

HEALING MASS vs NORMAL MASS?

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Have you or a member of your family ever been invited to attend a “HEALING MASS?”

In the times before COVID-19 some parish churches would regularly host the so called “Healing Mass”. If a type of Mass is called a “healing Mass”, does this mean that the other type is a “NORMAL Mass”?

It often occurred that people in great numbers crowded the “healing Mass” wherever it was being offered, but they did not show the same enthusiasm for the... “normal” Mass!
WHY?

Actually there is no such thing as “healing” Mass and “normal” Mass.

All Masses give healing. There is no difference between one Mass and another.

The incorrect use of the term came around when some charismatic church groups, desiring to focus the communal prayer of intercession for the healing from physical or emotional illnesses, they began to add and include “NON-LITURGICAL” prayers and actions INTO THE MASS, like anointing the sick with blessed oil, as well as having a procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the Monstrance through the aisles of the church during Mass itself.

This practice contributed to confusion among Catholics who began to differentiate between “healing” and “normal” Mass.

In order to educate and put a stop to the abuse, the Vatican issued a document on the proper way to conduct liturgical and non-liturgical prayers.

The document established that in order to prevent confusion and misinterpretation, a clear teaching must be given to differentiate between the Sacrament of the sick, given only by a priest, and the anointing with blessed oil which can be used also by lay people.

The document also continued: In order to keep the Liturgy of the Mass separate from the non liturgical prayers for healing, the latter need to be carried out at THE END OF MASS; the same goes for the procession of the Blessed Sacrament with the Monstrance.

Last note from the document: An important note to the parishes who wish to post a notice about healing service: we DISCOURAGE the incorrect use of the term “healing Mass”; the proper and CORRECT term to be used is: “HEALING SERVICE WILL FOLLOW AFTER MASS” or “HEALING SERVICE AT THE END OF MASS.”

NEXT WEEK: HOLY MASS: A SOURCE OF HEALING