May this oil be the Chrism of salvation
for those born again of water and the Holy Spirit,
and may it make them partakers of eternal life
and sharers of heavenly glory.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

2

Or this prayer:

O God, author of the Sacraments and bestower of life,
we give thanks for your ineffable goodness,
for in the ancient covenant
you foreshadowed the mystery of sanctifying oil
and in the fullness of time
you willed that it might shine forth uniquely in your beloved Son.

And when your Son, our Lord,
had saved the human race through the Paschal Mystery,
he filled your Church with the Holy Spirit,
and wonderfully endowed her with heavenly gifts,
so that through her the work of salvation in the world
might be brought to completion.

From that time onward,
through the sacred mystery of Chrism
you have so bestowed the riches of your grace upon all humanity,
that your sons and daughters,
born again in the cleansing waters of Baptism,
are strengthened by the anointing of the Spirit
and, conformed to your Christ,
they share in his prophetic, priestly and kingly office.

*All the concelebrants extend their right hand toward the Chrism until the end of the prayer,
without saying anything.*

Therefore we beseech you, O Lord,
that by the power of your grace
this mingling of fragrance and oil
may become for us a sacrament of your ✠ blessing.

Pour out in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit
on our brothers and sisters anointed with this oil;
adorn with the splendour of holiness
the places and things signed by sacred oils;
but above all, by the mystery of this oil,
bring to completion the growth of your Church,
until she reaches that measure of fullness
in which you, resplendent with eternal light,
will be all in all with Christ in the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.