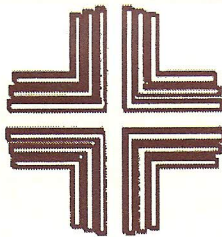


Word on Worship

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WELCOMING THE ROMAN MISSAL

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To change indicates that one is alive. This applies to people, institutions and even language. It is a natural development even when it meets resistance, because we can become comfortable in old and familiar ways. The challenge of change is before Catholics now as the church in the United States and the rest of the English-speaking world prepares for the most significant change in the liturgy since the introduction of the new Order of Mass in 1970.

On November 17, 2009, the Bishops of the United States completed our review and approval of the translation of the *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*. We brought to a conclusion the work we began in 2004, when the first draft translations were presented to us by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). As the church in the English-speaking world awaits the confirmation (*recognitio*) of the text by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Holy See, we now take time to prepare for its reception and implementation. Many have asked questions, expressed concerns, or simply wondered about the reasons for the new translation and the goals of its implementation.

WHY A NEW TEXT?

The *Missale Romanum* (Roman Missal), the ritual text for the celebration of the Mass, is first introduced in Latin as the *editio typica* ("typical edition"). Pope John Paul II announced the publication of the third edition (*editio typica tertia*) of the *Missale Romanum* during the Jubilee Year in 2000. Once that text was published, it became the official text to be used in the celebration of the Mass, and conferences of bishops had to begin the work of preparing vernacular translations. The third edition contains a number of new elements: prayers for the observances of feasts/memorials of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Intentions, as well as some minor modifications of rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass.

To aid the process of translation of the *Missale Romanum, editio typica tertia*, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued *Liturgiam Authenticam* in 2001, as the fifth instruction on the vernacular translation of the Roman liturgy, which outlines the principles and rules for translation. These principles have evolved and been nuanced in the years following the Second Vatican Council as the church grew into its use of modern vernacular languages in the celebration of the liturgy. These guiding principles govern the work which has resulted in a fresh English translation of the *Missale Romanum*.

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Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal: Eucharistic Prayer III

