

Oil in the Palms of Christians

“Chrism is essential for the Catholic Sacrament of Confirmation/Chrismation, and is prominently used in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Orders. Those to be confirmed or chrismated, after receiving the laying on of hands, are anointed on the head by the bishop or priest. In baptism, if the person baptized is not to be immediately confirmed or chrismated, the minister anoints them with chrism. Newly ordained priests are anointed with chrism on the palms of their hands, and newly ordained bishops receive an anointing of chrism on their foreheads. It is also used in the consecration of objects such as churches and altars.”
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chrism>

“Last night in our church service, an 8 year old girl, who had prayed for someone, found that her hands were dripping with oil. The minister said it was a Sign that she has the gift of healing. Cupped in her small left palm there was about a tablespoon of oil that had pooled upward towards her wrist. Every time she wiped, it would come right back. She stood in the front of the church and we all saw it.”
---Jean_B. on 6/7/08
<http://christianblogs.christianet.com/1126750916.htm>

“Sacred Chrism is also used in the sacrament of holy orders. In the ordination rite of a priest, the bishop anoints with chrism the palms of each new priest. In the ordination rite of a bishop, the consecrating bishop anoints the head of the new bishop.”
catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-use-of-sacramental-oils.html

Scroll down toward the middle of the page to see this practice done by The 1 Project.
<https://the1project.smugmug.com/Gatherings/Finland/>

In the KJV, there are two verses which include the words “oil” and “palm.”

Leviticus 14:15 And the priest shall take some of the log of oil, and pour it into the palm of his own left hand:

Leviticus 14:26 And the priest shall pour of the oil into the palm of his own left hand:

In the context of this chapter, a priest is mediating for a leprosy victim. There is represented the forgiveness/cleansing of sin by a sacrifice, the making of an atonement, and more. The priest pours the oil into his own left hand.

If we practice this oil activity without the others surrounding it, are we being partial? Are we partially playing the First Testament priest which only Christ has adequately filled? Are we following tradition more than Biblical directives? What are we doing?

Chrismation is “a rite in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches that is comparable and similar to confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church.” Apple Dictionary.