

ROMAN MISSAL

VERNACULAR TRANSLATION

The Roman Missal is the ritual text for the celebration of the Mass, containing the prescribed prayers, chants, and instructions. The *first edition* of the Modern Roman Missal, *Missale Romanum*, the one which we currently use, was published - *in Latin* - for the Universal Church in 1970, about 7 years after the end of the Second Vatican Council. Because the Second Vatican Council permits the Celebration of the Mass in the vernacular, the "native" language of a specific country, the Latin text was translated into the vernacular of each country. That translation, then, required approval, *recognitio*, by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments; after approval, it was published in modern languages for use by local churches throughout the world. The English edition of the Latin text was published in the United States in 1973; that was the first edition of the Roman Missal approved for use in the English Vernacular.

In 1975, the Holy See issued a revised text of the Modern Roman Missal, the *second edition*, again in Latin; and, again, translated into modern languages for use throughout the world. Then, in 2000, Pope John Paul II promulgated the *third edition* of the Modern Roman Missal. Among other things, the third edition contains prayers for the celebration of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Intentions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass.

The Congregation for Divine Worship issued the *Ratio Translationis*, which outlined the specific rules for translation of the third edition into the languages of the modern world. The *Ratio Translationis Into The English*

Language , in particular, was designed, insure accurate and faithful translation of the Latin text into English, since prior translations were not, throughout the Missal, always accurate representations of the Latin text. Over the years since 2000, various sections of the Roman Missal have been translated into English, and presented to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) for their approval; but, since the translation of the entire Roman Missal was a work in progress, it has not been presented to the Dioceses in the United States for use in this country. The last sections were approved by the USCCB in July 2009, and the Holy See has, now, granted permission for use of the English Translation of the Modern Roman Missal. We will begin using that translation in the United States on the first Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2011.

The work of translation, especially of the third edition of the Modern Roman Missal, has not been an easy nor, clearly, a quickly accomplished task. It certainly has not been engaged in casually. At times, the task has been somewhat daunting, but it has insured an accurate representation of the Latin text and its meaning. The English Translation is now ready!

In the next edition of these "bulletin inserts," we will outline a complete history of the prayers used in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the document which contains them for use in the Universal Church. It's an interesting "history," and certainly valuable in assisting our understanding of the development of the Liturgical Prayer. Then, we will present, exactly, the changes we will find in the English Translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal. Many of those changes are in prayer responses offered by the congregation during the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist: THE MASS.