



Diocese of Belleville

Timeline for the reception of the new Roman Missal, third edition

- Bishops approve all segments of English texts – November 2009
- Bishops conference sends texts to the Apostolic See – soon thereafter
- Apostolic See reviews all work, approves final form, sends letter of approval (*recognitio*) – unknown date
- US Bishops set one-year-plus time from Rome approval for catechesis, formation, and printing of books prior to implementation
- Mandatory implementation date in USA – estimated on the First Sunday of Advent, 27 November 2011

As of October 2009

We Give You Thanks and Praise

PREPARING FOR THE *ROMAN MISSAL, THIRD EDITION*

Number 03

March 2010

WHAT IS THE ROMAN MISSAL? The missal is the liturgical book used to celebrate Mass. When the first unified missal was issued by Pope Pius V in 1570, it was a single book containing the prayers, readings, and much of the liturgical music needed for celebrating Mass in Latin. In 1969, Pope Paul VI issued the Apostolic Constitution, *Missale Romanum*, on the promulgation of the Roman Missal revised by decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. Near the end of this constitution he wrote: “Our own expectation . . . is that the faithful will receive the new Missal as a help toward witnessing and strengthening their unity with one another; that through the new Missal one and the same prayer in a great diversity of languages will ascend, more fragrant than any incense, to our heavenly Father, through our High Priest, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit.”

Because of that Vatican II reform, the missal became more than one volume. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* addresses the necessary Mass texts as (1) the readings, (2) the prayers, and (3) the liturgical songs. “The pastoral effectiveness of a celebration will be greatly increased if the texts . . . correspond as closely as possible to the needs, spiritual preparation, and culture of those taking part” [GIRM, no. 352]. For the past 40 years, then, the *Roman Missal* has been:

- **Lectionary for Mass.** This contains the readings, psalms, and acclamations that are part of the Liturgy of the Word. A second edition was issued for the dioceses of the United States of America in 1998-2001. It now has four volumes: one for Sunday, two for weekdays, and one for special Masses (funerals, sacraments, and various needs and occasions). The *Book of the Gospel* is a dignified book used by the deacon or, in his absence, the priest for the proclamation of the gospel on Sundays, solemnities, and some feasts. No changes are expected for the lectionary in this revision of the missal.
- **Sacramentary (Roman Missal).** This is the book the priest uses at the chair and the altar. It contains the proper prayers used for certain days and liturgies as well as the common prayers used at every Mass. The term “sacramentary” is an ancient one in use long before the Council of Trent. It contained then and now those prayers needed by the priest celebrant.
- **Hymnals, song books, and other sources of liturgical music** suited for the Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist. Whereas some nations have a single song book used in every parish (Canada is an example), in the United States, there are many and varied books of liturgical music. Some books are used by everyone in the assembly. Some are used by the various musicians who assist the assembly in its ministry. The song books and worship aids found in the pews of our churches all contain texts from some parts of the *Roman Missal* that the people need for celebrating Mass.

Funded in part by the generous contributions to the *Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal* for the Diocese of Belleville.

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