

OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE TO THE SICK AND DYING
Annotated Sections By Rev. Edwin G. Kaiser

CALLING THE PRIEST

If the case is very urgent, call the nearest priest. Otherwise call the pastor or assistant pastor. If possible, communicate in-person, otherwise telephone. Do not send a child unless no one else is available. Give the priest the full and exact name, address, age, and condition of the sick person (report whether conscious and/or subject to vomiting). Be sure to mention the fact if he has been attended by a priest in the sickness and state when he last received the sacraments.

In case of sudden death, the priest should be called immediately for no one knows just when the soul leaves the body. As long as there is hope that it is still present, **Extreme Unction** may be administered conditionally. If the soul be still present the sacrament may take effect. If the man is really dead, then by intention of the priest the sacrament is not conferred. The priest Macon for the sacraments even though the stricken person is pronounced dead by the physician or has appeared to be dead for a whole hour period, and in some cases even after two hours.

Do not call the priest needlessly. Avoid calling during the hours for concessions or at night or on Sundays unless there a serious reason for doing so. However, if there is real danger do not delay a single moment. The physician will be able to judge when there is danger of death. Calling the priest at night someone preferably a man, should call for in accompany the priest, especially if lonely or suspicious places must be passed. This will assure safety for the priest and for Blessed Sacrament. The person accompanying the priest should avoid speaking unless the priest should speak first or special reasons for conversation.

