

# ROMAN MISSAL

THIRD EDITION

For many, change does not come easy. There is a comfort in familiar routines and known ways. However, change is an opportunity to stop and reflect in order to better understand God.

## REASONS FOR CHANGE IN THE MASS

The Mass always celebrates and makes present the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ – His saving Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Changes become necessary over time, such as adding prayers for recently canonized saints. The third edition of the *Roman Missal* makes such additions and provides a fresh translation of the Latin texts of the existing content of the *Missal*.

Pope John Paul II approved the promulgation of the third edition of the *Missale Romanum*, the Latin text, on April 20, 2000. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments was responsible for preparing the text. This is the Vatican office that the Pope has charged with overseeing all matters related to the Liturgy and the sacraments.

## WHERE PEOPLE CAN TURN FOR HELP UNDERSTANDING THE CHANGES

The first stop for catechesis and formation regarding the Faith is always the parish. All the faithful are encouraged to take advantage of parish catechetical sessions. Read articles in the parish bulletin, newsletter, or the *Catholic Times*. Listen closely to homilies that help explain the changes. Finally, consider arriving early for Mass in order to practice new musical settings for the prayers. In addition, the Diocese will offer assistance to help people understand and appreciate the new translation.

## Embracing Change in the Mass

### DEALING WITH THE DISCOMFORT OF CHANGE

For most people, the unfamiliar can be uncomfortable. The more familiar the old is, the more challenging it may be to accept and embrace the new. Taking steps to become more familiar with the new translation can help a great deal. At the same time, people are encouraged to be open and appreciative of the richness of the language found within the new texts. The more one studies and prays with the new text, the more meaningful it will become. Also, taking the time to learn more about the faith, including the Mass and Scripture, is helpful. Finally, people can offer their concerns up to God in prayer that they achieve a deeper understanding of the meaning of these texts.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP

Everyone has a role to play in preparing to use the new translations:

- ✘ Study the new texts with an open heart and an open mind.
- ✘ Take advantage of opportunities to learn more about the new texts by attending catechetical programs and reading articles about the new texts.
- ✘ Parents can teach their children the new prayers and help them to understand the changes.
- ✘ Be very intentional about celebrating the Mass each Sunday and holy day.

Times of change are always a challenge. But from this challenge can come a deeper appreciation of who the people are as the Body of Christ, gathering to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of the Lord.