

***Fellow Parishioners, just a little background and information that may interest you:***

### **WHY A NEW ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE MASS?**

On the First Sunday of Advent, a new English translation of the Eucharist will be introduced in all English-speaking countries. The language of the Mass of the Roman Rite is Latin; however, the Second Vatican Council allowed local languages to be used. Thus the Mass was translated into many languages. The original Latin remains the same, but a new translation into English has been completed. The main reason for a new translation is that the current translation was done quickly. The international commission (ICEL) which did the translation recognized that it would have to revisit the translation later and refine it. The method of translation used was called *dynamic equivalency*. This translated the overall meaning without necessarily translating every word or concept. However, this method lost most of the scriptural references as well as the poetic richness of the Latin text. In 2001, the Holy See (Vatican) issued a new document calling for a new translation that followed the Latin more closely. In addition, in 1969, when the first translation was done, there was no previous experience of translating Latin into liturgical English. Forty years of experience and learning have aided translators in their task. The second reason for a new Missal is that Blessed John Paul II canonized so many new saints that these needed to be included. This new Latin edition meant that a new English edition of the missal also had to be published. This was seen as the ideal time to introduce the new English translation.

### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS?**

First, it must be pointed out that no translation is perfect; yet this new translation of the Mass will bring some improvements. The new translation will offer an improved translation, especially of the Collect (Opening) Prayer, the Prayer over the Offerings and the Prayer after Communion. There will be a richer and more prayerful expression of these Latin prayers. The Scriptural references will stand out more clearly, for the Scriptures inspire so much of our liturgy. There will be an enriched theological vocabulary that will help to enrich our understanding of the mystery that we are celebrating. The new translation will express a more humble attitude towards God on the part of the people and a spirit of wonder and awe in the presence of God. *"The new translation will use a unique style of language and expression, that takes us out of ourselves and draws us into the sacred, the transcendent and the divine."* (Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, Pastoral Letter, 29 May 2011).

### **THE NEW TRANSLATION — AND WITH YOU IN SPIRIT**

The most notable change in the new translation of the Mass will be the response: *And with your spirit*. Now we say: *And also with you*. While the first meaning of this dialogue between the priest and people is to acknowledge the presence of Christ among them as they gather in Christ's name, mention of the Spirit is now missing. The greetings of the Mass are taken from Saint Paul's letters. In them Saint Paul acknowledges the active role of the Spirit in the forming of the Christian community. It is the Holy Spirit who makes Christ present in the lives of each believer, as well as in the Body of Christ, the assembled Church. The word Spirit also refers to the unique role of the priest who stands in the place of Christ, the Head of the Church and who has received the Spirit of ordination. Thus the absence of the Holy Spirit in the 1974 English translation of the Mass is seen as a major omission. In addition, the change to this response also brings the English translation into conformity with the other languages groups that form the one, holy, Catholic Church. This reminds us that the word catholic means universal. We are one Church formed by the one Spirit to profess our faith in the one Lord even though we confess that one faith in many languages.

### **WHAT ELSE WILL CHANGE IN THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE MASS?**

Since the new Missal introduces a new translation of the whole Mass, almost every prayer has changed, from the responses of the people to the prayers of the priest, especially, the central prayer of the Mass, the *Eucharistic Prayer*. Other changes will be the chant-prayers we sing together, such as the *Glory to God*, the *Holy, Holy, Holy*, the *Memorial Acclamation*, and the dialogues between priest and people. Since these are new translations, there are new musical compositions that choirs, song leaders and instrumentalists will have to learn. Further bulletin announcements will examine some of the new translations of the other parts of the Mass, such as the *Creed* and various responses of the people. One prayer that does not change is the *Our Father*. One response that remains unchanged is *Amen*.

*(These articles were copied from the current issue of St. Joseph's bulletin. They were written by Fr. Hibbard, who, with humour, ran the Workshops at St. Joseph's Parish Hall this past Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011.)*