



NEWS

FILE
COPY

DATE: March 23, 1977

FROM: John Willig

O - 202-659-6700

H - 202-293-2028

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LITURGY OFFICE SUGGESTS
SUBSTITUTION FOR 'REPROACHES'

WASHINGTON--The Secretariat of the Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy is recommending that the Good Friday "Reproaches" not be used this year during Holy Week.

The Liturgy Committee's secretariat here is suggesting that parishes use the option of substituting "other suitable songs" during the Veneration of the Cross in the Liturgy of Good Friday, an option clearly spelled out in the Church's liturgical books.

The "Reproaches" are a traditional musical element in the Good Friday Liturgy that commemorates Christ's passion and death. The main theme of the Reproaches is God's steadfast love for all people, contrasted with their failure to respond to divine love.

The Secretariat pointed out that because of deficiencies in the current text it has sometimes been interpreted as addressed directly to the Jewish community. "The Church certainly does not intend to foster such an interpretation in its liturgy," the Secretariat stated.

Last November the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy expressed serious concern over the possibility of such mis-

NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR INFORMATION

/more

1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005

2/Liturgy

interpretations. The present English translation of the text is being carefully studied by the committee with the hope that a new text can be provided for future use, the Secretariat noted.

"Until that revised text is available," the Secretariat strongly encourages parishes to avail themselves of the option of using other suitable hymns.

#

X,A,ISR