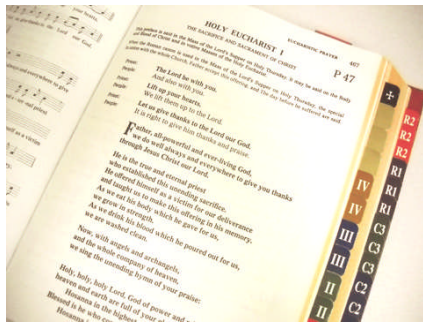


Changes in the Mass - The Peoples Responses Part II

What was the process of the changes and who was involved?

Pope John Paul II issued the third edition of the *Missale Romanum* (the Latin text of the *Roman Missal*) during the Jubilee Year in 2000. It included many new texts requiring translation. It set the stage for a truer translation with more formal and literal translations of the original Latin texts. This new translation will employ the best of what we have learned about translation and liturgical language in two generations of celebrating the Liturgy in the vernacular.



The process of translating liturgical texts from the original Latin is very formal and was done by several groups. That process was briefly as follows:

- The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) prepares English translations of liturgical texts on behalf of the conferences of bishops of English-speaking countries.
- Another group is the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the other member conferences receive draft translations of each text and have the opportunity to offer comments and suggestions to ICEL.
- Then ICEL proposes a second draft, which each conference approves and submits to the Vatican for final approval.
- Each conference reserves the right to amend or modify a particular text.
- The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments examines the translated texts and offers authoritative approval finally granting permission for their use.
- The Congregation is aided by the recommendations from *Vox Clara* (which means clear voice) - which is a special committee of bishops and consultants from English-speaking countries.

- Finally, the new text was approved on June 15, 2006 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed on June 23, 2008 by the Holy See. You can find the before and after text comparison on the USCCB web site.

History of the early church and mass

It should be of interest to review a brief history of the mass. Your very best source for this is to read the Gospels and especially the Acts of the Apostles. The latter was written by Luke actually as a second part to his Gospel and is the account of the very early church and how it grew. A brief history of key events is as follows:

- The Eucharist was first celebrated by the Apostles with Jesus at the Last Supper. See Luke 22:14-20.
- When the Holy Spirit came upon those gathered in the Upper Room at Pentecost – it brought the birth of the Church.
- The faithful were first called Christians at Antioch in the first century. Read Acts 11:26.
- At first the faithful celebrated on the Sabbath in the Temples and met again on Sunday to break bread as Jesus asked.
- Eventually the Christians were asked not to come to the temples but they continued to meet together on Sunday to celebrate the Lord's Mass. Read Acts 4:1-22. , Our faith and mass has its roots deeply in Judaism and this is why you will find elements of it in the Jewish religion and the Bible.
- During this period of persecution by both the Romans and the Jewish leaders the faithful often had to seek secure places such as the catacombs to celebrate mass.
- If you want to see how old the order of the mass is – read paragraph 1345 of the Catechism. This is an excerpt from a letter written by Saint Justin in the year 155 “explaining what Christians did” during the mass. It should sound very familiar to your ears.
- During the next few centuries the church continued to grow in spite of persecutions until King Constantine made the religion the law of the land in 313 AD.