

## Welcoming **The Roman Missal, Third Edition**

The new English translation of the *Roman Missal*, the official manual for the Roman Catholic Mass, has been approved, and soon familiar prayers and responses said in churches around the English-speaking world will change. Priests will follow newly translated instructions. Prayers used throughout the Mass and some responses of the congregation will change. Sacred chants and music used in worship will also be updated. The full texts of the English translation received approval from the Vatican in June and July of 2010. The new translation will be implemented in U.S. dioceses from **November 27, 2011, the First Sunday of Advent**. It will be the most significant change to the Mass in over 40 years.

Quite naturally, an occasion like this raises several questions. Also, change does not come easy for many people because it requires us to stop doing things a certain way in order to do something else. Many people find comfort in familiar routines and known ways of acting. Change interrupts those familiar routines. Keeping all these concerns in mind, our bulletin is presenting us with a series of articles to help us have the answers for our questions and to prepare ourselves for embracing these changes with understanding.

### **Questions and Answers to assist our preparation for welcoming The New Roman Missal**

What is Roman Missal and why is it so important?

The term 'Missal' is used to refer to the book that contains all the prayers and instructions for the celebration of Mass. The Missal is first written in Latin and this Latin text is then translated into the particular language of the people. In this way, while the Mass may be celebrated in many languages across the Roman Catholic world, it is the same core Latin text that is being prayed by the Church, and it serves as a point of unity that keeps us all together.

Why does the Church change the Liturgy?

In its Liturgy, the Church always attempts to follow the "norm of the holy Fathers." This effort requires not only the preservation of what our immediate forebears have handed on to us, but also an understanding and a more profound pondering of the Church's entire past. During the 15th century, in the era of the first printing press, the earliest book called *Missale Romanum* appeared. However, over time, it became necessary to make certain changes, such as adding prayers for recently canonized saints and adding texts that reflect the needs that the People of God wish to bring to God in prayer. The current Missal has been in use since 1970's. In 2000 Pope John Paul II approved the promulgation of a new edition with updated/additional prayers and more rigorous accuracy to the original Latin text. It is this new edition (the third edition of the *Roman Missal*), that we begin to use from **November 27, 2011**.

(...to be continued)

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*"Based upon Roman Missal Formational Materials provided by the Secretariat for the Liturgy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010."*