



PROTOCOLS USED FOR THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK IN OUR HOSPITALS

- Spiritual Care invites the priest to the hospital to administer the sacrament of the Sick. There are times that someone from the nurse's station may call. Families, at this time, must go through the hospital staff; priests cannot just appear without the hospital knowing. The priest must safeguard himself and follow the safety protocols of the hospital.
- Upon entering the hospital a form will have to be filled out. The priest must wear a face mask and hands are to be sanitized.
- It is highly recommended that the priest not bring a stole or prayer book to prevent transmission of any virus or germs coming in or leaving the hospital. Some priests have photocopied the prayers and Scripture readings. These can be brought in, but must be disposed of after the anointing in the patient's room before leaving the room.
- If possible keep the oil stock outside the room or have the person from Spiritual Care carry the stock.
- When the priest arrives at the patient's room, he may be required to wear a hospital gown, an additional face shield, and gloves. This is determined by the hospital.
- The Code of Canon Law allows for an "instrument to be used for serious reasons to avoid direct contact with the person." That instrument could be a cotton swab or a surgical glove, which would have to be carried home and burned or buried. The use of a surgical glove is recommended.
- The priest will place his thumb into the oil stock, ONCE. Then the lid can be placed onto the stock. Using the oil on the thumb, anoint the patient. Most of the oil will be removed by the time the hands are anointed. After the prayers are complete, the visit should be short, prepare to exit the room.
- It is necessary for the priest to wash his hands with soap and water to remove the remainder of any oil residue from the glove. This will allow the priest to leave the gown, shield and gloves in the waste basket when they are removed, before leaving the room. The face mask is to remain on. Once the priest leaves the room he is to sanitize his hands before moving on to the next room. The stock also should be sanitized and wiped clean on the outside.

Dated: 14 September 2020