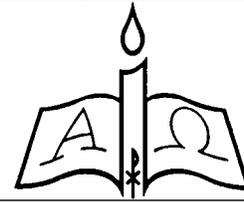


# LITURGY LESSON

## lesson 1: **How and Why the Changes?**



*Preparing for the 3rd Edition of  
the Roman Missal*

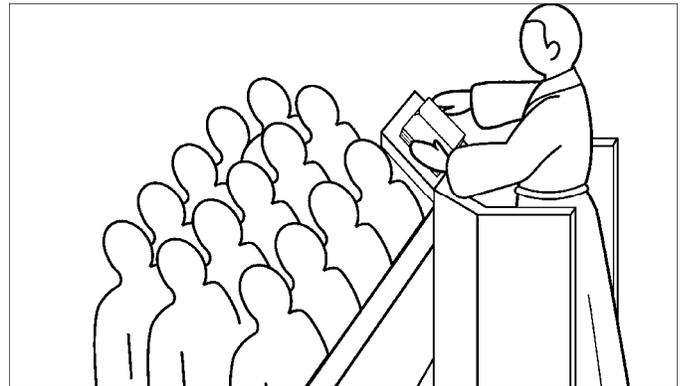
The words we say and hear at every Mass are about to change. Mass will remain the same, but the sound will be different. Why? The translation will employ the best of what we have learned about translation and liturgical language in two generations of celebrating the Liturgy in English. The Mass changes will begin on November 27, the first Sunday of Advent.

The Church's first major revision of the liturgy was in 1563 during the Council of Trent. Then in 1570 Pope St. Pius V made public a new Roman Missal. This Missal was used until the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. Now, less than a half century later, a third edition of the Roman Missal has been prepared.

The new translation seeks to correspond much more closely to the exact words and sentence structure of the Latin text. Translators have a firmer grasp of the meaning of the original texts and the demands of oral proclamation. It will more clearly connect the words of the Mass and passages in the Bible.

The new translation employs a more formal style than we use in ordinary conversation. By taking the English translation back to a more literal rendering of the Latin official text, the translators have given us longer phrases, more formal language.

A large number of people have worked on the translation. The entire process has been guided



by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy. Eleven bishops from English speaking countries around the world attended the meetings, evaluated the work, and made some changes. Larger conferences of bishops then evaluated the work and made suggestions. A second draft was then proposed and submitted to Rome. There, the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments made some final adjustments. As you can see, there have been many participants in this fifteen year process.

Implementing the new Missal will give the Church an opportunity to take a fresh look at its liturgical practice and to renew its celebration of the Sacred Liturgy. Over the next seven weeks there will be other Liturgy Lessons describing particular changes to various parts of the Mass. While these changes require us to learn some new language, the arrival of the new missal offers us a prime opportunity to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Mass. Together let us take these first steps to begin understanding the new translation of the Roman Missal. Together let us deepen our experience of celebrating Eucharist here in our St. Ladislav community.