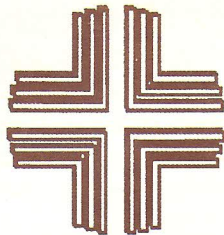


Word on Worship

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IMPLEMENTING THE THIRD TYPICAL EDITION OF THE *ROMAN MISSAL*

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Recently, Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago and Past President of the USCCB, announced that the English translation of the 3rd typical edition of the *Roman Missal* will be mandated for use in the United States on the first Sunday of Advent, 2011 (November 27, 2011).

The third typical edition of the *Roman Missal* was promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and was published in Latin in 2002. It has taken eight years for the text to be translated into English which indicates the complexity of translating liturgical texts into the vernacular.

The process of translation into English is initially handled by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). Drafts of the translation are then sent to all of the English speaking conferences of Bishops throughout the world. Over a period of years, the conferences examine, suggest changes to, and vote on the new translation. Ultimately, all translations require approval by the Holy See. To assist the Pope with this process, the Vox Clara commission, consisting largely of bishops from several English speaking countries, was created. The many layers through which a translation passes makes for a lengthy process, but it is meant to insure the best possible translation of the texts.

The content of the third typical edition of the *Roman Missal* will contain few changes from the current edition. It will have more prefaces and the latest saints added to the calendar will be included.¹ However, there will be a significant change in the style of translation of the texts, giving all of the prayers a remarkably different sound and feeling.

A NEW STYLE OF TRANSLATION

The Sacramentary currently used at Mass was translated according to the principle of “dynamic equivalence.” Essentially what this means is that the *meaning* of the texts took priority over the *wording* of the texts. As speakers of more than one language know, you cannot literally translate words from one language to another. Instead, a text is often considered in one language, the meaning is assessed, and then the meaning is translated into the second language. With this principle in effect, the translators of the current Sacramentary had more flexibility when translating from the Latin into English.

In this issue: Implementing the Third Typical Edition of the *Roman Missal* • Third Typical Edition of the *Roman Missal*: Eucharistic Prayer II • A Process for Implementing the Third Typical Edition of the *Roman Missal* • Upcoming *Roman Missal* Workshops

