

ROMAN MISSAL

THIRD EDITION

On Sunday, the people gather as the Body of Christ, to celebrate the Lord's Day, the day of Christ's Resurrection. Each Sunday is a "little Easter" – a celebration of the central mysteries of our faith.

THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST

The primary celebration of the Lord's Day is participation in the Sunday Mass. This is not a solitary, private event. The faithful come together as the People of God, the Church, to worship with one heart and voice. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) teaches that "participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony to the belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church" (CCC, no. 2182).

All of the faithful are called to participate in the Sunday Eucharist unless a serious reason prevents them from doing so. The Mass is the source and summit of faith life, and all are called to make it the center of Sunday's schedule. The assembly should arrive on time and be prepared in mind and heart to fully participate. Those who cannot attend because of illness or the need to care for infants or the sick deserve our prayers and special attention. Often people suggest that Sunday Mass is not necessary and that they can pray at home just as well. This has been an issue for more than a millennium. In the fourth century, St. John Chrysostom addressed this directly:

You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests. (CCC, no. 2179, quoting St. John Chrysostom, *De incomprehensibili* 3, 6: PG 48, 725)

Celebrating the Lord's Day

Private prayer, though essential to the spiritual life, can never replace the Sunday Mass and the reception of Holy Communion.

PREPARING FOR THE CHANGE IN THE TRANSLATION

This communal celebration is enhanced by the words used. Words have specific meanings, and through those meanings comes a greater understanding of what the faithful are doing. Some of the words of the Mass will be changed beginning November 27, 2011, because of a new translation of the *Roman Missal*, further enhancing and deepening the people's understanding and experience. In preparation for this, it is important to:

- ✦ Make a conscious effort to participate more fully in the Mass each Sunday and holy day.
- ✦ Take advantage of any catechetical sessions offered by your parish or the Diocese.
- ✦ Visit the *Roman Missal* section of the diocesan web site (www.colstdioc.org) to study the new texts and to learn more about the changes.
- ✦ Read the new texts of the people's parts at Mass. Begin to study them so that you will be able to pray them well when the new *Roman Missal* is implemented.
- ✦ Pray for the renewal of love for the Liturgy in your parish and in the Church.

Then, the prayers will be heard with new hearts. The Mass will be filled with new life and spirit as the Paschal Mystery of Christ is made present.

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad." (Ps 118:24)