



# NewsLetter

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### ***Roman Missal Proper of Seasons Rejected by USCCB***

During the June 2008 plenary meeting of the USCCB in Orlando, Florida, the nation's Latin Rite Bishops voted on the "Gray Book" of the Proper of Seasons of the *Roman Missal*. The Gray Book was the second draft proposed by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) after the participating English-speaking Conferences of Bishops had the opportunity to review the initial Green Book draft. The Proper of Seasons is the second of twelve sections of the *Roman Missal*.

A two-thirds majority of Latin rite members of the Conference was needed for approval of the translation. The vote at the meeting was inconclusive and subsequent mail ballots from absent members kept the measure from passing.

In accordance with the direction of the body of Bishops, the Committee will now present the Gray Book to the Bishops for renewed consideration, including the usual Conference process that allows Bishops to submit modifications to the text for consideration. This is one of the earliest texts translated by ICEL, applying the principles of *Liturgiam authenticam*.

The bishops found difficulties with the translation of certain Latin words as well as with certain grammatical structures. Even with the input of more than eighty-five scholars worldwide, it was sometimes difficult to get agreement among nations as to the best translation. A new round of submission of modifications by the Bishops raises hope that an acceptable text can be agreed to.

The Committee intends to present the text again for a vote at the November 2008 plenary meeting in Baltimore. Should the text receive an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Latin Rite members of the USCCB, the text will be submitted to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments for subsequent *recognitio*. The Proper of Seasons text has already been approved by England and Wales, Scotland, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

In addition to the Proper of Seasons, the Committee on Divine Worship plans to submit two additional Gray Book texts for consideration and vote this fall, so that the USCCB will keep pace with the actions of other English-speaking conferences. If all three texts receive an affirmative vote by the body of Bishops, the original timeline will still be maintained, and the final text of the completed *Roman Missal* will be presented for approval in November 2010.

## **June 2008 Meeting of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship**

The USCCB Committee on Divine Worship met on June 10-11, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. Items under discussion included a liturgical Psalter for the Dioceses of the United States, the designation of National Shrines, the publication of liturgical texts, the timeline for approval of the English translation of the *Roman Missal* and catechetical materials to be prepared, the “core repertoire” of music for use in the Liturgy, and a review of two “Gray Books” from the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL).

### **Liturgical Psalter for the United States**

The first item was a review of the Revised Grail Psalter and the Revised New American Bible (NAB) Psalter. Presentations were given to the Committee by Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B. on the Revised Grail Psalter, and Rev. Joseph Jensen, O.S.B. on the Revised NAB Psalter. The merits of both works were carefully reviewed, and a decision was made to ask the USCCB to approve the Revised Conception Abbey Grail Psalter for liturgical use in the United States. This requires approval by two-thirds of the Latin Rite bishops of the USCCB with subsequent confirmation by the Holy See. Two Psalters are presently approved for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America: the Grail Psalter (1963) is used in the *Liturgy of the Hours*, while the NAB Psalter (1970) is in use in all other liturgical books.

Produced by the monks of Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri, the Revised Grail Psalter was developed in consideration of the principles of *Liturgiam authenticam*, and has received the approval of the Doctrine Committee’s Subcommittee on the Translation of Scripture Text, which affirmed the scriptural accuracy of the translation. It is the competence of the Committee on Divine Worship to recommend a liturgical Psalter to the USCCB based on its scriptural, liturgical, and musical characteristics. The Revised Grail Psalter has been adopted by those English-speaking Conferences engaged in the International Commission for the Preparation of an English-Language Lectionary (ICPEL). Representatives from England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and New Zealand are working on producing a Lectionary based on the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

### **Designation of National Shrines**

The Committee next examined some applications for the status as a National Shrine. Following the dissolution of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Shrines in November 2007, the Committee on Divine Worship has assumed the responsibility of reviewing all requests for prospective National Shrines and then making a recommendation to the Administrative Committee of the USCCB, which grants the designation. The Committee decided that care should be taken to ascertain the conformity of applications with the norms that had been established by the NCCB on June 18, 1992. One norm that was considered to be important was that “[a] shrine must already have been designated, implicitly or explicitly, as a diocesan shrine and place of pilgrimage by the local ordinary for at least ten years before national designation will be considered unless the competent authority decides otherwise.” (Norm 5). The norms and procedures for designating National Shrines can be found on the Conference website at [www.USCCB.org/liturgy/current/shrinorm.shtml](http://www.USCCB.org/liturgy/current/shrinorm.shtml). The Committee also decided that applications needed to be handled within its normal meeting schedule.

### **Publication of Liturgical Texts**

In light of the possibility of future publication of liturgical texts, members of the Committee reviewed the various ways in which liturgical texts have been published in the past. With the publication of the *Roman Missal* and the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* in mind, this review provided the members with issues that will be considered in the future. One crucial issue to consider is establishing implementation dates that can be handled in such a way that the publishers do not have to charge more for books that were too quickly printed.

### **Timeline for Approval of *Roman Missal* and Catechetical Materials**

A review of the timeline projection for the work of the Conference on its review of the Gray Books forwarded from ICEL was undertaken by the Committee. This projection provided the members of the Committee with information on the work ahead of it. The timeline needed to be adjusted because the June 2010 plenary meeting of the USCCB is a retreat at which no agenda items are discussed. As time passes, however, the amount of material that the bishops will have to review will decrease somewhat.

