

502 Minister Of The Sacrament

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Policy:

The priest is the only proper minister of the anointing of the sick. This office is ordinarily exercised by bishops, pastors, associate pastors, priest chaplains of health-care facilities, and superiors of clerical religious institutes. These ministers have the pastoral responsibility both of preparing and helping the sick and others who are present, with the assistance of religious and laity, and of celebrating the sacrament. (Intro 16, 17)

Procedure:

Only priests (Bishops and presbyters) are ministers of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Neither deacons nor laypeople can exercise this ministry. In this sacrament, it is Jesus Christ who works; the priest is the living and visible instrument. He both represents Christ and makes Christ present in a special way, so that this sacrament has a particular dignity and efficacy.^[1]