

Apostolate Letter – August 1, 2007

When I was preparing this month's message I looked on the Internet to see what I would find by searching – “spiritual strength for the sick.”

Although my search was quite general, it was surprising how many of the sites indicated the effect of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in bringing spiritual strength to those who are sick.

This brought back memories of my five years of living, as a chaplain, in St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. How many times a person, who was seriously sick, or in a lengthy illness or elderly, after receiving this sacrament would speak of the peace that they had received through this sacrament.

It is wonderful how the stigma of misunderstanding and practice that accompanied this sacrament when it was called “Extreme Unction” has been lifted. People now welcome the graces that come from this sacrament. They see this sacrament not only as a preparation for death, but also, as the words of the sacrament indicate, as a means of healing – not only in body but also spiritually and psychologically. It is truly a sacrament of ‘peace’.

During the summer months let us keep each other in our prayers!

Intentions for the month of August.

General - *For the discovery of authentic happiness* – That all those who are going through moments of inner difficulty and trial, may find in Christ, the light and support which leads them to discover authentic happiness.

Mission – *For the Church in China* – That the Church in China may bear witness to ever greater inner cohesion and may manifest her effective and visible communion with St. Peter's successor.

Diocesan -

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph accompany you each day!

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Monroe
Bishop of Kamloops