One of the most important discussions had by the Committee was on the formational materials and process for the reception of the new translation of the *Roman Missal*. A group has already been established by Bishop Arthur Roche of Leeds, England to provide a variety of different material to all the English-speaking Conferences of Bishops to be used and adapted as they see fit. The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions has also made progress with gathering materials that will be useful for Diocesan directors of liturgy offices and other liturgy directors to use for the formation process.

Especially helpful to the Committee's discussion was a letter from Bishop Blase Cupich of Rapid City, South Dakota, in which he outlined the various questions that had to be considered in providing formation for the implementation of the new *Roman Missal*. The Committee decided that it would be best to have its Chairman, Bishop Arthur Serratelli, contact Bishop J. Peter Sartain, Chairman of the Task Force on Faith Formation and Sacramental Practice, to see if the combined resources of the Conference could be marshaled for this important work. Bishop Gerald Kicanas of Tucson, USCCB Vice President, was also informed of the concern given to the Task Force. Bishop Sartain expressed the Task Force's willingness to address the request of the Committee on Divine Worship to make this issue a priority of the Conference.

### **"Core Repertoire" of Music for the Liturgy**

With the *Directory on Music and the Liturgy* awaiting the *recognitio* in Rome, an initial discussion was held by the Committee on the scope and nature of the core repertoire of music for the Liturgy. Given that the Music Subcommittee no longer exists, a procedure will need to be established to address issues affecting church music in the United States.

### **Review of ICEL Gray Books: *Order of Mass II* and *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children***

Finally, the Committee on Divine Worship reviewed the Gray Book text of the *Order of Mass II* and *Eucharistic Prayers for Masses with Children*; the members observed that ICEL had addressed many of the concerns that had been highlighted during the Green Book consultation. There has been a decisive improvement in the quality of the Eucharistic Prayers for children. Many of the comments of the earlier draft indicated that the language was too "watered down" even for children, resulting in an overly simplistic style. The new draft addressed that issue in many circumstances, resulting in a text which is both proclaimable and accessible to children. The Committee agreed to submit the text to the Administrative Committee to be put on the agenda for the November 2008 plenary meeting of the USCCB. This action item would require approval by two-thirds of the Latin Church members of the USCCB and subsequent confirmation by the Holy See. Since the two books combined would be close to 500 pages, it was agreed that the same modification process used with the Gray Book of the Proper of Seasons would be suggested to the Administrative Committee for processing the two action items at the November meeting.

## **Special Celebrations at World Youth Day 2008**

During his Pastoral Visit to Australia for World Youth Day 2008, Pope Benedict XVI will take part in two liturgical celebrations of interest. On Saturday, July 19, the Holy Father will celebrate the Rite of Dedication of an Altar at St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. At this celebration, the Holy Father will address the seminarians and young religious that have come to World Youth Day. This Rite is, in essence, a process of initiation and is rich with references to the Old Testament. It is not often seen by most Catholics unless they attend the celebration of a newly renovated Church, or the installation of a brand new altar.

The following day, Sunday, July 20, the Pope will celebrate the Closing Mass of World Youth Day. For this Mass, he will use the texts of the Ritual Mass of Confirmation. Twenty-four young people from Australia and around the world will be confirmed by the Holy Father. Following the confirmations, all of the pilgrims will be invited to renew their baptismal promises. Pope Benedict will then commission the newly confirmed and all the pilgrims to proclaim the Gospel to the world, and "[s]upport the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit."

## New Papal Pallium Appears on Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul



Pope Benedict XVI introduced a new form of the papal pallium on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, June 29, 2008. This pallium is similar to one that was worn by Pope John Paul II, although it is a little larger and features red crosses on it instead of black. The introduction of this pallium addresses some practical problems with the longer version Pope Benedict XVI was wearing since his installation in April 2005. It was also pointed out that the longer version had not been worn since the ninth century.

In an interview with *L'Osservatore Romano*, Monsignor Guido Marini, the Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations, provides us with the understanding behind this new papal pallium. He speaks of a “hermeneutic of continuity” and points out that the liturgical vestments, as well as some aspects of the rite, are meant to emphasize the continuity of the liturgical celebration of today with that which has characterized the life of the Church in the past.

## Errata – Liturgical Calendar Advisories and *Rites of Ordination*

Three errors regarding the Liturgical Calendar Advisories found on page 24 of the May-June 2008 *Newsletter* were brought to light by our observant readers. The corrections are:

- In the All Saints Day section, the two citations from the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) were based upon the 1975 edition, not the 2002 edition currently in force. The correct citations from the 2002 GIRM are nos. 380 and 372, regarding use of the funeral Mass and the prohibition of ritual Masses.
- Apart from the Rite of Marriage Outside Mass, weddings taking place on All Saints Day must utilize the Mass of the day with the nuptial blessing; however, the permission that one of the readings may be changed is incorrect. Based upon no. 603 of the *Ceremonial of Bishops*, all the Lectionary readings for All Saints Day must be used.
- Because an Advent Sunday takes precedence over a solemnity in the Table of Liturgical Days, Evening Prayer II of the Second Sunday of Advent is celebrated on December 8, 2008, not Evening Prayer I of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

In addition, an error has been discovered in the *Rites of Ordination of a Bishop, of Priests, and of Deacons* (2nd edition, USCCB Publishing, 2003). On page 109, the penultimate paragraph of the Prayer of Consecration for the Ordination of One Priest should read:

Together with us  
may he be a faithful steward of your mysteries,  
so that your people may be renewed in the waters of rebirth  
and nourished from your altar;  
so that sinners may be reconciled  
and the sick raised up.  
May he be joined with us, Lord,  
in imploring your mercy  
for the people entrusted ~~to their care~~ **to his care**  
and for all the world.