

A New Translation for Mass

Beginning the First Sunday of Advent

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I believe most of you know we will begin using a new English translation of the Holy Mass on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27. This translation has been in progress for a number of years and the Bishops of the Country spent a great deal of time working on the translation. It had to have the approval of two special committees in Rome and the new missals (no longer Sacramentary) have been sent to all of the parishes of the archdiocese.

Some people wonder why we have a new translation. Was the translation that we have used since the 1960s flawed? And if so, why? The answer is that the English translation we have been using was indeed done rather quickly and the translation was in some ways loose and not literal enough for the Holy See. The decision was made by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome to have the new translation which would conform more to the original Latin version.

In addition to being more faithful to the Latin translation, the new translation ties in more clearly with the verses of the sacred Scripture. The new translation connects more with the biblical readings. The old translation was somewhat colloquial but this translation shows more the sense of mystery of the presence of God at the Eucharist.

Perhaps the most famous, best known and most commented of the changes will be at the beginning of the Mass when the celebrant says, "The Lord be with you." We have said, "And also with you". But the translation we will use will be, "And with your spirit" which conforms to the original Latin. There are changes in the Gloria, the Apostles' Creed, the Holy, Holy, Holy, the Memorial Acclamation and the Lamb of God, in addition to the changes in the canon the priest says.

I discussed the New Translation with the priests at the Priest Convocation in Taos. It will be essential for pastors to work closely with the liturgy teams in their parishes. It will be very important for the parishioners at Mass to follow the liturgy aid provided in all the churches. This new translation gives us the opportunity to focus more clearly on the beauty of the prayers at Mass which I believe will be enhanced by this new translation. We ask the Lord to bless us as we celebrate Holy Eucharist, that we will accept with joy and openness this translation directed by the U.S. Bishops and by Rome for use from now on.