

Deacon Mike's Corner Article for October, 2016

Where is the "Anointing of the Sick" in the Bible?

In James 5:14-15, we read: "Are there 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; and 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." Also, in the Gospel of Mark, the apostles go out and preach the gospel, drive out demons, and anoint sick people with oil (see Mark 6:12-13). Anointing of the sick is a healing, sacramental part of the whole package of bringing the Gospel to the world. These passages are as clear as it gets when looking for biblical support for the Catholic belief in the "Anointing of the Sick."

When trying to convince someone you are telling the truth, is 'swearing to God' an allowable practice?

If people generally know you are to be an honest person, then a genuine promise on your part should be enough for them to believe you are to believe you are telling the truth. Normally, "swearing to God"--which is called taking an oath---should be limited to solemn occasions and done only when necessary. For example, if we are called to testify in a court of law, we are asked to swear upon a Bible that we will be honest in our testimony. In order for an oath to be a holy act, we must have a good reason for taking an oath, be convinced of the truthfulness of what we are swearing to, and not take it to facilitate our doing wrong. If you call on God to bear witness to a lie, you commit a sin called perjury. This is not only wrong in the American court system; it is wrong in "God's court" as well--it is seriously sinful. Remember, we are not to use God's name in vain!!!!