

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

Who completed the work of translation?

Promulgated by Pope John Paul II in the year 2000, this new edition of the Roman Missal is the fruit of a highly consultative work of several groups for a period of nearly ten years. These groups consisted of bishops, scholars, poets, and musicians. The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the other member Conferences of Bishops, and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (Vatican) are the main groups who carried out the work of translation.

What's new or particularly different about the revised translation?

The texts of the revised translation of the *Roman Missal* are marked by a heightened style of English speech and a grammatical structure that closely follows the Latin text. In addition, the new translation has ensured better conciseness in addressing, praising and entreating God, as well as distinctive syntactical patterns, a noble tone, a variety of less complex rhetorical devices, concreteness of images, repetition, parallelism and rhythm.

What about music for the parts of the Mass in the new translation?

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) has prepared original chants that were adapted to the changes in the texts. These were prepared in a format for use by the publishers of the Missal. In addition, publishers of liturgical music are already prepared to offer musical settings for the new texts so that music directors in parishes will be ready to teach other new settings in addition to the chants contained in the Missal.

If my parish likes the old translation better, can we continue using that one?

Now that the Holy See has granted the final approval to the revised translation, the USCCB has established a date for first use and a date for mandatory use. No parish may continue to use the current translation after the mandatory use date. Parishes will need to use the period before the mandatory use date to help parishioners renew their love for the Sacred Liturgy, to understand the changes, and to develop an appreciation for the revised translation.

(...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."*