

## Welcoming the Roman Missal

The Lord be with you." "And with your spirit."

Many of you reading this may remember the first time you heard primarily English during Sunday Mass – it was the early 1970's and the initial revisions and translations of our liturgical rites following the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) were being implemented. By 1973, the English edition of the *MISSALE ROMANUM* (*ROMAN MISSAL*), the ritual text for the celebration of the Mass, promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1970, was published in the United States. In 1975 a revised text was issued resulting in minor changes in the English text.



In 2000 Pope John Paul II issued the third edition of the *MISSALE ROMANUM*. At the same time the bishops' conferences of the English-speaking countries were involved in studying and approving the English language translations of the texts of the *MISSALE ROMANUM*. These texts were then sent to Rome for confirmation, which was given in April 2010. Implementation of the *ROMAN MISSAL, THIRD EDITION*, in English will take place throughout the country on the First Sunday of Advent 2011 (November 27).

Key to understanding what this means for our parish is the fact that the structure and actions of the Mass are *not* changing – the revisions that will be implemented involve changes in the texts, both what the Presider proclaims and, at times, how the assembly responds. Simply put, the revised translations are the result of forty years of use and a different set of guidelines for translations that were to be followed in this most recent work.

Here at Saint John Vianney we will begin the transition with some of the music changes. The change of words comes from the desire of the Vatican – and numerous liturgy scholars – to have the words used in English better reflect the original meaning of the Latin wording. The music changes will occur only with the words that are sung in the Mass texts – not the hymns we sing at Mass. We will begin with introducing a "new" Gloria (Glory to God...), beginning after Easter Sunday – April 30-May 1.

If the changes in Mass texts will not begin until Advent 2011 (**November 26-27**), why will we learn a new Gloria now? Well... as the Gloria is not sung in Advent, but is sung at Christmas and throughout the Christmas season, we wish to introduce the new version of the Gloria now so that we can sing the liturgical hymn that echoes the birth of Jesus – gloriously and confidently!

More on the changes in our celebration of the Eucharist – along with our efforts to use this time of change to reinvigorate our understanding of – and participation in – the Mass are presently being planned by our parish staff and a group of parishioners involved in our liturgical and faith formation ministries. So, stay tuned!

**The Lord be with you." "And with your spirit."** The latter phrase will be the new response to the presiding priest's greeting at the beginning of Mass (and several times throughout Mass). This "new" response is only new to us who have been praying at Mass in English – or Brazilian Portuguese! The original Latin is "*Et cum spiritu tuo*" – and with your spirit.

The brief form of this dialogue ("The Lord be with you. And with your Spirit") is taken from the Book of *Ruth 2:4* and *2 Timothy 2:22*. Christians most likely took these formulas over directly from the Jewish synagogue prayer. There is clear evidence, for example, in St. Justin Martyr (100-165) that Christians spoke these answers from the very beginning. The reality that from the earliest times Christians conserved these phrases in their original form, in spite of their being foreign to both Greek and Latin mentalities, is a good argument to keep them intact in our current translations. In this way, we maintain a living connection with Christianity's historical origins just as we do with the conservation of other Hebrew forms and expressions such as *Amen, Alleluia and Hosanna*.