

**The New Text for the Celebration of Mass:
A formal translation from the Latin to be used starting in Advent 2011**
by Johan van Parys

As you may know, in 2002 Pope John Paul II promulgated a new version of the Roman Missal, the book that contains all the texts for the celebration of the Eucharist. This was necessary for a number of reasons, not in the least to incorporate the Masses for the many new saints that had been canonized by him.

This version of the Roman Missal is the third edition since the Second Vatican Council requested a complete revision of the Mass. The first version was promulgated shortly after the end of the Second Vatican Council in 1969 by Pope Paul VI. Soon thereafter, in 1975, a revised version of the Missal was promulgated by the same Pope.

Like the other two, the 2002 Missal which was slightly modified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 was originally published in Latin. This Latin version of the Missal is known as the *editio typical*, or the “normative” edition. The English translation of this version of the Missal was approved in the spring of 2010 after 8 years of hard work by the International Committee on English in the Liturgy and a Vatican appointed commission known as *Vox Clara* with the assistance and input of all the Catholic bishops of the English speaking world.

The translation followed a long and arduous process guided by a document approved by John Paul II known by the first two words of its Latin version: *Liturgiam Authenticam*. This document shifted the basic norms of translation from a “dynamic equivalency” to a “formal equivalency.” The difference between the two principles is that though both try to relay the meaning of the text the former takes more liberty with the text while the latter is more true to the original Latin and provides a more faithful translation. The greeting: *Dominus vobiscum. Et cum spiritu tuo*, for example, is currently translated as *The Lord be with you. And also with you*. The new translation will be: *The Lord be with you. And with your spirit*. Although it might seem a bit strange, the latter is much closer to the Latin and much closer to the intent of the text.

In the United States we will begin using the new text on the first Sunday of Advent 2011. To prepare for this our liturgy and learning teams have started working on a process that will make the transition as smooth as possible. Some of our choirs have already received in-depth instruction on the New Missal. Other ministers will follow soon. Next fall we are planning a series of talks and workshops for our entire parish. Please read our upcoming bulletins and newsletters or go to www.mary.org to learn about these opportunities. Also, be assured that we will print the new texts in our worship booklets.

Though change is never easy, one thing to remember is that while we will be using new words, we will still celebrate the same Eucharist. The Basilica staff, especially the liturgy team and all the liturgical ministers, is committed to working hard so we may continue to celebrate the Eucharist as well as possible. After all, the Eucharist gives us much needed spiritual nourishment on our earthly journey.