



Implementation the Revised Translations of the Roman Missal:

A Message to the Catholic Faithful of the Diocese

The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain

Bishop of Sioux Falls

November 2011

This is Bishop Paul Swain. The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

The Roman Catholic Church in the United States along with Catholic Churches in other predominately English-speaking countries are about to embark on a remarkable spiritual journey that has great promise for evangelization and deepened personal faith.

With the First Sunday in Advent we will begin to use the new English translation of the Roman missal. The original texts for the ordinary form of the Mass are in Latin. Following the recommendation of Vatican Council II and with the approval of Pope Paul VI, that Mass has been celebrated in the languages of individual countries. This requires approved translations in each language. This new English translation is the result of over ten years of effort by Scripture scholars, theologians and bishops, complemented with suggestions and comment from all segments of the Church. It is in part a response to the call of Blessed John Paul II to fulfill the intent of Vatican Council II that there be one English translation of the Mass prayed in all English speaking countries which is faithful to the original Latin text. Pope Benedict XVI has enthusiastically supported this effort and has officially approved this translation. The previous Mass translation may no longer be used in our diocese or throughout the world.

This new translation is not a negative judgment that what we have been using up to this point has been in error. It in fact builds on what has been learned over the years while seeking to better respond to the call of Vatican Council II for full and active participation in the Mass by all, appropriate to their roles.

This means that the responses we have been reciting at Mass these many years will change. For instance, when the priest says: "The Lord be with you", instead of answering: "And also with you", we will now be asked to respond: "And with your spirit." Many other texts

including the penitential rite, the Profession of Faith and the Gloria will be somewhat different as well.

It will take us awhile to get used to the new translation both in word and song, but no more so than other liturgical changes over the years. The new text will be printed in your parish hymnal or personal missal. Worship aids are available in most parishes and on the diocesan webpage. Take advantage of these free resources. All of us, clergy and lay alike, will be glued to books and aids for a while.

Change is hard, especially when we are asked to change from what has become so familiar. Yet we deal with change every day. I am convinced that this change is a beautiful Spirit guided gift. I am also convinced that over time and once we have learned the new responses and listened attentively to the new prayers; we will experience a renewed sense of awe and wonder at Christ's sacrifice continued in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We all will need patience; but every good thing is worth disciplined effort.

It is also helpful to note that we are not alone. Brother and sister Catholics across the world numbering in the millions are doing what we are these next days. Masses prayed in English anywhere in the world will use this new translation. It is a reminder of the universality of Catholicism united around the successor of Peter. It is also a reminder that we believe in and are part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. That text in the creed will never change because it is an article of faith.

Be assured of my prayers for each of you, clergy, ministers and faithful, during this time of transition and implementation. If there are issues that come forward you think need my direction, please contact me.

Holy Mass is the supreme prayer of the Church and one we pray together throughout the world as one family of faith. Let us seek to continue to do so well and with pastoral care for one another.

May Mary, our Mother, and St. Joseph, our patron, guide and guard you all and the Diocese of Sioux Falls.