THE NEW ROMAN MISSAL

From time to time over the past several months, you have, no doubt, heard that the Catholic Church has made some changes to the ROMAN MISSAL, the collection of prayers used by both the congregation and the priest during the celebration of the Mass and currently called the SACRAMENTARY. Those changes are primarily, but not solely, in providing a more accurate translation of the prayers from their Latin roots into the many vernacular languages of the Universal Church. They have now been completed, and we will begin using the NEW ROMAN MISSAL on the FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT OF THIS YEAR, NOVEMBER 27TH, 2011.

Beginning with the first Sunday in June, 2011, this Sunday, and continuing through the Second Sunday in November, 2011, we will include a series of inserts in the bulletins of both St. John's and St. Bernadette's focusing on the history of the Roman Missal, the reason for the revisions, the revisions themselves, the significance of the Liturgical Prayer, etc. It is our hope that these bulletin inserts will provide the basis for a broad and correct understanding of what the Church is about here, and will function as part of our preparation for the use of the New Roman Missal on the first Sunday of Advent.

Each of the many organized ministries of St. John's and St. Bernadette's will be asked to include some discussion of the New Roman Missal in their general meetings, in their emails, and in other of their correspondence throughout the time until the implementation of the New Roman Missal.

Finally, our preparation for the use of the New Roman Missal will culminate during the first week of both October and November, 2011, when we will facilitate a series of 4 seminars, 2 during each of those weeks. During the second week of July, 2011, we will publish the exact dates and times of those seminars.

Throughout this preparation period, if you have any specific questions regarding the New Roman Missal, we encourage you to call Deacon Herzog at 302-786-2139; or, any of the other Deacons or priests. Or, as appropriate, involve them in brief conversations regarding the New Roman Missal when they, and you, might be available for those conversations. And, please, as you continue to learn more about the New Roman Missal, take the time to discuss the revisions, the purpose for them, the history of the Roman Missal, etc. among yourselves.